

City of Mercer Minutes For August 10, 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.

Ken Thomsen read the minutes from July 13, 2023. Gary Volochenko made a motion to approve the minutes and Randy Zinke seconded the motion. Joe Jerkovich, Gary Volochenko and Randy Zinke all voted aye. Motion carried.

Financial Report: Gary Volochenko made a motion to approve the financial report and Randy seconded the motion. Joe Jerkovich voted present, Gary Volochenko and Randy Zinke for aye. Motion carried.

Bills: Randy Zinke made a motion to pay the bills and Joe Jerkovich seconded the motion. Joe Jerkovich, Gary Volochenko and Randy Zinke all voted aye. Motion carried.

Water Bills: Letters were sent to accounts #11, #21 and #51 on July 18, 2023. Account #51 paid in full. Accounts #11 and #21 will be shut off if their bill is not paid by August 15, 2023. The board would like Tonya Wellington-City Auditor to send a letter to account #9. Ken Thomsen noticed there are garbage cans in town that are sitting behind empty houses, and some have two garbage cans and only pay for one. The board will need to go around town and pick up those garbage's and store it at the city shop.

Park Minutes: Ken Thomsen read the park minutes.

Old Business

Lagoon Project is planned to be done in the next couple of weeks. Randy Zinke is draining the lagoons with all the rain. To keep the water level down.

Gary Volochenko and Ken Thomsen leveled 2nd Street East Road.

William Raywalt curb stop was damaged while working in his yard. He needs to take care of his water and sewer bill with the City of Mercer before anything is done to repair the curb stop. Ken Thomsen wants to send in the water meter that is in William Raywalt's home to have it checked. The meters have a 20-year warranty.

The property that Kira Blair would like to purchase from the City of Mercer. Ken Thomsen brought it up that the property should be sold for \$500.00. The board talked about the price of property and what easements are needed in the purchase agreement. The board decided to have Lindell Law Firm in Washburn ND write up the purchase agreement. Randy Zinke made the motion to have \$1.00 for the purchase price of the land and all legal and filing fees. Joe Jerkovich seconded the motion. Joe Jerkovich, Gary Volochenko and Randy Zinke all voted aye. Motion carried.

Erika Lorenz wrote up a New Water Ordinance. Ken Thomsen read the New Water Ordinance and copies were presented to residents at the meeting. The board needs to have a Special Meeting on August 15, at 7pm to revise any other changes that need to be made to the New Water Ordinance. On September 20, 2023, at 7pm there is a Special Budget Meeting and Regular Meeting to follow. The first reading of the New Water Ordinance will be presented at that time.

New Business

Solem Law Firm has not been returning emails or phone calls. Solem Law needs to be sent a letter to dismiss their services. The board has met with Wilson Law Office and Ken Thomsen will contact Wilson Law Office and see if they will be the City of Mercer's new lawyer.

Ken Thomsen discussed the Street C.D. that is at 4.25 percent. There are other C.D.s that will be coming up for review in the next couple of months.

The city is looking for a City Engineer. The City of Mercer has worked with KLJ in the past. The board agreed to contact KLJ and see what kind of contract they would require.

The Core and Main Application was presented to the board to look over. Ken Thomsen wants to set up an account with Core and Main so we can order parts for our fire hydrants. Ken Thomsen and Tonya Wellington filled out the application and scanned it over to Core and Main.

The Water Meters for the city have a warranty of 20yrs. These machines can get damaged from snow or water getting inside. They will malfunction and will still give a reading.

Gary Volochenko will be checking out which gravel roads in town are the worst. He will report back to the board at Tuesday night's meeting. Which gravel roads need to be fixed first. Then the board will contact Russell to haul in more gravel.

The Fire Hydrants in town need to be flushed before winter. The board will work together to set up a time to get the lines flushed.

The Mercer City Park Property lines were discussed. Ken Thomsen got the property lines map from the county for the Mercer City Park. Erika Lorenz had paperwork showing the agreement that was made at the time of the park project.

Accessibility of City Hall work sheet was presented to the board. Tonya Wellington explained the different items that need to be updated at the City Hall. Scott Laib has come and measured the kitchen door and will give a price to have it replaced to make it handicapped accessible. We need a metal handicap sign in the parking lot. We also need to adjust the heights on the bathroom mirror, arm bar, and paper towel holder and toilet paper holder. These changes are needed for Mercer City Hall to be following Handicap Accessible.

The Annual Budget was present to the board by Ken Thomsen. Gary Volochenko made the motion to approve the preliminary Budget and Randy Zinke seconded the motion. Joe Jerkovich voted present, Gary Volochenko and Randy Zinke voted aye. Motion Carried.

Tonya Wellington will email Beth Knutson the Preliminary Budget after the meeting tonight. Our Final Budget meeting is going to be on September 20, 2023, at 7pm.

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