

City of Mercer Minutes September 16, 2021

Mayor Ron Schatz called the meeting to order at 7pm with Council members Randy Zinke, Ken Thomsen, Gary Volochenko, and Derek Fiedler. Also in attendance Ashley Fiedler, Auditor.

Councilmembers look over minutes. Ken Thomsen makes motion to approve minutes, Randy Zinke seconded it. Motion carried.

Finances were reviewed. Thomsen makes motion to approve finances, Zinke seconded it. Motion carried.

Bills were reviewed by council. Fiedler makes motion to approve bills, Zinke seconded it. Roll Call: Fiedler- yes, Zinke- Yes, Thomsen- Yes, Volochenko - Yes. Motion carried.

Old Business:

Water payments are doing well so far for the month.

Auditor Fiedler is still unable to find a lawyer who will take the case. The lawyer that City was hoping to have taken the case hasn't called back. Will keep looking for one.

New Business:

Park committee advertised bids for electrical work to be done in the Park. One bid was received and opened by Mayor Ron Schatz. The bid was from Shipley Electric. Council along with a few park committee members feel that bid was pretty high, and suggest re-bidding. Thomsen makes motion to rebid project and advertise in Garrison paper, Fiedler seconded motion. Motion carried.

What the City receives in payments for the month's garbage barely covers the bill we pay Waste Management. Auditor, Fiedler has been talking with Waste Management rep, Paul, and he is working some numbers to see how he can help. Paul stated there will be an increase in January, he isn't sure how much it will go up but possibly 3-5%. At this time we are losing money on some commercial dumpsters. ED's Service and Mercer Machine aren't being charged a correct amount. If \$10 is added to their current billing that will help cover their costs. Thomsen makes motion starting November 1, 2021 Mercer Machine and ED's Service garbage rates will be raised \$10, Volochenko seconded it. Motion carried. Council would like to look into having someone else doing Mercer's trash. Auditor will try to get some new prices for the next meeting.

Mercer Community Center is looking at getting acoustic pads to help the sound in the community center. The Community Center committee received some grants and donations for this project. Zinke makes motion to approve acoustic panels for community center, Fiedler seconded it. Motion carried.

Cities have the opportunity to apply for funds from the American Rescue Plan Act. The city of Mercer has the opportunity to receive \$15,000. These funds need to be used for waste water project, or water project, or anything for infrastructure project. These funds need to be in a separate account. We have till 2026 to spend funds and if we don't spend it we just send it back, no penalty. Fiedler makes motion

to approve opening account for ARPA and request funds, Thomsen seconded it. Roll Call – Fiedler – yes, Zinke-yes, Volochenko –yes, Thomsen – yes. Motion carried.

Gary and Kathrin Volochenko received a letter regarding their water and sewer not being disconnected and having to pay their bill. Gary Volochenko states it was dug up just north of the house about a year ago. It was not dug up on the Main as they didn't want to wreck anything on the curb stop. They stated they were not told it needed to be dug up on the main. Sewer is not capped off at this time. Auditor Fiedler will go through recordings of minutes and see if it stated needed to be capped at the main.

Council members will table possibly looking into lowering price of resident's water who don't live there all year around, or residents who don't have buildings on their properties.

Resident Robin Brewster will be sending pictures and dates so a claim can be turned into insurance.

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

Bills to Pay:

Ashley Fiedler - \$923.50

ND Health - \$16

BHG - \$37.08

NDIRF - \$1,175

Derek Fiedler - \$69.26

OtterTail - \$600.45

Gary Volochenko - \$69.26

Randy Zinke - \$69.26

IRS (Quarter) \$665.55

Ron Schatz - \$138.52

Job Service (Quarter) - \$3.42

Rust's Hardware (MCC) - \$185.40

Kelly Murray - \$184.73 (Park)

Tonya Wellington (MCC) - \$930

Ken Thomsen - \$69.26

Waste Management - \$1,311.83

McLean Sheridan Rural Water

West River - \$187.69

– (Billing) \$230.80

Willa Murray - \$45

– (Water) \$1,278.35

McLean Sheridan Water

– (Water) \$1,068.53

– (Billing) \$227.72