

Monthly meeting of the Ostrander City Council

April 7, 2015

Pledge of Allegiance

The monthly meeting of the Ostrander city Council was called to order at 6:03 p.m. by Mayor Pat Nesler.

ALL Council members were present.

Visitors: Ginger Holm from LRI, Rich Wicks from the Fillmore Co. Journal, Jason Boynton from Smith & Shaffer, Ann Keim from 1st LeRoy Agency, Dan Gossman from Federal Warning Systems and Jimmie Dean from Peoples Services.

Approval of Consent Agenda: Motion was made by Heidi to approve the agenda and was 2nd by Pam.

DEPARTMENT HEADS:

Public works Director- Jimmie from People Service spoke about the UV sensor not working 100% at the sewer plant, He gave the city two quotes \$1,789 from Great Northern Environment and \$2,355 from UV Superstore. The MPCA will inform us when it needs to be replaced.

Fire Chief Assistant, Jimmie Dean- The fire department only has 2 working SCBA face pieces that are operational. The fire department received two quotes from Fire Safety USA, one was for 8 reconditioned face pieces and carbon bottles for \$10,000 (the cost is high due to older equipment, parts are harder to find) 2nd quote is for 6, 2005 refurbished Panther units for \$2,055.60. The Rural fire department will pay for ½ of the cost to replace the old equipment. There is money in the gambling fund to pay for the cities half of the bill. A motion was made by Heidi to pay for ½ of the \$2,055 to upgrade the equipment for the fire department, Pam 2nd the motion, motion carries.

The city still has the 1981 International Fire truck and there has been a private party interested in buying it. The city will advertize it in the paper as a sealed bid. Jimmie will help look for the information and Christine Hyrkas will place it in the paper.

Police Chief, Tom Mosher – attended a crime scene class to update him on the constant changes. Issues with vandalism of a car at the ONH, had to issue a parking ticket during the last snow storm. There have been more reports of alleged calls from the IRS demanding money or they will be sued. City residents are continuing to park on the wrong side of the street, Tom has sent out letters and spoke with residents. He said his next step will be citations. Letters have been sent out by the city regarding dog licensing, Tom has had to follow up with letters to the residents. A resident reported a busted frost plate to Tom; it will be passed to Jimmie. Tom knows of a lady in town that has to work off 20 hours of community service, he suggested we can use her to clean and mow parks until we have a part time person hired. Council agreed.

OLD BUSINESS:

-It was tabled until next month to further discuss where to put the bench in the Lund Park and what to do with the park.

-The city will place an ad in the paper to advertize for a part time city employee to take care of the parks, brush dump, street care, snow removal and other various jobs designated by the council. 10 to 20 hours a week depending on the season.

-It was presented to the council to assess to the property the hours spent between the years of 2011 and 2014 by the city mowing the 103 Ellen St. when it was in foreclosure. A motion was made by Pam K to approve the assessment of hours spent to the property and was 2nd by DJ, motion carried. Heidi

confirmed that the city can still add the mowing for the 2015 season to the to the assessment of the property when the season is finished.

-Brian Malm was not present for the meeting, but the council reviewed the letter regarding the Water tower options and the Notice of Public Comment Period, Heidi made a motion to place the Notice of Public Comment Period in the April 13th,2015 Bluff County Reader, DJ 2nd the motion, motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

-Jason Boynton from Smith & Shaffer spoke with the council regarding the 2014 audit. He reminded the city that we are a modified cash basis; there were no exceptions to report. He pointed out that due to the engineering cost the numbers are higher. The utilities are still earning an income for the city!

-Dan Gossman from Federal Warning System spoke about prices for a new siren system and suggested we look into a radio control box that can be run from the sheriff's office. The old siren had stopped working; the motor was taken down for repair and is back running again!

- Ann Keim spoke about the cities property and causality coverage; does the city want to keep the current Tort limits the same for 2015-2016? DJ made a motion to keep the tort the same, Heidi 2nd the motion carried. A motion was also made by DJ to keep First LeRoy Agency as the cities insurance agency, Pam 2nd, motion carried.

-KLM has presented a proposal to perform cleanout and Chlorination on the water tower for \$1,800.00, a motion was made by DJ to accept the proposal, Pam 2nd the motion, motion carried.

-After further investigating it was discovered that there were 2 buildings in town without a water meter that are charged an annual water rate and an annual sewer rate. Water bills have been sent out for them. One of the residents has asked the water be shut off for the shed. It was also discussed what the city should charge for water/sewer rates at the Burg shed at 200 W 3 ½ Street. Should it be treated as the other commercial businesses in town? It was decided to watch the water usage during the year and go from there! Still waiting to hear from the Mr. Berg confirming the water has been hooked up!

OTHER:

-The old time clock was found in the shop, if it still works and parts can still be found try to advertize it.

-No one on the council wants to attend the SEMLM in Kasson.

-It was discussed having the generator moved out of the city hall. DJ will check to see if there is room at the Fire hall. Tom asked if there is a way to vent it outside so it does not fumigate the whole building. In the future the generator needs to be moved outside before starting.

-The city truck needs a cover and a seat pad, Pat got a quote from Chrysler Winona for \$381.80, No motion needed to have the seat repaired if the dollar amount is below \$500.00

-The cost of having a city cell phone is around \$600.00 annually! Now that any calls for water/sewer issues go to Peopleservice does the city want to continue having a city cell phone? Council asked Chris to look into different plans to save the city money!

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion was made by Erin to adjourn the meeting, Pam 2nd, meeting was adjourned at 7:43 p.m.

NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD MAY 5TH AT 6:00 P.M.

CHRISTINE HYRKAS
CITY CLERK/TREASURE

PAT NESLER
MAYOR

