

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BACKUS, CASS COUNTY, MN. SEPTEMBER 10, 2012 7:00 PM**

**CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order by Mayor Dwight Heim at 7:01 pm.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

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

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

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

**MAYOR'S REPORT:** No report

**WATER/WASTEWATER REPORT:** SEH representative Greg Kimman was present to comment on the letter the City received from USDA Rural Development about the wastewater project funding package. The grant component of the package is expected to be 80%. The interest rate is tentatively at 2.125%. Loan processing generally takes 4-6 weeks. Also, the DNR license, necessary for the project, is expected to be finalized this coming week. The fee for this license is approximately \$30,000.

In the absence of Lee Bundy, city water/waste water operator, the city clerk reported will be flushing hydrants on Tuesday, September 11, 2012. PRASD is continuing the meter change-out project. Project has been proceeding nicely.

**PUBLIC FORUM:** No comments

**POLICE REPORT:** Interim Pine River Police Chief Paul Sand was present to report that the police department responded to calls for burglary, disorderly conduct, and some fights last month. He commented that the Cornfest event went very well. He stressed to the council that homes in the city need visible house numbers posted to assist the police and first responders in the event of an emergency. (The clerk will post a reminder in the city announcements). Lastly, Sand recommended that the city install stop signs to stop the north and southbound traffic on the Wood Street and Washburn Avenue intersection.

**MOTION:** A motion was made by Braker and seconded by Thomas to purchase stop signs for the Wood Street/Washburn Ave intersection. All in favor. Motion carried.

**FIRST RESPONSE:** Jason Smith was on hand to report that there were 5 calls during Cornfest, otherwise quiet.

**FIRE DEPARTMENT:** No report.

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**STREETS AND PARKS:** The city clerk reported that the quote for pothole and wide crack filling from Commercial Asphalt Repair of Grand Rapids in the amount of \$3,336 presented last month was actually in the amount of \$2,786 as the company gave the city a commercial discount.

The clerk also reported that he drafted a letter to Minnesota Power's donation committee requesting a \$1,000 donation towards the lighting project in the city park and will keep the council updated as to the outcome.

**AIRPORT:** In the absence of Denny Williams, the city clerk reported that Williams is getting a quote for fixing the pipes that failed testing last month. Council will be kept updated.

**CITY CLERK'S REPORT:** Last month the city held its annual budget meeting. As per the result of the meeting the preliminary levy for 2013 is to be set at \$134,633.

**MOTION:** A motion was made by Thomas and seconded by Braker to adopt **Resolution 2012-16 Approving the 2012 Preliminary Levy Collectable in 2013.** All in favor. Motion carried.

The clerk then asked the council to approve the purchase of an upgrade to the current water billing software at a cost of \$590.00 from Softline Data.

**MOTION:** A motion was made by Thomas and seconded by Braker to approve the \$590 purchase of a software upgrade from Softline Data. All in favor. Motion carried.

**MAINTENANCE REPORT:** The city clerk informed the council that there were 18 applicants for the maintenance position. An interview committee was formed consisting of the Mayor, the City Clerk, and Steve Braker to conduct interviews. It was determined that a starting wage of \$14 per hour should be established for the position with a review following a probationary period.

**MOTION:** A motion was made by Braker and seconded by Thomas to have the interview committee consist of the Mayor, the City Clerk and Steve Braker and the the maintenance position will start at a rate of \$14 per hour with a review following a probationary period. All in favor. Motion carried.

**ZONING:** No report.

**EDA:** Jay Cline from Cass County Economic Development presented the council with information regarding the activities of the CCEDC and thanked the city for it participation.

Steve Braker introduced Carol Anderson as a new member of the EDA Board.

**MOTION:** A motion was made by Braker and seconded by Thomas to appoint Carol Anderson to the EDA Board. All in favor. Motion carried.

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**GENERAL GOVERNMENT: Resolution 2012-17 Resolution Acknowledging Donations from the Following Donors: Sanborn Lake Association, Jerry and Nancy Curttright, and McKinley Township** was presented.

**MOTION:** A motion was made by Thomas and seconded by Braker to adopt Resolution 2012-17. All in favor. Motion carried.

The city clerk informed the council that replacement LED light bulbs are needed for the city's Christmas decorations. Cost could be upwards of \$700. The council instructed to clerk to do some research as to the cost of new decorations compared to replacements bulbs for review at the next meeting.

**MOTION:** There being no other business to come before the council, a motion was made by Thomas and seconded by Braker to adjourn the meeting at 7:54 p.m. All in favor. Motion carried.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
Jeff Turk, City Clerk/Treasurer

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
Dwight Heim, Mayor