

City of Mercer Minutes

May 21, 2015

Meeting was called to order by Mayor Kathy Schon; those present were Bryan Brewer, Joe Jerkovich, Randy Zinke, Allan Laib, Marlene Wardner Auditor, and Mark Johnson and A.J. Tuck representing Ulteig.

Randy made a motion to except minutes from previous meeting with the correction of a few misspelled words; and Allan seconded.

Allan made a motion to except financial report and Bryan seconded.

Bryan made a motion to pay outstanding bills and seconded by Randy.

Final reading of city ordinances – copy at city office – but pertaining to clean up of abandoned vehicles, dogs needing licenses, and a new penalty of \$20.00 per month if more than 2 months behind on paying utilities starting with the July 20th to August 20th, 2015 payment. Randy made a motion to approve second reading and Bryan seconded. Send a copy of ordinances to the Ulteig engineering company.

Discussed how many are late or past due on utility payments; as of now there is only one person more than 2 months behind on payments but she is working at paying twice a month. Council did have to shut water off at one house because they were behind a year with utilities. Water was turned back on and council shut off a second time and then notified the sheriff because if someone is turning it back on before utilities are paid is a class A felony for using services that are not paid for. Payment was made and water was turned back on. Curb stop did get bent and it was not broke so no further digging had to be done.

Leland Vossler asked if city workers can go on private property to curb stop, and council said if it need be. Years ago that was how it was done and council stated that if there is breaks they will move curb stops but can't afford to do everyone at this time.

Leland Vossler asked why he pays for sewer when he has a septic tank? Told him he did not pay for sewer.

Leland Vossler asked why council could look at recall petition he thought only auditor could see that information. Auditor informed Mr. Vossler that all city

Minutes and recall petitions, etc. is all public knowledge. Anyone that asks can see any of the city books including who is behind on paying their utilities. Marlene Wardner Auditor said she would check with League of Cities and see if this was correct and let Mr. Vossler know.

Tonya Wellington had a discussion on having to pay garbage, sewer and water for last 3 years and we informed her there was no record of her not living there and water was never asked to be shut off.

Culvert at Post Office was covered by asphalt when the street project was done a few years ago. Can we enlarge the hole for drainage?

Update on ongoing maintenance - apron by city shop, paint city hall, light to put on flag at city hall.

Advertising sign by Ed's station needs to be moved; will put it at Centennial Park and letters will be in city hall.

Motion was made by Bryan to except building permit from Donald Rutschtee to build a 16 x 24 garage/shed. Seconded by Randy. Kathy to recheck with Rutschtee on his directions at where he is placing the building. It has to be in the SE corner.

Need to approve pull tabs at Chester's Tavern for another year sponsored by American Legion, Washburn. Bryan made a motion to approve pull tabs application and seconded by Allan. Also a comment was made Mercer organizations should be applying for this every quarter.

Insurance Inventory needs to be updated; council to check and add or delete any items.

Income survey needs to be done so we can apply grant from Lewis and Clark for city improvements with water and sewer.

Checking with Rud oil at getting a small gas tank for storage; or a Browser thru Government surplus and having it on a trailer.

Need to check with Marshall Maxwell's insurance (Farmers Union) if water pipe broke on main street up to curb stop; and backs up in someone's house. Bryan said it happened a few years ago to his dad's house.

Ulteig discussed more things for Improvement District. Including an estimate of a lift station for sewer. Also need to pass a resolution and get a line of credit thru our bank. Next phase would be going and visiting with area people about routing the lagoon. We do not want the State to come in and do an eminent domain to reroute lagoon. That

would not be pleasant. Also need to get contractors bids and Ulteig's proposal. At the end of year when costs are in and certified RDEA will consider grants, etc. A priority would be the sewer system.

We asked audience if anyone would like to be on standards committee.

Elaine Faudskar was wondering if city residents have any say about doing an Improvement District. If there is a water or sewer project council has the authority to just do it; but if there is street project residents have more to say. She also stated that the water stinks and they don't use it only to wash clothes and shower. Mayor asked her if we should go on Rural Water and she stated no. Mayor then asked at what we should do about water. And nobody had a response to that question. No else has complained about their water. Mark asked what is your property worth without sewer and water? Mayor will take a water sample from Faudskar's house and have it tested. Need to get more information on water samples and aquafer; the state person testing the water says we have good water. Comment was made that maybe their pipes need to be flushed.

Discussion on Televising and jetting the sewer pipes and what it would cost. We can save money if we can get residents to help like open manholes and do our own list of parcel numbers with names and address. This is a project that has never been done in Mercer before. We also will receive a documented report. If televising is not approved at this meeting it won't get done this year. Since there is no Standards committee council will make the decisions at what each parcel will be assessed. We can pay for anything and not borrow and we can also put in for grant money once improvement district is approved. Improvement District does not cost the city anything.

Got an estimate to put in new pressure tank. Will line up date to get this done.

Randy made a motion to except Improvement District and Joe seconded. Mayor and Auditor signed papers to do Televising sewers. Deferred water pressure testing, street survey and storm sewer inspection. We need to get an agreement contract with an emergency contractor. Council has found a person who is licensed and insured. Contract has penalties if he does not show up. Property assessment value. Only want a parcel count a name and parcel number. Then board will set rate for payment. The engineers need to do the testing of fire hydrants. Decided to defer this until another month.

Allan made a motion to do televising and jetting of sewers and Randy seconded.

Jason Meidinger would be interested on being on standards committee.

Allan asked Leland Vossler if he would like to withdraw his recall petition. Mr. Vossler said he would not withdraw his petition.

Tonya Wellington asked who is responsible to fill in ditch because she has water running under her house and creating mold. This was from a water brake repaired a few years ago in her neighborhood. Mayor Kathy Schon will check past minutes to see what was done at that time. Tonya stated that Jon Schumann and Ed Schumann did the digging. But they were not certified licensed and insured. So they are responsible since the city has no records of anyone doing any work. And Schumann's did not get paid.

Allan made a motion to adjourn and seconded by Randy

Next meeting June 18, 2015, 7:00 P.M.

Marlene Wardner

Auditor

BILLS TO BE PAID:

TITAN MACHINERY	\$408.15	FARMERS UNION OIL-WILTON	
OTTER TAIL	624.48	PROPANE – MCC	301.50
LEAGUE OF CITIES	225.00	CITY	490.50
ED'S SERVICE	42.00	ULTEIG – PROFESSIONAL FEES	1200.00
RUST HARDWARE (park)	27.95	ERVIN JANS (CONCRETE)	2040.00
STRATA (Cement city shop)	1,076.25	TAND CONSTRUCTION	6600.00
BHG	43.80	MERCER MACHINE	120.00
WASTE MANAGEMENT	1,113.97	ND INSURANCE DEPT.	113.25
MCCLEAN ELECTRIC	55.38	ULTEIG	4,134.90
WEST RIVER TELEPHONE	88.27	ULTEIG	2.096.00

