

City of Skyline

# City Council Meeting Minutes

November 14th, 2022 / 6:45 PM / Skyline City Hall

COUNCIL ATTENDEES: Mayor Paige Attarian, Steve Romnes, Jason Hamond, Shirley Piepho, Eric Manske, Lon Whitehead

Guests: Michelle Kotila, Brian Knauer, Mark Piepho, Bryan Petzel (ISG)

Via Google Meet: Charlie Berg, Nancy Kluck, Kelly Evans

## Agenda:

- ❑ Meeting called to order by Mayor Attarian at 6:45 pm
- ❑ Pledge of Allegiance performed by all in attendance.
- ❑ Public Forum-Brian Knauer, 43 Skyline Drive, is clarifying that 15 minutes of public forum at the beginning of the meeting is all that the public is allowed. He is concerned that the method does not allow for residents to ask questions after the meeting agenda items are discussed. He is also inquiring if the pump house budget breakdown could or should be broken down into itemized prices. He is concerned that the bid seems excessive without explanation or price breakdown. Mr. Knauer asked if the council has sought additional bids or estimates for the pump house project. Mr. Knauer inquired about the age of the pumps. Bryan Petzel (ISG) states that he does not know the age off the top of his head. Bryan also explains that the project will go out for bid and that Kelly is not bidding the project, he is working with the selected contractor once they are selected. Bryan states that it is a unit based contract and he is not certain how much breakdown is involved. Steve Romnes addressed Mr. Knauer expresses that he understands what he is asking but that it may be a process and that patience will need to be exhibited. Mr. Romnes assured Mr. Knauer that future bids would be available for public review. Mr. Knauer suggests that the council take time with the pump house project and not accept the first bid. Mr. Knauer asked why the council did not just button up the water tower and the pumphouse at the same time. Jason Hamond states that it was the council's goal to have the projects completed at the same time, due to unexpected costs, the council has attempted to make decisions that suited the residents. Shirley expressed thanks to Mr. Knauer for his questions and concerns.
- ❑ Water Tower Project Update-Bryan states that the project is on schedule. The demolition of the tower is scheduled for Spring 2023, but will not be destroyed until the new cell towers have been installed. The electrical work has been completed. It appears that the deadline of December 1st may be delayed due to backordered parts needed to switch the water tower over. Once the parts are received and installed, filling

of the water tower will commence. Bryan states that there will be an additional \$12,500 to re-engineer the pump house project. A change order for a pressure transducer in the pumphouse may be placed after further discussion. Mayor Attarian states that technically if the tower does not meet the December 1st deadline, the contractor is in violation of their contract. Bryan states that he will request correspondence as to when the backordered parts were ordered.

- ❑ Agenda and Minutes motioned for approval by Jason Hamond, Steve Romnes second. Passed unanimously.
- ❑ City Clerk Report-Marnie Kortuem, city clerk, notified the board that the new website has gone live and that she has had positive reports so far. Marnie and Eric Manske have populated the site with pertinent content and added local pictures and customized design. Marnie notified attendees that there was a tie between Jason Hamond and Michelle Kotila, Blue Earth County is currently confirming the vote and then the canvassing board will review and determine the winner of the council position.
- ❑ City Treasurer Report-Lon presented the council members and clerk a treasurer's report for the month of October. Total receipts for the month were \$25,115.37, total payables were \$23,769.54, total funds balance \$1,191,991.54. Balance for funds for Water Tower project balance \$719,470.35. Motion to approve treasurer's report and pay bills made by Shirley Piepho, Jason Hamond seconded, passed unanimously.
- ❑ Water and garbage bill list-List reviewed and discussed. Marnie will send a letter to notify residents over 90 days that the amount will be turned over to Blue Earth County Property Taxes.

### **Departmental Reports**

- ❑ Water Department-Jason states that MRI is scheduled to make a meter repair at 163 S. Skyline Drive. Hydrants have been flushed for the season.
- ❑ Street Department-Eric states that he has called Nielsen 3 times regarding road repairs and has not heard back, he states that this was a warranty issue that would be covered by Nielsen. He will continue to call. Eric states that he is going to purchase orange reflective sticks to place near sidewalks and drains. He also states that he spoke with Dustin about dirt being brought in at the Faye residence, it will be delivered in the next week. Eric states that he has contacted Xcel about two street lights that need repair. He states that he will follow up with them again.
- ❑ Parks and Playground Department-Steve states that he will follow up with Amlawn about a \$370 charge for "clean-up" this fall. Steve states that he will check the holes on the ravine side of the City Hall and have them repaired.
- ❑ Public Safety-Nothing to report. Shirley states that she received compliments about Halloween in Skyline.

### **Old Business:**

Discuss Garbage Rate Increase-Mayor Attarian states that last year the City of Skyline was upside down by \$5477 in 2021 on garbage bills. Shirley Piepho proposes that an \$8.00/resident increase to beginning

December 1st, 2022, with review every three months, Jason Hamond seconds the motion. Passed unanimously.

Discuss/Approve Water Bond payments-Mayor Attarian states that the finance committee reviewed all statements and determined that the City of Skyline needs \$70,000 to pay the water bond. \$571/resident, \$98 on every water bill per residence. Mayor Attarian that there is potential for fluctuation higher or lower based on additional bonding or grant funding. Steve Romnes motions to add an adjustable rate of \$98 per resident for the water bond payment, Shirley Piepho seconds, passed unanimously. Lon asked what the line item should be called on the water bill. Steve amended his motion to include that the line item description on the water bill should state Water Tower Bond Fee, Jason seconded. Passed unanimously. Michelle Kotila asked if it could be an option to pay the \$571 up front. The board discussed that may complicate billing for LJP and they would like to allow it to be consistent for all residents.

Vote to place the pump house project out for bids-Shirley motioned to place pump house out for bid, Jason seconded the motion. Passed unanimously . Brian Knauer asked the council to consider waiting on the pump house project until the water tower is finished. He feels that will save the \$12,500 for overseeing and engineering service lines with ISG. He feels that the service lines can be bid and handled separately from the pump house. Motion stands after public discussion.

#### **New Business:**

Add No Street Parking signs during winter months. Motion to add No street parking from November 1st-April 1st information on the City of Skyline website made by Steve Romnes, Jason Hamond second passed unanimously.

Resolution to submit Tax Assessments to BEC. Motion to submit accounts of 90 days to Blue Earth County property taxes made by Shirley Piepho, second by Jason Hamond. Passed unanimously.

Vote on 2023 tax increase for Skyline-Shirley Piepho motioned to increase property taxes by 10%, Jason Hamond seconded. Passed unanimously.

Motion to adjourn at 8:26 pm made by Shirley Piepho, seconded by Jason Hamond. Passed unanimously.