

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BACKUS, CASS COUNTY, MN. AUGUST 6, 2012 7:00 PM

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order by Mayor Dwight Heim at 7:03 pm.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL: Council members present: Mayor Heim, Braker, Thomas, Borst

CONSENT AGENDA:

MOTION: A motion was made by Borst and seconded by Braker to approve the consent agenda. All in favor. Motion carried.

MAYOR'S REPORT: The Mayor reported that work by Schrupp Excavating was completed at the beach and it is now 50' in length instead of 12'.

WATER/WASTEWATER REPORT: In his absence, SEH representative Greg Kimman asked the city clerk to present for approval a right of way map stating that the City of Backus has property ownership or easement rights to run its sewer line from Backus to Pine River Area Sanitary District. The map is also to be forwarded to the city attorney for approval.

MOTION: A motion was made by Thomas and seconded by Borst to approve the right of way map for the sewer project and to forward it to the city attorney for approval. All in favor. Motion carried.

PUBLIC FORUM: A citizen disputed his sewer billing. The citizen had been sent two separate letters explaining that he needed to install a meter at his own expense to monitor his sewer usage. This had not been completed and the billing was estimated with a three times multiplier. The citizen was informed that after the meter was installed and the account was watched for two months, a credit would be issued if there was actually overage. No council action was taken.

POLICE REPORT: No report.

FIRST RESPONSE: No report.

FIRE DEPARTMENT: No report. The council was presented with the resignation of Brent Godfrey.

MOTION: A motion was made by Thomas and seconded by Braker to accept the resignation of Brent Godfrey from the Backus Fire Department effective immediately. All in favor. Motion carried.

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STREETS AND PARKS: The city clerk presented a quote for pothole and wide crack filling from Commercial Asphalt Repair of Grand Rapids in the amount of \$3,336 pending the approval of Maintenance employee Dale Vredenburg.

MOTION: A motion was made by Thomas and seconded by Braker to approve the quote for services from Commercial Asphalt Repair of Grand Rapids in the amount of \$3,336 pending Dale Vredenburg's review and approval. All in favor. Motion carried.

AIRPORT: No report.

CITY CLERK'S REPORT: The City Clerk asked the city council to set a date for the budget meeting. The Mayor called a special meeting to be held on August 21, 2012 at 10:00 am for the purpose of the budget meeting. All necessary postings of said meeting will be handled by the city clerk.

The city clerk then informed the council that the city receives requests for assessment searches and information from water and sewer billings from closing companies when people are purchasing property in the city. Cities usually charge a fee for such searches. The clerk suggested a \$15 fee per request.

MOTION: A motion was made by Thomas and seconded by Borst to charge a \$15 fee for all assessment searches from closing companies requesting them. All in favor. Motion carried.

MAINTENANCE REPORT: The city clerk informed the council that the new maintenance vehicle was delivered. The mayor expressed interest in getting it lettered immediately so it could be present in the annual Cornfest parade.

MOTION: A motion was made by Braker and seconded by Thomas to have the truck lettered in time for the Cornfest Parade from Northwoods Stitch and Screen. All in favor. Motion carried.

The city clerk then presented a letter dated August 6, 2012 from Dale Vredenburg, Maintenance employee, announcing his retirement effective 10-31-2012,

MOTION: A motion was made by Braker and seconded by Thomas to accept Dale Vredenburg's resignation effective October 31, 2012, with regret. All in favor. Motion carried.

The clerk was instructed to commemorate Dale Vredenburg's retirement with a plaque from Griep's Jewerly in Pine River.

MOTION: A motion was made by Braker and seconded by Thomas to approve the purchase of a plaque for Dale Vredenburg for his retirement and years of service with the city. All in favor. Motion carried.

The council decided that immediate advertisement for the maintenance position was necessary. After some discussion, it was decided that the position would be a 40 hour
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position for 6 months of the year and 20 hours for the second 6 months of the year. It would be considered full time and qualify for PERA and vacation. Salary would depend on candidate's qualifications. The clerk is to advertise the position.

MOTION: A motion was made by Braker and seconded by Borst to advertise the maintenance position opened by Dale Vredenburg's retirement as per the aforementioned discussion. All in favor. Motion carried.

ZONING: No report.

EDA: No report.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT: Resolution 2012-15 Resolution Acknowledging Donations from the Following Donors: Ada Lake Assoc, J.P. & D. May, Island Lake Assoc, and Emmanuel Lutheran Church was presented.

MOTION: A motion was made by Thomas and seconded by Braker to adopt Resolution 2012-15. All in favor. Motion carried.

The City Clerk presented the annual request from the Initiative Foundation for \$400. After some discussion the council agreed there was value to the contribution.

MOTION: A motion was made by Thomas and seconded by Braker to approve a \$400 contribution to the Initiative Foundation. All in favor. Motion carried.

There being no other business to come before the council, Mayor Heim adjourned the meeting at 8:12 p.m.

Signed: _____
Jeff Turk, City Clerk/Treasurer

Signed: _____
Dwight Heim, Mayor