



Home of Como Falls

**MINUTES**

**REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING**

**October 7, 2014 / 6:00 pm**

- **CALL TO ORDER: At 6:00pm**
- **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Completed**
- **ROLL CALL: Lonkoski, Vetsch, Martell, Fordahl, Scholze.**
- **ACTION TO CHANGE AGENDA: 8.2 La Verne Witt utility billing.**

**1. Consent Agenda:** Motion by Martell second by Fordahl roll call all approve.

*All items listed under the consent agenda are considered routine by the City Council and will be enacted by one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items. If discussion is desired, that item will be removed from the Consent Agenda and will be considered separately.*

- |            |                                |                    |
|------------|--------------------------------|--------------------|
| <b>1.1</b> | Minutes:                       | September 2, 2014  |
| <b>1.2</b> | Bills Payable Through:         | September 30, 2014 |
| <b>1.3</b> | Consolidated Balance Sheet:    | September 30, 2014 |
| <b>1.4</b> | Heidi Snell Resignation Letter |                    |

**2. Water/Waste Water/City Engineer :** Frozen Water and Sewer Line Policy

Administrator Blank presents a policy for frozen water and sewer line that has been constructed that details the responsibility and obligations of the City and of the property owners. The policy states that the City is responsible for the water and sewer mains. And the property owners are responsible for the laterals from the residence to the mains for both the water and sewer connections. Following discussion motion by Martell second by vetch to approve the policy rollcall all approve.

**3. Library/City Hall:** City Hall nearly complete list on National Historic Reg. /Appling for a new grant.

Librarian Bissen change of status.

Library Bissen addresses the Council. Bissen asked permission from the Council to apply for an architectural grant for the exterior of the City Hall building and 57 Main St. Further she is interested in the offering from PERA of the Phased Retirement Option. This procedure would allow her to partially retire and draw benefits from PERA. Bissen would reduce to 15 hours a week. Further the City would no longer be paying into nor collecting from PERA. Motion by Fordahl second by Lonkoski to accept the list of proposals from librarian Bissen. Rollcall all approve.

**4. Police Dept.:** No Report.

**5. Streets / Maintenance :** MN Dot Resolution Canoe Landing Area.

Chris Oliver discusses the generator that Blank had provided to the department. Further that they are winterizing the parks and draining the pool. Administrator Blank presents a resolution that he has constructed that authorizes the city to participate in project that Mayor Scholze has been working on. Blank reports that Scholze he has been working with Mn/DOT, Houston County soil and water conservation and Fillmore County soil water conservation in the University of Minnesota. Further Mn/DOT issued a limited use permit for this construction. Mayor Scholze offers that Mn/DOT owns most of the property and that the county owns approximately 30% of the area. Martell asks if we own any of the property? Mayor Scholze states he does not believe we do. Administrator Blank reports that Mn/DOT has asked for a local resolution for the construction project. Martell asked what the costs are for this project. Mayor Scholze responds

approximately \$5000. Mayor Scholze offers that he is working on donations for part of the project. Mayor Scholze says that the trees have been donated and there will be picnic tables that will be donated. Mayor Scholze further states that there be parking for at least 10 vehicles if not more. Scholze does report that the parking area will be reduced from what's currently available. Chris Oliver and Mayor Scholze discussed that there be rock placed on the riverside and also in the Thompson Creek side and that the area of that faces Hwy. 16 will be open to allow trailers to turn around in that grassy area. Oliver states the approximate dimensions will be 80 x 80. They do state that don't believe the parking lot will be big enough to turn a vehicle around with a trailer and other vehicles in the parking lot. Vetch asks where are we going to pile snow removed from the city streets. Scholze responds we can place it on that parking lot, or take it down to the pool area. Oliver states we will attempt to pile the snow and the parking lot at the canoe landing rather than bring snow down Como Avenue to the pool because the weight of the trucks and culverts that are underneath the road. Following further discussion regarding the project, cost of the project, and particular portions of the project, Mayor Scholze called for a motion to approve the resolution. Motion was made by Council Member Fordahl. Mayor Scholze called for a second. After waiting for a while he called for a second another time. Then after waiting again for a second, Administrator Blank defined the motion, and the calling for a second twice and not receiving that second, the motion failed for lack of second. Further discussion regarding the situation and what the city should do next to proceed. Martell after further discussion, made a motion that we continue with the project seeing that it's partially completed but limit the expenditure of funds to \$4000, approximately the amount committed to date. Second by Fordahl. Rollcall all approve motion carries.

## **6. Recreation Board:**

## **7. Planning Commission / Zoning :**

## **8. Items for Consideration:**

**8.1 Heidi Snell. Resignation accepted above.**

**8.2 La Verne Witt Utility bill past due.**

Administrator Blank reports that Laverne Witt's rental property on Como Avenue in the city receives services of a refuge cart, recycling and the billing for solid waste from Houston County. Blank further reports that this bill has remained unpaid for approximately 36 months. Blank states City clerk Moen stated to him that Mr. Witt had been in to make a partial payment on the bill of \$500. Mr. Witt does believe that this is all he should be responsible for. Following discussion the Council decided not to adjust the bill.

## **9. Council Member's Comments:**

Martel discusses that future Council member's and Mayor's should be remanded to attend the league of Minnesota Cities newly elected officials conference. Martell makes a motion that effective 2016 that future Council members and Mayors are required to attend the newly elected official's conference. Administrator Blank states he does not believe that we can make that requirement. Martell states we have to do something, feels the training is very valuable, and suggested that Blank check with the League of Minnesota Cities to see what they advise.

Fordahl discusses conversation that she has had regarding the condition of the swimming pool due to algae growth etc. she discusses a couple possibilities that the city could attempt to reduce the algae growth.

**10. Mayor's Comments:**

Mayor Scholze asks to place businesses into Ace Communications Community Channel.

**11. Staff Correspondence:**

**12. Correspondence Received:**

**13. Announcements Next Council Meeting:** November? 2014 (4<sup>th</sup> is General Election)

Following discussion, the November Council Meeting will be Thursday, November 6, 2014 at 6:00pm.

**14. Items for next Agenda:** Snow Removal, Water and Sewer past due accounts.

**15. Adjournment:** Motion by Martell to Adjourn at 7:17 pm.