

## **Mercer City Council Meeting December 18, 2014**

The Mercer City Council meeting was called to order by Mayor Kathy Schon with all council present. AJ Tuck and Mark Johnson from Ulteig were also present.

Minutes from the November meeting were read and approved with a motion made by Randy Zinke and seconded by Bryan Brewer.

Dave Presser was recognized. He questioned the City's policy on snow removal. There is no official policy on where to pile snow on his property as it causes problems with rocks in the spring and parking for when they hold functions at the lodge. Council felt they could find a better spot to pile snow by Randy Zinke's open lot to the west.

Financial report was approved with a motion made by Randy Zinke and seconded by Steve Mikkelsen. A motion to transfer \$3000.00 from general to Equipment was made by Joe Jerkovich, seconded by Bryan Brewer. Motion passed.

The fire department will be contacted again for burning the cat tails around the slough.

The city's lawyer was contacted about the bids for the City blade and advised that the blade could be sold without any more contact or advertising. A motion to accept the highest bid from Robert Jans was made by Randy Zinke, seconded by Bryan Brewer. Motion passed with three Ayes and one Nay.

A motion made by Bryan Brewer for Kathy Schon to purchase 4 "slow children are playing" signs to put up by the parks in town and to replace the yield sign by Lila Stradinger's place with a Stop sign. Seconded by Randy. Motion passed.

A motion made by Randy Zinke to pay the ND Rural Water dues, seconded by Steve Mikkelsen. Motion passed.

Garbage rates were discussed. It was suggested by Mark Johnson to contact Dakota Sanitation. The auditor will get a hold of the cities contract with Waste management. Topic was tabled till more information.

Water rates were discussed. A motion made by Joe Jerkovich was made to raise the base rate for water to \$20.00 for everyone with no meter readings required, also every property owner will be required to pay the water and sewer rate whether they live here or not or have water on or off. Motion seconded by Randy Zinke. Motion passed.

A motion made by Bryan Brewer to change sewer rate to \$10.00 a month, seconded by Joe Jerkovich. Motion passed.

A motion made by Randy Zinke to accept the resignation of JoLene Rust as Auditor, second by Bryan Brewer. Motion passed.

Mark Johnson from Ulteig presented some information for the city. They suggested that Home Rule would not be an advantage for the city since there is not many retail businesses in town. He suggested creating an Improvement District. The city attorney will have to write on up. The council will need to identify what needs to be done and have a fair objective for charging for work. It was suggested to spread the cost over the entire district to be fair. It was also discussed if the city can include residents that live outside city limits but receive water in the Capital Improvement Plan.

A motion was made by Bryan Brewer to sign the proposal from Ulteig to TV and flush the sewer lines, seconded by Joe Jerkovich. Motion passed.

It was discussed of someone from council could attend the Water convention in Bismarck in February. Kathy Schon will be testing for water superintendent.

Beginning sections of the ordinances will be read at the next meeting.

Bills were approved with a motion made by Steve Mikkelsen, seconded by Bryan Brewer.

Next meeting will be January 15, 2015.

Meeting adjourned.

**JoLene Rust, Auditor**

Ottertail Power Co. - \$626.69, Hawkins - \$225.52, FU Oil - \$450.00, BHG - \$57.88, WM - \$1281.85, SobTek LLC - \$712.94, Municipal Goven't Academy - \$15.00, Computer Store - \$829.98, advance business solutions - \$28.17, MEC - \$46.99