

March 6, 2014

The regular meeting of the Cuyuna City Council was held at 7:00 pm in City Hall. Present were council members Zontelli, Bedard, Stockard, and Eisen. Mayor Brix was absent. Acting Mayor Zontelli led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Motion by Stockard to approve the minutes for the February 6, 2014 meeting. Second by Bedard. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Bedard to approve payment of the invoices and the forthcoming regular monthly invoices. Second by Eisen. Motion carried unanimously.

Fire Chief Report:

- Chief Lou Dirkes presented the monthly CFD report. No council action required.
- There was one fire response and no first responder calls during the month.
- The fire hall kitchen water line is fixed and repairs are underway for the water damage. A mold/moisture test was performed and the results show neither mold nor moisture are present behind the sheetrock. The expenses incurred to repair and replace damaged items at the hall are covered by insurance less the \$500 deductible.
- Chief Dirkes asked if he should let the water run at the hall to prevent freezing. Council agreed that it would be good to have the water run.

Water and Sewer Report:

- No current report for the SLSSD.
- Council heard that the North Street water line is frozen and attempts to use a welder to unthaw have been unsuccessful. The line dead ends at two residences and they are without water service. Neither is served by the sanitary lines. . One resident, Barb O'Brien, was present to hear the Council discussion. City Engineer Tim Houle noted other options such as steam or hot water type jetting could also be attempted. The Council discussed and agreed it would be very difficult to dig now and locate the area frozen or broken. For the short term, the city will run a fire hose to the residents for water and also request and give direction to the residents how to continuously run water to prevent the hoses from freezing. Council member Stockard, Fire Chief Dirkes, and Water Operator will coordinate the event.
- Clerk will send a notice to all water users asking them to continuously run a water stream about the size of a pencil from one faucet to help prevent further freeze up episodes in the city.

Building Construction Activities:

- No building activity.

Police Chief Report:

- Council received the monthly police department activity report from Chief Leonard. The department received a report of a vehicle leaving the scene after hitting a school bus. The department has been requested to provide additional patrol time on North Street; responding to reports of increased car traffic at higher speeds since the recent opening of a business place on Minnesota Ave.
- Chief Leonard and Mayor Brix discussed the ongoing efforts of a group of area citizens to consider creation of a police district. An open public meeting is to be held at the Heartwood Senior Living

Community on March 25 at 6:30 pm. This meeting is informational for the public and all cities' councilmembers are invited to attend. Clerk will publish the notice in the paper.

Engineer Report:

- Tim Houle, WSN Engineer, was present for updates in the Unfinished Business portion of the agenda.

Attorney Report:

- Reported Habitat for Humanity will be sending the deed for the donated property to the City. He will record the deed. City will need to determine how the lots can be used. If selling the lots, he would recommend placing a requirement that the lots be built upon within one year.
- Reviewed a request initiated by a realty company regarding placement of a recreational vehicle for living quarters on property classified as R1. The city attorney noted this is not permissible in a residentially zoned area. Clerk will notify the interested party.

Website Report:

- 1236 page visits from 332 individual IEP addresses.

Blandin/Cuyuna Chamber:

- No new activities reported by council member Bedard.

Unfinished Business:

- Tim Houle, WSN engineer, reported that the City's wastewater project is on the Wastewater Infrastructure Funding (WIF) list for bonding projects. This funding source is available every two years. Also, IRRRB would like to see additional entities partnering to help fund the project. It is recommended that council members contact the City's state representatives and also IRRRB board members. Clerk provided names, addresses, and emails to the council.
- Aaron Hautula, Cuyuna Lakes Mountain Bike Crew (CLMTBC) president, was present to discuss the benefits and values for the City in partnering with the Crew to market and maintain the Cuyuna Pump Track vision within the mountain bike trail system. The CLMTBC website has over 62,000 unique visitors per year, hosts 10 mountain bike events, and Cuyuna is central to the master plan developing the bike trail system as an economic benefit to the area. Discussing the marketing, he noted Cuyuna's logo would be visible on their website and in the marketing media of area bike events. The City has also received at no charge a campground design plan valued at \$7,000. It also will receive about 15 hours per week for 20 to 25 weeks from mountain bike crew volunteers to maintain the pump track. Further, the mountain bike crew has been very active working with the county to develop a trail from Cuyuna to the Yawkeye, applying for additional grants and funding such as the Safe Routes to School and the Bell Helmet Foundation, and contributed man hours to last year's pump track construction.
- Noting the economic benefits for our area that could be seen with partnering with the CLMTBC, **council member Bedard motioned that the City support the efforts of the CLMTBC with a 2 year commitment at \$3,500/year. Second by Stockard. Motion carried unanimously.**

New Business:

- Sheriff Dahl was present to update the Council on area law enforcement focuses. He noted a large increase in hand gun permits. In 2011 the department handled around 300 permits, but last year it had increased to over 1,200 permits. He noted each squad car now has GPS. He does not believe

legalizing marijuana is in the best interest of the public. The marijuana today is far more potent than the kind 10 years ago that is often referenced when groups promote legalizing. Further, there is no way to test for overconsumption as there is for alcohol. He noted heroin use is rising in Crow Wing and is cheaper than methamphetamines. The department will be focusing on St. Patrick's Day with extra vehicles out to discourage not only drinking and driving, but also texting while driving. He sees accidents caused by texting while driving significantly increasing in our area. Stated the 800 MHz is working very well and reception is improved for the users.

- Jessica Holmvgig was present from the Cuyuna Lakes Chamber of Commerce. She shared that the chamber gets over 1,000 website visits a month and over 75% of those each month are new visitors. She asked the council to consider placing an advertisement in their Cuyuna Lakes Visitor Guide to promote the pump track, Cuyuna, and our larger Cuyuna area. The Visitor Guide is put out every two years. Goal is to complete the ads for the guide in March and go to print in April.
- **Motion by Bedard to purchase 2 face to face pages at \$1,000/page to place in the Cuyuna Lakes Visitor Guide. Requesting that the location in the guide follow the 2-page bike trail advertisement. Second by Stockard. Motion carried unanimously.**
- Jessica Holmvgig will review development and placement of the ad with council member Zontelli.
- Council discussed quotes for fencing around the pump track. Fire chief Dirkes noted it would be good to get fencing up to keep snow mobiles and ATVs off the track.
- Council member Adam Bedard submitted a letter of resignation to the council as he will be moving out of the area for employment. He expressed his appreciation for the opportunity to serve the community on the council. Also, he was looking forward to good things to come from Cuyuna. Council accepted the resignation with regrets. The council will decide at its April meeting how to proceed filling the vacancy.

Informational:

6 delinquent water accounts.

Adjournment:

- **Motion by Stockard to adjourn. Second by Bedard. Motion carried unanimously.**

William F. Bedard
Clerk

Lloyd Brix
Mayor