

**Minutes for a Regular Meeting
Of the Winthrop City Council
Monday April 7th, 2014**

A regular meeting of the Winthrop City Council was called to order at 7 p.m. on Monday, April 7th, 2014 in the City Council Chambers of City Hall for the purposes of conducting the business of the city.

- I. **CALL TO ORDER** The meeting was called to order by Mayor Dave Trebelhorn at 7:00 p.m.
- II. **ROLL** Council members Rob Edwards, Pete Machaiek, Lyle Muth, Ed Pelletier and Colleen Dietz were present. City Administrator Mark Erickson, City Attorney Don Lannoye, Mike Mattison, Gordy Grack, Mark Santelman and Karen Johnson were also present
- III. **OPEN PUBLIC FORUM**
 - a. Mark Santelman thanked city crews for snow removal work this past winter.
- IV. **ESTABLISH AGENDA**
 - a. Motion Pelletier second Dietz to approve agenda as presented. Passed on a voice vote.
- V. **APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA**
 - a. Motion Edwards, second Pelletier to approve the consent agenda as presented. Passed on a voice vote.
- VI. **PUBLIC HEARINGS**
- VII. **NEW BUSINESS**
 - a. **Sibley County Assessor's Office Presentation** – Angela Nelson from the Sibley County Assessor's office gave a presentation on how the office assessed property in Winthrop and in the county. She said the city of Winthrop has the lowest property taxes in the county.
 - b. **Approve sign for Zelda's Emporium** – Erickson said the Planning Commission was recommendation to the city council they approve the application for two signs on the Zelda's Emporium property. The signs met the requirements of the city sign ordinance. Motion Edwards, second Dietz to approve the sign permit for Zelda's Emporium. Passed on a voice vote.
 - c. **Mixers for Water Towers** – Water Supt. Joe Ziegler presented information to the council regarding mixers for both water towers. The mixer would stir the water continuously and would help with freezing in the winter and water quality in the summer. The cost for both water towers is \$39,000. He recommended putting one on the smaller water

tower to start. The council suggested that the water tower representative come to a future council meeting to talk to the council about the mixers. Ziegler said he had his first water main break of the year by the Catholic Church and he is looking at replacing two fire hydrants that have difficulty closing and opening. He told the council that North Star Pump will be making their annual inspections of the force main pumps and motors at the disposal plant and that Quade Electric planned to finish the electrical work at the filter plant.

- d. **Barb Ahlbrecht Clerk Certification School** – Erickson said that Utility Clerk Barb Ahlbrecht would like the council's permission to begin a three year training regimen that will result in her becoming a certified city clerk. The cross training will help in the office. The cost was unknown but not expected to exceed more than \$1,000 a year. She would also apply for grant to lower the cost. The council suggested she apply for the grants and report back with final costs for the schooling.
- e. **Old Fire Hall Driveway** – Erickson said that the driveway apron of the old fire hall didn't get fixed last year. The council had approved the repair but it got too late in the season to get it done. Street Supt. Gordy Grock said the bid from M.R. paving came in at \$20,000 last year and it was too expensive to do the work. The council said the work needs to get done as soon as possible.

VIII. REPORTS OF OFFICERS, BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

a. CITY ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

Erickson said the a meeting with MnDOT has been set for Wednesday, April 9th at 10 a.m. at city hall to discuss work on Highway 19 next year and the fate of the stop lights. Council members were invited to attend. He said he got a letter from Sibley County Engineer Tim Becker regarding repairs on 2nd Street. The will help patch the street in from of the driveway to the county shop but don't feel there are responsible for any other damage on the street. Saying they aren't responsible for any damage to the street is different from what former Sibley County Engineer Darin Mielke told the city two years ago. Mielke said the county would help repair the street because loaded county trucks used the street after the city told them they could not.

b. LEGAL

City Attorney Don Lannoye informed the council the city will be closing on the purchase of the drug store and former plumbing property on April 9th, adding that the EDA has decided to keep the lot across the street and not sell it to Winthrop Opportunities. He added that he will be handling discussions for the city with the new police union and will have a counter proposal for the union soon.

c. STREET AND ELECTRICAL DEPARTMENTS

Gordy said he will have bids for a new pay loader at the May council meeting. He added that the city of Gaylord used the city's bucket truck and may want to use it again later.

d. CABLE COMMISSION – Erickson said the commission is working on its franchise renewal application with Mediacom.

e. POLICE REPORT

Chief Johnson said that Officer Chris Davis is resigning as of April 22nd for a job with the county sheriff's office. Applications for a new officer will be closing on April 10th and the police committee will need to get together to interview candidates. She said that the BCA is changing the way they are interacting with departments and security will be increased, requiring a key fob and rotating passwords and firewalls. It will cost the city \$15 a month for a remote access fee and a \$100 one-time fee for the equipment. The \$935 five-year contract will be billed monthly. Motion Edwards, second Dietz to enter into the five year contract with the state and pay the one-time fee. Passed on a voice vote.

f. RS FIBER UPDATE – Erickson said the Gaylod Banker Phil Keithahn has been presenting on the project business plan to area citeis and townships and it has been very well received. The deadline for cities and townships to join the RS Fiber JPB is April 30th.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Mayor

ATTEST:

City Clerk-Treasurer