

**City of Hill City
Regular Council Meeting
September 8, 2015**

1. Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance/Roll Call

- A. Mayor Baker called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.
- B. Everyone joined in the Pledge of Allegiance.
- C. The following persons were present: Mayor Larry Baker, Council Members Tina Haugen, Audrey Baratto and Dave Lange.

Staff present: George Casper, Diana McManigle, Jeff Madsen and Jeremy Nelson.

Public present: Loren Solberg, Harlan Kingsley, Don Kitzrow and Dan Kingsley.

2. Consent Agenda

Motion made by Baratto to approve the Consent Agenda as presented, second by Haugen. Motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

3. Public Forum

A. Loren Solberg – Enbridge

Loren Solberg explained that he was in Public Relations for NRG (Natural Resource Group) who has a contract with Enbridge. Solberg is a Community Ambassador. Solberg explained that there is more to Enbridge than just their pipeline. They are big into safety and offer Police and Fire Departments grants to help address safety issues that they may have. Enbridge also had donated \$400.00 to the Hill City Chamber of Commerce towards the 4th of July celebration. Loren Solberg is going to get phone numbers to City Hall for people to call if they have any questions about Enbridge.

B. DNR – move weather station to airport

The DNR had asked if it would be possible for them to move their weather station to the airport from Tim Donovan's house. George Casper had suggested that they move it by the windsock and fence it in and to also have the city named additional insured on the DNR's insurance.

Motion made by Baker to approve the DNR putting their weather station at the airport, second by Haugen. Motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

C. Don Kitzrow

Don Kitzrow said that he wanted to help improve Hill City by giving a present to George Casper. Don said that this was a "weapon" to help vacate the rocks that were left on the streets and walking trail. Don felt that this present would work better than the leaf blower that George has been using. Don then presented George with a "warehouse" broom for rock removal. George and the Council thanked Don Kitzrow for his donation.

D. Harlan Kingsley – ATVAM

Harlan Kingsley was present to invite the Hill City Council and the Hill City Chamber of Commerce to the All-Terrain Vehicle Association of Minnesota Annual Fall Ride & Rally VIP Ride on Friday, September 25, 2015. Registration is at 8:30 a.m. at QMP (Quadna Mountain Park) Chalet, the ride beginning at 10:00 a.m. and a free lunch sponsored by Dirty Dawgs at the Soo Line Trail Head.

4. Addition or Corrections to the Agenda

There were no additions or corrections to the agenda.

5. Reports

Maintenance/Water/Sewer/Parks/Airport/Streets

- George Casper reported that they would be replacing some curb stops.
- Maintenance has been spraying weeds at the sewer pond.
- Casper stated that the Hill Lake Park was busy over the weekend, and we got more garbage cans from Waste Management for the park.
- Casper said that he would be replacing some culverts this fall.
- Casper said that Ron Parker had put out a nice compliment on the Hill Lake Park on Facebook.

Fire Department

- Fire Chief Nelson reported that the Fire Hall is all painted now. He had an estimate from Northwoods Builders to patch the drain in the Fire Hall for \$1,280.00 and an estimate to replace a 20' x 30' slab in front of the Fire Hall for \$3,975.00. The cost of these repairs can come out of the Fire Dept. Maintenance/Building Fund.

Motion made by Baker to approve the repairs to the Fire Hall as long as the Fire Dept. approves them also, second by Baratto. Motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

Police Department

- Police Chief Madsen passed out to the Council the Police Depts. monthly report for August.
- Council member Haugen asked Madsen if he had received any calls in regard to skinny dipping going on at the Hill Lake Park, Haugen said that she had received multiple calls in regard to this and she had told the caller to contact Madsen about this. Madsen stated that he had not received any calls about this.
- National Night Out is September 13, 2015 from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Mayor

- Mayor Baker stated that everything is running excellently and everyone is doing a good job.

Clerk

- Clerk McManigle stated that she had a request from someone that wanted to know if they could have a water hydrant installed by their travel trailer without hooking up to sewer on some land they own in Hill City. The Council stated that you need to have both water and sewer.
- Clerk McManigle reported that it is going to cost \$350.00 to get out of the contract with the Redwoods Company that the city uses for their credit/debit card processing. From Nov. 24, 2014 until Aug. 12, 2015 it has cost the city \$835.55 for the processing through the Redwoods Company. With the new company Government Payment Services (GPS), there is absolutely no costs to the city at all. There is just a 3% convenience fee that is charged to the Credit/Debit card user. Also with GPS citizens will be able to pay their utility billings online. This change in credit/debit card processors will be explained in more detail in the up-coming October newsletter.
- Clerk McManigle asked that all departments, Council, Mayor, etc. get the clerks articles for the newsletter by Oct. 19th at the latest.

Council

The Council had nothing to report.

1st Responders

- Fire Chief Nelson reported that they are in very preliminary stages of discussing the combining of the Fire Dept. and the 1st Responders.

Committees: Personnel, Facilities/Equipment and Land Use

The committees had nothing to report.

6. Old Business

A. Cost of new RV sites

George Casper reported that the Wetland Specialist from Aitkin Co. (Becky Svoda) had been contacted in regard to where the city could put more RV sites at the park. Becky had told George where he could put them and where he could not. Casper and Maint. Asst. Pat Jordan had shot some elevations at the park and determined that anywhere from 9 inches to 2 feet of fill would need to be brought in depending upon the location of the RV pad. An electrician will also be contacted as soon as it is decided how many RV sites can be built. Casper had no cost figures at this time.

B. Questions answered from City Auditor

- At the August 11, 2015 Council meeting Clerk McManigle was asked to contact the City Auditor to find out if there is anything in the 2014 audit that they should be aware of and also wanted her thoughts on raising the 2016 tax levy. The City Auditor had a few things for the Council to look into, and did feel that it makes sense to raise the tax levy since it has not been raised since 2009 and in 2014 \$76,714.00 had to be paid out of the city's reserves.
- Council member Haugen wanted to know how much money was not paid towards the levy for the past ten years because of unpaid taxes. Clerk McManigle will have to calculate this and get back to the Council on this.

7. New Business

A. Set 2016 Preliminary Levy

Motion made by Baker to set the preliminary levy at \$315,000.00 (the same as it has been for the past six years) and allocating \$168,000.00 to General Fund, \$120,000.00 to the Police Fund, \$20,000.00 to the Fire Fund and \$7,000.00 to the Trail Fund, second by Haugen. Motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

Motion made by Lange to adjourn the meeting at 7:14 p.m., second Haugen.

Respectfully Submitted

Diana McManigle, Clerk/Treasurer

Larry Baker, Mayor