

Minutes
Silver Lake City Council
Special Meeting
May 27, 2020
Silver Lake Auditorium

Note: Meeting conducted via electronic means with remote listening for public.

Mayor Butler called the meeting to order at 6:30pm.

Members present: Mayor Dorothy Butler, Councilor Josh Winfrey, Councilor Brenda Fogarty, Councilor Chris Penaz and Councilor Nolan Johnson

Staff present : Jon Jerabek, Clerk/Treasurer (remotely); Ian Coates, Police Officer; Mark Anderson, Police Officer

Others present: Duane Wawrzyniak, Pete Swartzter, John Rodeberg, SEH; Karin Ramige, McLeod Publishing

Motion by Johnson seconded by Fogarty to approve the agenda.

Vote for: Unanimous

Motion carried.

Public Comment – No comment.

Old Business

1. Wastewater Biosolid Testing Review. John Rodeberg requested that the Council approve the estimate from American Engineering Testing (AET) for \$8,700 to complete biosolid testing at the wastewater treatment ponds as part of the Preliminary Engineering Report (PER).

Motion by Winfrey seconded by Fogarty to approve the biosolid testing agreement with AET for not to exceed amount of \$8,700.

Vote for: Unanimous

Motion carried.

2. Private Septic Service Discussion. Pete Swartzter, Swartzter Septic and Sewer Services, addressed the Council on the temporary suspension of private septic services dumping in the City wastewater treatment ponds. Swartzter had concerns over the pond conditions since PeopleService has managed the water and wastewater for the City. Swartzter has averaged dumping 528,300 gallons per year for the last 10 years and has paid \$10/1,000 gallons. PeopleService had concern over possible organic overloading and pond capacity and regulatory requirements. The PER has also outlined capacity issues and the high costs for having to add capacity. Councilor Winfrey will discuss concerns with PeopleService and Public Works Supervisor(PWS) Dale Kosek.

3. Ambulance Chief Vacancy. Ambulance Executive Committee recommended Steve Hackbarth as the new Ambulance Chief/Secretary after Ashley Ardolf-Mason's resignation. The Council discussed qualifications as well as options for the position.

Motion by Fogarty seconded by Johnson to approve Steve Hackbarth as Ambulance Chief/Secretary from June 1, 2020 to December 31, 2020.

Vote for: Unanimous

Motion carried.

4. Ambulance On-Call Room. Council discussed rental of an apartment for the Ambulance on-call room and were notified that the department would try it for a 6-month lease. Council approved rental at the May 18, 2020 meeting.
5. Police Department Services. Proposal was submitted to Lester Prairie for a merger with two precincts and they will review at their next Council meeting. Officer Ian Coates and Officer Mark Anderson expressed opinions on the merger and the coverage options.
6. Summer Recreation and Swimming Pool Discussion. Council reviewed repairs needed at the swimming pool and discussed concerns surrounding COVID-19. PWS Kosek notified Councilor Fogarty that repairs would likely take 4-5 weeks, pushing a possible opening date into July. Council discussed making necessary repairs now and having everything ready for 2021. Concerns around notifying staff early so they could find other work were expressed.

Motion by Fogarty seconded by Penaz to close the swimming pool for the 2020 season.

Vote for: Unanimous

Motion carried.

7. Utility Payments Discussion. Council reviewed current procedure for utility payment late fees, credit card fees and shut-offs. Clerk Jerabek notified the Council that most accounts are being paid but there are a higher than normal amount past due. Council discussed reinstating fees and shut-offs in steps and directed Clerk Jerabek to make contact with past due accounts to work on repayment and to place topic on next meeting's agenda.

Motion by Fogarty seconded by Johnson to reinstate user credit card fees after June billing is completed.

Vote for: Unanimous

Motion carried.

8. MLS Operations Discussion. Council discussed MLS Manager Darrell Kaczmarek's plan to not open outside on-sale area as will be allowed starting June 1 due to staffing concerns and lack of pull-tab revenue. Council expressed concerns for missing out on extra revenue and people wanting to patronize the on-sale. Councilor Penaz will discuss with Manager Kaczmarek.

Open Discussion

1. Discussed quote for removing trees and stumps at wastewater treatment ponds.
2. Discussed thanking individuals who submitted logo and slogan entries.

Motion by Fogarty seconded by Johnson to adjourn this meeting of the Silver Lake City Council.

Vote for: Unanimous

Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40pm.

Jon Jerabek, Clerk/Treasurer

Seal of the City: