

**CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS
BACKUS, MINNESOTA
June 1, 2015**

Pursuant to due call and notice, the regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Backus, Cass County, Minnesota, was held on Monday, June 1, 2015 at 6:30 p.m. at the Backus City Hall, Mayor Kurt Sawyer presiding.

Members Present: Mayor Kurt Sawyer, Steve Braker, Ann Birge, Karl Flier and Rae Borst

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Ann Swanson, Clerk-Treasurer

Others Present: Jason Smith, Denton Newman, Jr., Travis Grimler, Mark Hallan, Daniel Freeman, Jay Cline, Joann Gravelle, Dale Theisfeld, Daren Ward

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE & ROLL CALL

CONSENT AGENDA

The following Consent Agenda items were presented for approval:

1. Minutes of 05/04/2015 Regular Meeting
2. Bills, claims and payments including check numbers 26002 through 26045 and electronic payments 061501 through 061505 totaling \$24,548.52. Included in the claims was SCDP Payment Request #3 for \$2,032.98.
3. Monthly financial report.

Motion by Braker, seconded by Borst, to approve the Consent Agenda items as presented. Motion carried.

POLICE REPORT

Deputy Zach Johnson of the Cass County Sheriff's Department reported that there were 13 calls in the city during the month of May.

FIRE DEPARTMENT/FIRST RESPONSE

Fire Chief Jason Smith reported that the department was putting together a mailing to request donations. Correspondence relating to donation requests should contain that the request is from the Backus Firemen's Relief Association. There was discussion on the current ordinances relating to the fire department including a possible amendment to allow minors to join the department in some sort of capacity. The League of Minnesota Cities advised that the city not amend its ordinances to allow individuals under 18 to join the fire department. Discussion on having a council member and the clerk be a part of the fire relief meetings in the future.

WATER/WASTEWATER

Well #2 Rehabilitation Quotes

Three quotes have been received for repair work on Well #2: Thein Well - \$14,100.00; Elsner Well Drilling - \$7,620.96; North Star Drilling - \$5,430.00. All quotes are a base price and more expenses are likely to be incurred as issues are diagnosed.

Motion by Flier, seconded by Borst to accept the quote from North Star Drilling for the rehabilitation of Well #2 in the amount of \$5,430.00.

STREETS, PARKS AND GENERAL MAINTENANCE

The removal of the two trees on the corner of Grover and Oak Street is pending. Schrupp Excavating will be called to blade the gravel roads and alleys in town. Mayor Sawyer will do some bobcat work at the winter access

ZONING

Variance – Hazel Street

A public hearing was held prior to the meeting regarding Jerry Onken's building permit application to build an addition to the house on 113 Hazel Street South. A variance is required as the lot width is just 50' rather than the 75' as required by ordinance.

Motion by Flier, seconded by Borst, to approve Jerry Onken's variance request on the conditions that he have the property surveyed to insure that setbacks are in accordance with the actual lot lines, remove all trash on the property, provide a detailed plan of the addition, and pay the outstanding water/sewer bill in full. Motion carried with Braker in opposition.

546 Wood Street – Water Line Placement

Daren Ward of Northward Homes appeared on behalf of William Kosloske, the owner at 546 Wood Street, who is planning to take down the cabin and build a new home on the site. It was discovered that this property and 554 Wood Street share a water line. The lines were installed some years ago. Current city ordinances require each residence to have a separate curb stop. It is an ideal time to install a separate water line and curb stop to service this property. The city would be responsible for installing the curbstop and meter with a representative of Pine River Area Sanitary District present when the main is tapped for hookup.

Motion by Braker, seconded by Flier, to approve the building permit application for Daren Ward of Northward Homes on behalf of Kosloske with the condition that a separate water line and curb stop is established to serve 546 Wood Street and a \$500.00 refundable bond is posted to insure the same. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

AIRPORT

Beacon Replacement

Mark Hallan of Widseth Smith Nolting reported that he had provided Pine River Electric with the “Notice to Proceed” and was working on scheduling a pre-construction meeting.

PUBLIC FORUM

Cass County Economic Development Corporation

Jay Cline of Cass County EDC was present to thank the council for its 2015 financial support and to update on CCEDC website enhancements that would better serve partner cities and organizations.

Other

Joann Gravelle reported that the yards of several houses in town are accumulating quite a bit of trash. Residents of these houses will receive letters and/or visits by the mayor or council members.

OLD BUSINESS

Town Clean-Up

Jay Cline of First National Bank coordinated a trash pick up day in the city with the Pine River Backus Schools on May 22nd to pick up trash along the roads in town. A Backus clean-up day will be held on June 20th. Mayor Sawyer will pick up large discarded items placed at curbside by residents and haul to the transfer station for no charge.

NEW BUSINESS

Donation Resolution

A donation of \$1,500.00 for the Backus Emergency Medical Responders has been received from Pine River Township.

Motion by Flier, seconded by Birge to approve Resolution #2015-07, Resolution Acknowledging Donation from the Following Donors: Pine River Township.

Roll call vote: Birge (aye), Borst (aye), Braker (aye), Flier (aye), Sawyer (aye). Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Cornfest Matters

A fish fry fundraiser for Cornfest was held May 31st. The committee thanked Fire Chief Smith for his and the fire department’s help with the event. The parade will be held at 2:00 rather than 11:00 this year and the route will begin and end at the school passing down Front Street where the majority of the events are happening. State Highway 87 will not have to be closed this year. The committee has been informed that an open house will be held at Pine Mountain Gospel which will provide the public information

about the new private school to be opened the Fall of 2016.

Cornfest Gambling Permit

Motion by Braker, seconded by Birge to approve the gambling permit for the Cornfest Raffle. Motion carried with committee members Borst and Sawyer abstaining.

Cornfest Fireworks Permit

Motion by Braker, seconded by Flier to approve the fireworks permit for Cornfest. Motion carried with committee members Borst and Sawyer abstaining.

Cornfest Parade Permit

Motion by Braker, seconded by Birge to approve the new parade route and authorize seeking permission for the same from county highway and sheriff officials as well as closing Front Street for Cornfest activities on August 8th.

Motion carried with committee members Borst and Sawyer abstaining.

Willard's Pig Roast

Willard's Saloon & Eatery plans to hold a pig roast in July and has asked permission to close the street in front of the business for the event.

Motion by Borst, seconded by Braker to approve the closing of Front Street by Willard's on Saturday, July 25 for its annual pig roast and to authorize seeking permission for the same from county highway officials. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Other

Discussion on obtaining the necessary flags, poles and brackets to install United States Flag along Highway 87 coming into the City. Further discussion on obtaining "911" signs for installation in front of each residence in town. There had been a grant pending for funding for this project but the grant was not obtained.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, the Mayor adjourned the June City Council Meeting at 8:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Swanson, Clerk-Treasurer

