

City of Skyline

# City Council Meeting Minutes

October 10th, 2023 / 6:45 PM / Skyline City Hall

COUNCIL ATTENDEES: Mayor Attarian, Steve Romnes, Lon Whitehead, Shirley Piepho, Michelle Kotila

Guests: Ryan Thilges (BEC)

Via Google Meet: Charlie berg

## Agenda:

- Meeting called to order by Mayor Attarian at 6:45 pm
- Pledge of Allegiance performed by all in attendance
- Public Forum-No public response.
- Water Tower/Monopole Update-No ISG representative available. Nothing to update on the water tower. The concrete for the monopole has not passed specs in order to assemble the monopole. It is slightly under specs and there is a possibility for a variance to be placed so that construction may commence. Steve states that the fence rental of \$8800+ was invoiced and was over budget due to extension of the project. Lon was instructed to bill that to the water tower project. Mayor Attarian advises following up with Bryan at ISG about that amount and whose responsibility that payment should be as the project has gone over the expected project timeline..
- Pumphouse project Update-Mayor Attarian states that improvements are scheduled to start in the next couple of weeks and should have minimal disruption to residents as the majority of construction should be within the pumphouse building itself.
- Approve Agenda and Minutes-Steve motioned to approve the agenda for October 2023 and minutes from September 2023, Michelle seconded. Passed unanimously.
- City Clerk Report-A city park bench has been generously donated to the City of Skyline. It will arrive in November 2023 and be placed in the spring of 2024.
- City Treasurer Report-Lon distributed the treasurer's report to all in attendance. He states that there are multiple entries that are related to current projects: monopole, pump house and water tower. Total receipts for September 2023 are \$448,248.37, Total payables are \$136,651.06. Total Fund Balance \$1,390,265.46. Balance of funds for water tower/pump house project are \$869131.21
- Water and garbage bill list-Water bill distributed to council members. Marnie will send letters to residents over 90 days. Unpaid amounts over 90 days will be submitted to property taxes in November

2023. Motion to approve treasurer's report and to pay bills made by Michelle, seconded by Steve, passed unanimously. Motion to send accounts over 90 days to the county to be applied onto property taxes made by Michelle, seconded by Shirley, passed unanimously.

### **Departmental Reports**

- ❑ Water Department-Steve states that they have been catching up on meter and meter pad repairs. He has been able to 130 Skyline Drive, states that they do not have a pad for his house and irrigation. He was given 2 new pads. Steve states that he needs to order more pads. Residents at 209, 36 and 31 have pad and/or meter issues. Steve and Charlie are working together to get all residents current and operational. Steve states that the hydrants were flushed. Steve states that he is going to contact Bolten and Menk to get the drawings for the hydrants to assure that the hydrants are consistently cared for through any change of leadership. Steve states that the hydrants are in need of being painted. Steve will get an estimate on
- ❑ Street Department-Eric states that he does not have anything to report. Mayor Attarian asked if it would be possible to have a series of three arrows or larger arrows. She states that she has had comments that the arrows are difficult to see. Eric states that perhaps a more thoughtful sign placement so that drivers are able to see them more clearly. The signs will be placed in more clear areas and then paint larger or more arrows in the spring of 2024. Steve states that he will order markers for the fire hydrants so that they will be visible and more accessible in the case of a fire emergency.
- ❑ Parks and Playground Department-Michelle states that she continues to work on matching grant funds to pay for improvements for Vetter Park playground equipment. She attended the Skyline Cooperative and it was suggested that a Go Fund Me account be created by the Skyline Cooperative to assist in raising funds that would potentially be matched. Michelle states that she requested and received funds for landscaping projects within the Skyline community. These projects will take place in the Spring of 2024.
- ❑ Public Safety-Shirley states that she has had similar complaints about the arrows and directional driving around Vetter Park. She states that individuals continue to drive around the park in the wrong direction creating safety concerns for drivers that are driving the correct direction. Shirley states that individuals are not always diligent about removing snow around the fire hydrants on their property. She will notify residents that it is their responsibility if the hydrant is located on their property.

### **Old Business:**

### **New Business:**

-Donated bench placement. The family that is donating the bench has requested that it be placed near the playground in Vetter Park if the council approves.

-Water Treatment Improvement payment

-Lot line adjustment for Attarians/Piepho-Attarian residents discovered during a survey that they built part of their shed on the neighbors property, Piepho. Piepho has agreed to sell Attarians 890 sq ft so that the shed is legal. The lot lines will be formally adjusted. Mayor Attarian asked for a resolution from the council. Steve made a motion for 2023-7 to be adopted to allow Attarians to purchase 890 sq ft of property to allow shed to be legal and to restructure the lot sizes, motion passed unanimously.

-Property Tax increase (Added at the time of the meeting due to deadline)

Steve motioned to amend the agenda, Michelle seconded. Passed unanimously. Item added to agenda.

The original motion in September was for a 20%, the maximum increase allowable. Lon prepared numbers for the council to view the monetary impact of various percentage tax increases. If a 20% increase is passed, the revenue to the City of Skyline annually would be \$11,364. In 2022, the council passed a 10% tax increase. Shirley motioned for a 12% property tax increase for 2024, Steve seconded the motion, passed unanimously. Paige will submit the increase to Blue Earth County.

Motion to adjourn meeting at 7:51 pm made by Steve, seconded by Michelle. Passed unanimously.