

February 1, 2018

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

Motion by Z. Brix to approve the minutes of the January 4, 2018 regular council meeting.

Second by Eisen. Motion carried with Z. Brix, Eisen, and Mayor Brix approving.

Motion by Z. Brix to approve payment of the invoices and the forthcoming regular monthly invoices. Second by Eisen. Motion carried with Z. Brix, Eisen, and Mayor Brix approving.

Fire Chief Report:

- Fire Chief Karl Hasskamp presented the monthly report. 5 First Responder calls: 3 in Cuyuna and one each in Rabbit Lake and Wolford Townships. Department will hold training on the new truck during the month. The department will help with the Rabbit Lake Ice Fishing Contest to be held on February 17.

Water and Sewer Report:

- Mayor shared the sewer district's operator reported the city's sanitary sewage output reduced from 780,000 gallons to less than half that amount and attributes the decrease to the new sanitary lines reducing infiltration. The operator also mentioned allowing residents to run additional water during the cold period could be a benefit keeping the water lines cleaner.
- No issues reported for the SLSSD sewer infrastructure.

Building Construction Activities:

- No activity

Police Chief Report:

- Assistance Chief Pat Pickar presented the monthly report to the Council. The department assisted the Crow Wing County Sheriff's department with a suicidal person. Standoff ended with the person transported to the hospital for support. Assisted with several complaints for loud music, vehicles and snowmobiles driving fast on city streets, vehicles in ditches from the bad weather, investigation of marijuana odor.
- Officer Pickar informed the council he will be a candidate for the Crow Wing County Sheriff. He will continue his role with Cuyuna also.

Engineer Report:

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

Attorney Report:

- Published the hearing information for the draft amendment to the zoning ordinance allowing a garage to be built prior to the home for an approved permit application.

Cuyuna Lakes Chamber:

- The annual Serpent Lake Ice Fishing contest is scheduled the first Saturday in February.

Unfinished Business:

- Tim Houle and Tony Pohl of WSN Engineering shared information on the non-compliant lateral sewer lines for residents which will need to be repaired or replaced per the requirement of the project funding entities. They previously reviewed the video tapes of the private lines along with council member Eisen and the city water operator. 52 private sewer line videos were made during the project. 32 of the private lines are in fair to poor condition and 24 need immediate repair or replacement to eliminate infiltration and any sump pumps which are prohibited. Additionally, some of the lateral lines cross other's property or are even connected to other's lateral lines. Some private lines will require movement to a new street location for connection to a main line. Council discussed if a public forum meeting is needed. Engineer Tim Houle thought residents impacted would prefer an individual discussion as each situation and remedy will be different. Further, fixing the non-compliant lateral sewer lines is mandated by the government agencies providing the grant funding for the project. The council will send out letters to residents with lateral line issues to fix; prioritizing lateral lines with the most leakage and ones with sump pumps flowing into their line. Council will provide a time line to the residents to complete repair of their sewer line or its replacement.
- Council also discussed the ordinance requiring owners of private subsurface septic systems to hook up to the city sanitary sewer if it is available to them. Council member Z. Brix stated he recollected the city would not force residents with good septic systems to hook up to city sewer when the project extended the public sanitary main line past their place. Council member Eisen said if the ordinance requires hook up then residents should hook up. Mayor Brix believed the owners of subsurface septic systems did not need to hook up until their system failed.
- Richard Harrison has not yet provided the required legal description for the road on his East Rabbit Lake development. No building permits can be issued for the development until Mr. Harrison provides the required road documentations for recording at the County.
- Mayor reported a tree needs to be trimmed at a residence along Kruse for public safety. Also, received a complaint from a resident whose mail box was damaged during the sanitary sewer project and further damaged when the city snow plowed. Mayor will review further.
- The City received one inquiry about the building permit inspection services, one proposal for providing zoning review services for permit applications, and no proposal for septic system design review and inspection services. Council requested further advertisement and will review applications at its March meeting.
- Council discussed the draft ordinance allowing a garage to be built prior to the home for an approved permit application. No public input was received at the public hearing.
- **Motion by Z. Brix to approve the change in the ordinance allowing a garage to be built prior to the home for an approved permit application and publish the ordinance change by summary. Second by Eisen. Motion carried with Z. Brix, Eisen, and Mayor Brix approving.**
- Council discussed the sewer and water infrastructure yearly expenses and revenue. The city has not increased the rates for sewer and water since 2008. The city has incurred significant expenses with the 90-year-old water system, has incurred an increase in sewer rates from the Sanitary Sewer District, must repay the \$289,000 loan for the new sewer lines at about \$1000/month, and consider building a reserve for future expenses at the well pumphouse and water tower.
- **Motion by Z. Brix to set the water rate at \$10/1000 gallons; the sewer rate at \$12/1000 gallons, and the fixed sewer fee at \$19.50/month for each sewer connection to the city's sanitary sewer lines. Also, the rate changes to be effective on the April bill for March usage. Second by Eisen. Motion carried with Z. Brix, Eisen, and Mayor Brix approving.**

- With these rate and fee changes a family using 2,000 gallons a month would see a monthly increase of about \$25.
- **Motion by Eisen to send a letter to the water/sewer users explaining the increase to the water/sewer rates. Second by Z. Brix. Motion carried with Z. Brix, Eisen, and Mayor Brix approving.**

New Business:

- Council reviewed the request from Fryberger Law Firm to approve a resolution authorizing the issuance and delivery of an Allonge to the \$289,000 General Obligation Sewer Utility Revenue Note Series 2017B. To comply with the USDA requirements the annual installments must be January 1 of each year rather than the December 15 date previously approved. There is no negative financial impact to the city.
- **Motion by Eisen to approve a resolution authorizing the issuance and delivery of an Allonge to the \$289,000 General Obligation Sewer Utility Revenue Note Series 2017B. Second by Z. Brix. Motion carried with Z. Brix, Eisen, and Mayor Brix approving.**
- Mayor noted the city needs to invest in a riding lawn mower to maintain the grass at the pump track and campground. Council discussed and recommended waiting until spring as manufacturers provide their seasonal specials.

Adjournment:

- **Motion by Eisen to adjourn. Second by Z. Brix. Motion carried with Z. Brix, Eisen, and Mayor Brix approving.**

William F Bedard
Clerk

Lloyd Brix
Mayor.