

City of Mercer Minutes

May 18, 2020

Mayor Ron Schatz called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM with Council members Gary Volochenko, Julie Wagner, and Derek Fiedler. Also in attendance Ashley Fiedler, Auditor, AJ Tuck, Ulteig Engineer.

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

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

Bills were reviewed by Council Members. Ulteig Engineer, AJ Tuck, clarified that the Ulteig invoice is for the Lift station work, paperwork, and also onsite work. Scherbenske bill is for when they came to Mercer to try and find a leak, but nothing was found at that location. Fiedler makes motion to pay bills except for Scherbenske's invoice, Wagner Seconded it. Roll Call vote: Fiedler- yes. Wagner-yes, Volochenko-no. Motion carried.

Old Business:

Water payments are looking good for the month. We have 4 accounts that are past due, which the water is already turned off.

New Business:

City discussed lawn care for the summer, Wyatt Wagner has been doing City lawn care in the past using his own equipment. Volochenko would like to know why the city has a lawn mower since it's never used. Board decided to look over the lawn mower and see if it's in working condition to sell. Fiedler makes motion to have Wyatt Wagner continue doing City lawn care, Volochenko seconded it. Motion carried.

Chester's Tavern has a request for gaming from Washburn Legion. Wagner makes motion to except gaming application, Fiedler seconded it. Motion carried.

Council member Julie Wagner was curious how the Home Rule Charter is coming along for the City. Auditor stated, "We have 1 person for sure who agreed to be on the committee." "I have talked to a few other residents and left messages with others, but no one is interested in being a part of the committee". If any Mercer residents would like to be a part of the Home Rule Charter committee please notify a city official.

Randy Zinke would like the board to hold a public input meeting on adding special assessments or if we should raise utilities to help fund our water accounts, per Harold Rotunda, CPA. City will be sending a letter out to all Mercer property owners, and water users with details on the meeting. Input meeting will be held, June 2, 2020, 7PM at Mercer Community Center.

Waste Management isn't doing clean up till fall, at that time we can discuss a date for Mercer.

According to Tuck, Engineer, Weisz & Sons will be coming up this week to finish up their punch list, as well as the sewer line in the park. They should be done in a couple weeks. Don Weisz would like to know how the board would feel if everything isn't done by the final date of May 29, 2020, would the board have an issue. Mayor Schatz, wants all board members to do a walk through before we sign off on the project. Tuck feels Weisz & Sons will be able to meet their May 29, 2020 deadline, just wanted board to be aware if weather is not cooperating then it may be delayed.

Fiedler would like to know if Scherbenske will be fixing the roads that have settled and washed out. The City has water just sitting on the roads since the project. AJ was notified that Scherbenske should be coming up to fix the warranty work the week after Memorial, and will notify them of the roads that are a concern.

A resident in town had recently sold their property, and the new owners would like the water switched on. Mayor Schatz and Council member Fiedler went and tried to switch the water on, however they couldn't find the valve. Tuck came up to help look, he was unable to locate the valve as well. Tuck is unsure if the City paid Scherbenske to put the valve in on that property, or if that was a property they were told not to install on. Mayor Schatz spoke with City Attorney, Walter Lipp, he stated the City should find a contractor to come and install the water line, and when the City receives the bill, give it to Mr. Lipp and he will submit it to Scherbenske. Fiedler makes motion to find a contractor to come do the work and send bill to Scherbenske, Volochenko seconded it. Motion carried.

McLean Sheridan Rural Water is doing an expansion project south of town and they would like to tap into the water line that comes into town. Lynn Oberg from McLean Sheridan stated the understanding is once the project is over, the water line is turned over to McLean Sheridan. Reasoning for this, would be if there was a leak between here and the main line who would dig it up and repair it, and then pay it. Oberg would like AJ Tuck to check if that is how the water project was handled. Would be tied in by 3rd street and go straight south. Fiedler makes motion for McLean Sheridan to hook up on city line, Wagner seconded it. Motion carried.

Resident DeAnn Jacobson's had a plugged sewer, she had Haugan come out and do some work. DeAnn told Ron that it was plugged right by her hydrant. She stated it looked like whoever put the hydrant in could have squashed the line. Haugan had a difficult time, but after some work he was able to get it open. Jacobson sent the city the bill for the work, and would like the board to discuss paying it. Board would like Mayor Schatz to call Haugan and see if it was ruined from the construction before anything is decided.

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

Bills to Pay

Ashley Fiedler - \$923.50

BHG - \$109.42

Gary Volochenko - \$69.26

Julie Wagner - \$69.26

Master Fire & Safety - \$57 (MCC)

McLean County Treasurer (2020 Assessments) - \$555

McLean Sheridan Water

- (Billing) \$226.95

- (Water) \$1,094.31

ND Chemistry Lab - \$58.26

ND Department of Health - \$16

Otter Tail - \$1,030.99

Post office Box - \$76.00

Randy Zinke - \$69.26

Ron Schatz - \$138.52

Turtle Lake Farmers Union - \$30.00

USDA - \$11,196

Waste Management - \$1,260.85

WRT- \$176.43