

City of Mercer Minutes For July 13, 2023

Interim Mayor Ken Thomsen called the meeting to order with council members Joe Jerkovich, Gary Volochenko, Randy Zinke and Tonya Wellington-Auditor all present.

Ken Thomsen led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approved Minutes: Ken Thomsen read the minutes from June 28, 2023. Randy Zinke made a motion to approve the minutes and Gary Volochenko seconded. Joe Jerkovich, Gary Volochenko and Randy Zinke all voted aye. Motion carried.

Financial Report: Gary Volochenko made a motion to approve the financials and Randy Zinke seconded.

Joe Jerkovich voted present Gary Volochenko and Randy Zinke voted aye. Motion carried.

Bills: Gary Volochenko made the motion to approve the bills and Joe Jerkovich seconded.

Joe Jerkovich, Gary Volochenko, and Randy Zinke all voted aye. Motion Carried.

Water Bills: Tonya Wellington will send letters sent to accounts 11, 21, 51 if they are not paid on the 15th of July.

Park Minutes: Ken Thomsen read the park minutes. Randy Zinke did suggest that the park committee change Willa Murray's pay from \$15.00 to \$20.00 an hr. The Park Committee will discuss this at their next meeting.

Old Business

Estimate for electric at city hall was discussed. The bid was for \$1500.00. Randy Zinke made the motion to have Coal County Electric LLC come and fix the electric and Gary Volochenko seconded. Joe Jerkovich no vote, Gary Volochenko and Randy Zinke voted aye. Motion carried. Tonya Wellington will contract Coal County Electric and set up a time.

Blair property was discussed. Kira Blair would like to own the property instead of renting the property. Kira Blair would like to make sure there is a utility easement also on the property. If the Mercer Community Center is sold, Kira Blair would like the easement taken off. Tonya Wellington will contact the city lawyer and have that added to the sale of the property.

The Lagoon Repairs can be funded with the money that was set aside for ARPA. This money came in during covid and this money can be used for any project. Randy Zinke said he will be trying and setting it up before August.

New Business

Ken Thomsen did the First Reading of the New Water Ordinance. Changes to the New Water Ordinance No. 7(7.0220). Every property in the City of Mercer that has sewer and a curb stop for water must pay the water and sewer rates the City of Mercer has established. This is required whether you live here 12 months out of the year or not. If your water is turned on or off. Shut off for lack of payment is \$50.00 and anything after 5PM

and or on a weekend or holiday will be \$100.00. New Service-\$100.00 connection. Erika Lorenz will update the new water ordinance.

Jason Meidinger asked if he needed a building permit to put in garage doors in at a property he already owns. The board said since he is not building any walls or adding to the building he will not need a permit.

Jarren Murray property was discussed because we have had complaints from city residents that he had blocked off his road. Ken Thomsen investigated his property and sensed it was not a city street he could block off.

William Raywalt was cleaning up property and hit his curb stop. Ken Thomsen did go to Mr. Raywalt's home and talked and let him know that he was responsible for the replacement of the new curb stop.

Fire hydrant by pump house does not work. Byron Fiedler talked to Ken Thomsen and said it does not work. We can use ARPA funds to have the Fire hydrant replaced. Ken Thomsen will contact Rural Water to see who can fix it.

Kipp Sparrow helped fix one of the streets in town. The board will bring in three more gravel loads to fix more streets in town.

Preliminary Budget: Ken Thomsen worked with Brian Day on the Preliminary Budget. Ken Thomsen went through the new numbers with the board. Ken Thomsen will have the Final Budget ready by the next city meeting. Did also talk about the CD's that the city has at this time. The board agreed to change the Street CD into short term CD. Emergency fund has \$9,600.00 and Equipment fund has \$9,945.13 no changes to these two accounts. Garbage fund is short every month. There was discussion on raising the rates for garbage. Ken Thomsen asked for a motion to change the rates for garbage. Died to lack of no motion. Also, we have been looking into making the water splits a little different to make sure we have enough in our USDA loan Payment for Sewer and Water.

Bulletin boards on main street needs repairs. Erika Lorenz stated she had painted it. The window in there needs to be fixed. Valerie Thomsen and Erika Lorenz said they have the glue that is needed to fix it and they will take care of the window.

Operating Book: Ken Thomsen would like to have a book made up of all the different companies that we use for the city. With all the Equipment Inventory and Electrical Contractor, Plumber, Excavator, and any other company we use. The reason for this would be if Ken Thomsen or Tonya Wellington were not in town. Any other board member could come into the office and find who we use in case of an emergency.

Tonya Wellington did send all the information from the bank and the reports for our profit and losses for the years 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022. Dan Cox will review these years and let us know if we need a full audit done.

Joe Jerkovich mentioned that we need a turn lane at Highway 200 and Main Street. City residents do have concerns after the latest traffic accident. Need to contact Steve Lee from County and see what our options would be.

Adjourn Meeting: Joe Jerkovich made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Gary Volochenko seconded. Joe Jerkovich, Randy Zinke and Gary Volochenko all voted aye. Motion Carried.