

City of Mercer Minutes

October 28, 2019

Mayor Ron Schatz called the meeting to order at 7 pm with Council members Julie Wagner, Gary Volochenko and Derek Fiedler. Also in attendance Ashley Fiedler, Auditor and Engineer AJ Tuck.

Councilmembers look over minutes. Julie Wagner makes motion to approve minutes, Gary Volochenko seconded it. Motion carried.

Finances were reviewed by council. Gary Volochenko makes motion to approve finances, Derek Fiedler seconded it. Motion carried.

Bills were reviewed by council. Fiedler makes motion to pay bills, Volochenko seconded it. Motion carried.

New Business:

Board reviewed water bills that are past due to go on taxes. Wagner makes motion to put Dave Presser and Jessie Schlichenmayers past due water/sewer bills on their taxes. Fiedler seconded it. Motion carried.

Chester's Tavern requested liquor license for 2020. Fiedler makes motion to approve liquor license, Volochenko seconded it. Motion carried.

AJ Tuck, Ulteig Engineer, presented change order 2 for Weisz and sons. In change order 2 crew time will be removed as it's likely that we will not need any crew time on this project. Weisz and Sons would like to use PVC piping rather than Ductile Iron piping, using this material will reduce costs and will not have an adverse effect on reliability of the system. In addition to the reduction in contract value Ulteig is also recommending that this contract be extended due to the amount of rain and snow Mercer received in September and October. This change order will have substantial completion date of November 30, 2019, with final completion of May 29, 2020. Fiedler makes motion for change order 2, Wagner seconded it. Motion carried.

Tuck presented Pay Estimate 2 for \$245,635.71 for Weisz and sons to the board. Volochenko makes motion to approve, Fiedler seconded it. Motion carried.

Amendment 5 for Engineer agreement where Ulteig is increasing the basic services by \$498.80, no additional work will be completed. The amendment will also be reducing the contract value by \$12,000. Volochenko makes motion to approve Amendment 5, Wagner seconded it. Motion carried.

Resident Allan Laib has some concerns he brought to boards attention. Laib would like to know why there is so much water loss and why it's taking so long to find the leak. Ward from ND Rural Water Systems stated the city and himself have been working on finding a leak since May. He is afraid it could be many small leaks, which could be difficult to find. Ward and a coworker will be in Mercer in November to do some more searching, assured residents that everyone is doing their best to get the problem fixed.

Laib would like to know why the city is paying for water and sewer hookup on a property in town, when the city has never paid for a resident's hookup. Mayor Schatz stated the city didn't pay the residents hookup, they paid for the line to the property. It's the cities responsibility to provide residents with water and sewer. Once the resident was provided with that option they are responsible to pay and have it hooked up.

Laib has one more question for the board. Laib questioned an adjustment that was on the finances sheet a couple months ago. Mayor Schatz read and e-mail from Brian Day at Midwest assistants Program, who assists the city with their finance's. The e-mail stated having 3 different accounts and them all ending on different days of the month they didn't match up. Brian Day stated he suggested putting that adjustment in. Mayor Schatz stated the city of Mercer is in the process of having an audit done.

Resident Amanda Howard would like to have her meters checked, as she feels it's not accurate. Howard feels that it's not just reading too high, she feels it's not always reading all the water used. She has heard from other residents that they are having problems with their meters possibly reading too high. Ward and the City will work on meters immediately.

Charlene Lelm questioned why the new shut off line Scherbenske put in on her property wasn't placed where the old one was. She had to pay a lot of money to get the line to the new hookup, when the shut off could've been put where the old one was. Engineer was going to check if it could be reimbursed from grant money.

Jon Schumann speaking for the fire department would like a map showing where all fire hydrants are located in town. AJ Tuck, engineer will work on getting a map for Schumann.

Fiedler makes motion to adjourn meeting, Volochenko seconded it. Motion carried.

Bills to Pay October 2, 2019

1. Ashley Conference expenses
 - a. Lunch \$9.16
 - b. Gas \$63.35
2. Ashley Fiedler -\$923.50
3. BHG - \$52.56
4. Derek Fiedler - \$69.26
5. Gary Volochenko \$69.26
6. Hardware Hank – \$30.47 (mcc)
7. IRS (quarter) - \$665.55
8. Job Service (Quarter) - \$6.53
9. Julie Wagner - \$69.26
10. McLean Sheridan billing - \$226.60
11. McLean Sheridan water- \$1,409.71
12. ND Department of Health - \$16
13. Ottertail – \$555.86
14. Ron Schatz _ \$138.52
15. Waste Management - \$1,232.21
16. WRT - \$176.99
17. Wyatt Wagner - \$90