

Minutes for Second Reading of New Water Ordinance & Regular Meeting

October 12, 2023 at 7:00 PM

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

Ken Thomsen led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ken Thomsen read the minutes from September 20th and October 2nd, 2023. Erika Lorenz made the motion to approve the minutes with changes made and Barb Stute seconded. Barb Stute, Gary Volochenko, Erika Lorenz and Randy Zinke voted Aye. Motion Carried.

Financials Report: Randy Zinke made the motion to approve the Financials and Barb Stute seconded. Barb Stute, Gary Volochenko, Erika Lorenz and Randy Zinke voted Aye. Motion Carried.

Bills: Randy Zinke made the motion to approve the bills and Gary Volochenko seconded. Barb Stute, Gary Volochenko, Erika Lorenz, and Randy Zinke voted Aye. All council members signed the bills sheet. Motion Carried.

Water Bills: Council members asked to have past due 30 days letters sent to accounts 9, 28 after the 15th if not paid. Council members discussed the accounts that need to be sent to Mclean County by November 1, 2023, for Special Assessments.

Tonya Wellington will send accounts 6, 45, 58 and 70 letters informing them that they can pay with Mercer City Hall before November 1, 2023, or their water and sewer bill for the last year will be added onto their property taxes as a Special Assessment.

Park Minutes: Erika Lorenz stated no minutes as this time. Park electric was \$44.39, and the water was \$53.56 which has been paid. They are still looking for a day to put the park table together. Also, the park board is still looking into a date for winter fund raiser. The park board has not had the meeting for this month yet.

Old Business

Gravel for the city streets has been done. May need a couple more loads. Also, have not received a bill for all 14 loads. Bill that will be paid this month is for 7 loads.

Ken Thomsen read the deed for Blair's Property that was received from Lindell Law Office. Tonya Wellington needs to contact Lindell Law Office to have Ken Thomsen name corrected and the date. Once Tonya Wellington reserves the updated deed. Ken Thomsen and Tonya Wellington will sign and be sent back to the Lindell Law Office to be filed.

Jason Meidinger presented the council members with a letter from concerned property owners. Jason Meidinger asked that we do not read the second reading of the water ordinance without some real discussion. He understands that there needs to be some changes to the current water ordinance. However, the curb stop issue needs to be addressed. Maybe on a one-to-one basis, because there were some issues when they were placed. Some agreements were made, some that were documented and some that were verbal. Ken Thomsen asked what the solution would be. Because the city of Mercer needs to be building a Reserve Fund and has 3 different loans that need to be paid. There was a discussion on basic fees for properties that do not have a building. Current fees for basic water are \$53.00 and \$18.00 for sewer a month. For 1 property for a year would be \$852.00. Greg Schlaffman and Troy Schlaffman asked about the properties they own in town. They would like to know what their responsibilities would be with the 1 house and 2 shops. If they are going to have to pay for water, they would like a water meter to put on their property. Ken Thomsen brought up why should people that had a curb stop put in on their property not pay. People that live here full time are paying the loan payments but the people that do not live here full time are not. Ken Thomsen stated we are making our payments for the year but have no cushion if anything happens. Ken Thomsen asked for a motion to proceed or readdress the new water ordinance. Randy Zinke made the motion to proceed with revisions and have Wilson Law Office review before next reading and Barb Stute seconded. Barb Stute, Gary Volochenko, Erika Lorenz, Randy Zinke voted Aye. Motion Carried.

New Business

Monthly water testing report will be posted up on the board at city hall every month.

Erika Lorenz asked if we could post the agenda before the meeting. The agenda for the meetings will be posted the day before the meeting at city hall, visitors board, post office and Mercer website.

Tonya Wellington informed the council we did receive \$3000.00 from the Turtle Lake American Legion for the kitchen door. We are promised money next quarter to help with the cost of replacing the window at city hall. The bill for the kitchen door and window is \$4625.00. The council decided to have the kitchen door fixed first to be in compliance with state handicap standards. Tonya Wellington will contact Scott Liab to set up the work.

Adjourn Meeting: Erica Lorenz made the motion to adjourn the meeting and Barb Stute seconded. Barb Stute, Gary Volochenko, Erika Lorenz, and Randy Zinke voted Aye. Motion Carried.

Next City of Mercer Meeting is November 9th, 2023 at 7:00 pm.