

**CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS
BACKUS, MINNESOTA
May 4, 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, May 4, 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, Gail Levenson, Cass County Sheriff's Department

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE & ROLL CALL

CONSENT AGENDA

The following Consent Agenda items were presented for approval:

1. Minutes of 04/06/2015 Regular Meeting
2. Bills, claims and payments including check numbers 25962 through 26001 and electronic payments 051501 through 051504 totaling \$29,391.44. Included in the claims was SCDP Payment Request #2 for \$2,870.54.
3. Monthly financial report.

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

POLICE REPORT

A representative of the Cass County Sheriff's Department reported that there were 24 calls in the city during the month of April and that the department was patrolling in the city an average of 27 ½ hours per week.

FIRE DEPARTMENT/FIRST RESPONSE

Fire Chief Jason Smith reported that a record number of 841 were served at the 50th Annual Smelt Fry held on May 2nd. Smith asked the council to consider amending its ordinance to allow individuals who were under the age of 18 to join the department and at least start training. The department had looked into implementing the Boy Scouts Explorer program for youth age 16-20 years of age but there was not enough interest to proceed with the program. The issue of amending the ordinance will be researched.

WATER/WASTEWATER

The Minnesota Department of Public Health Sanitary Survey Report for Backus Water System completed in April 2015 was reviewed. Public Works Director Lee Bundy was not present and there was no report submitted.

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. Discussion on the difficulty of comparing the quotes given the wide discrepancy in amounts and possibly securing additional quotes from other local well companies. Action on matter tabled until further information is gathered.

STREETS, PARKS AND GENERAL MAINTENANCE

Head Start Building Re-Roofing

Two quotes have been received for re-roofing the Head Start Building. Myron Stanley Construction of Breezy Point submitted a quote on April 17th for \$10,482.00. Neumann Construction of Pine River submitted a quote last June for \$11,500.00.

Motion by Borst, seconded by Birge to accept the quote from Neumann Construction to re-roof the Head Start Building in the amount of \$11,500.00 if the quote is still valid, citing that the city is pleased with the work Neumann Construction did for the city last year and prefers to use local contractors when possible. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Grading

A homeowner at the end of Point Road asked the clerk to have the entire length of Point Road graded as it is in the city limits. Discussion that although the road is in the city limits, the city has not maintained the entire length of the road in past years. Property owner can attend a meeting to discuss the matter further.

ZONING

Variance – Hazel Street

Zoning Director Denton Newman, Jr. informed that a building permit application had been received for an addition to a home on Hazel Street South. A variance is required as the lot width is just 50' rather than the 75' as required by ordinance. A hearing on the variance will be held prior to next month's regular meeting.

Miscellaneous Zoning

Willard's is planning to build a fenced in patio on the back of its building. There was discussion on how to proceed with the apparently abandoned commercial property on Front Street. Another building permit is pending regarding a new home on Wood Street; it appears that one water line services two homes at this time. The city council

will have to make a decision to let the shared water line continue or to require separate lines for each residence.

AIRPORT

Beacon Replacement

Mark Hallan of Widseth Smith Nolting reported that Pine River Electric had submitted its insurance information and performance bond and the contract was ready to sign.

Motion by Flier, seconded by Birge to approve the contract with Pine River Electric for the beacon replacement project. Motion carried with Braker in opposition to the project.

PUBLIC FORUM

Cass County Economic Development Corporation

Gail Levenson of Cass County EDC was present to thank the council for its 2015 financial support and to update on several business improvements within the city as well as the status of the small cities grant project from last year. Levenson informed that she was applying for a grant for additional funding for CCEDC office administration expenses and asked the city for a letter of support.

Motion by Borst, seconded by Braker to authorize sending a letter in support of CCEDC's grant application. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Cornfest

Rae Borst, representing the Cornfest Committee, asked if the council would approve the committee's use of the trailside pavilion for Cornfest Headquarters on August 8th.

Motion by Flier, seconded by Birge to authorize use of the trailside pavilion for the Cornfest Committee Headquarters for Cornfest 2015. Motion carried with committee members Borst and Sawyer abstaining.

OLD BUSINESS

Tree Removal

Discussion on which trees should be cut in the boulevard area of the residence on the corner of Oak Street and Grover Avenue.

Motion by Flier, seconded by Braker to have Kory Crawford of "Hazardous Tree Removal" to remove just one tree on the corner of Oak Street and Grover Avenue, which the owner had asked to be removed last year as it is dead and likely to fall and damage structures in the area. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Clean-Up Day

Jay Cline of First National Bank will be working with youth from the school on Pine River-Backus Pride Day May 22nd to pick up trash along the roads in town. Discussion on having a clean-up day in Backus on June 13th. Mayor Sawyer will pick up large discarded items for residents and haul to the transfer station. No bagged garbage or hazardous waste will be accepted. Several notices will be posted around town.

NEW BUSINESS

Online Payments for Water and Sewer Bills

A contract has been received from the company which works with Softline Data, Inc., to accept credit or debit card payments for water and sewer bills. There is no charge to the city for this service as a service fee is added to each bill a customer would pay using this service.

Motion by Braker, seconded by Borst to approve the contract with e NETPAY / Hamer Enterprises for processing credit card and electronic check payments for city water and sewer billing. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Airport MnDOT Grant Agreement Amendment

Notice has been received that MnDOT Grant Agreement #03839 relating to airport maintenance reimbursement has been amended to allow for an increase in funding allocation for airport maintenance and operations expenses.

Motion by Borst, seconded by Birge to approve Amendment #1 to MnDOT Agreement #03839 regarding increased reimbursement funding. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, the Mayor adjourned the May City Council Meeting at 8:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Swanson, Clerk-Treasurer