

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BACKUS, CASS COUNTY, MN. NOVEMBER 5, 2012 7:00 PM**

**CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order by Mayor Dwight Heim at 7:02 pm.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

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

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

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

**MAYOR'S REPORT:**

The Mayor recessed the meeting at 7:09 p.m.

The Mayor then, at 7:10 p.m., called to order a Public Hearing to obtain citizen comments on the implementation of the Community Block Grant project funded by the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development on behalf of the City of Backus.

The City Clerk explained to the council and audience that in 2006, a \$204,512 grant was made to the city to provide a loan to Scamp-Eveland's Inc. to assist with the rebuilding after a fire destroyed the building and its contents. The loan terms were 2% interest for 10 years. The company agreed to retain its 30 employees and create an additional 12 within 2 years, which it did. A requirement of the program was that 51% of the new jobs would be taken by low and moderate income people which is what occurred. All loan payments are current. DEED has reviewed the files and found the city and business to be in compliance with all requirements and wishes to close the file. The city is required to hold this hearing to do so. Scamp-Eveland's Inc. is no longer required to report but the city will need to report the use of the repayments.

There were no comments.

The Mayor closed the public hearing at 7:13 p.m.

The Mayor resumed the regular meeting of the City Council at 7:14 p.m.

**WATER/WASTEWATER REPORT:** SEH representative Greg Kimman was present and requested council action to approve the signing of the Authorization to Proceed with Design Phase letter for SEH to continue moving forward with the wastewater project.

**MOTION:** A motion was made by Borst and seconded by Thomas to approve the execution of the Authorization to Proceed with the Design Phase letter for SEH in conjunction with the wastewater project. All in favor. Motion carried.

## **NOVEMBER 5, 2012**

Steve Braker then opened a discussion regarding seasonal water turn-on and off fees. The fees are currently set at \$25 per occurrence as approved at the April 2012 City Council meeting. Steve suggested that the council not charge the fees or lower them. A discussion followed.

**MOTION:** A motion was made by Braker to not charge the \$25 seasonal turn-on/off fees to water customers. The motion died for lack of a second.

**PUBLIC FORUM:** Bill Taylor, Commander of the American Legion was on hand to present the Fire Department and First Responders each with a \$1,000 donation. The Council thanked the Legion for its generosity.

**POLICE REPORT:** No report.

**FIRST RESPONSE:** No report.

**FIRE DEPARTMENT:** There was only one bid for the 1989 Ford F-700 fire truck that the city put up for bids. The city clerk opened the sole bid and it was from Richard Arnold of Hackensack for \$3,501.50.

**MOTION:** A motion was made by Thomas and seconded by Braker to award the bid for the 1989 Ford F-700 fire truck to Richard Arnold of Hackensack. All in favor. Motion carried.

**STREETS AND PARKS:** The clerk reported receiving \$1,000 donation from Minnesota Power designated for the lighting project at the park. The total lighting project cost is \$5,546.20. There is \$1,700 remaining in the park fund. The clerk mentioned that the council could approve the use of \$2,846.20 from the streets fund to complete the project.

**MOTION:** A motion was made by Borst and seconded by Braker to authorize the completion of the park lighting project using the remainder of the park fund, the \$1,000 donation from Minnesota Power, and \$2,846.00 from the streets fund. All in favor. Motion carried.

The clerk also reported that maintenance ordered 60 yards of Class 5 for the alley behind the Post Office and that it was to be spread by Ben Pollack's bobcat at a total cost of \$901.50.

**MOTION:** A motion was made by Braker and seconded by Borst to approve the spreading of Class 5 in the alley behind the Post Office at a cost of \$901.50. All in favor. Motion carried.

**AIRPORT:** No report.

## **NOVEMBER 5, 2012**

**CITY CLERK'S REPORT:** The city clerk presented the Townhome Tenant Leases and revised Tenant handbooks. The revisions were done due to inconsistencies in the handbook particularly regarding children and people under age 55 residing in the townhomes. It was reported that there is a 43 year old son of a tenant residing there. He has not been a problem and the tenant said he would be out November 24, 2012.

**MOTION:** A motion was made by Braker and seconded by Borst to approve the revised tenant handbooks and the execution of the tenant leases. All in favor. Motion carried.

The clerk asked the council to approve the cancellation of the city cellular telephone as it is no longer being used.

**MOTION:** A motion was made by Thomas and seconded by Braker to cancel the city cellular telephone with Verizon Wireless. All in favor. Motion carried.

The clerk requested a motion to correct the minutes from the July 2, 2012 meeting in which the liquor license was applied for and approved for Guy Willis, not Walters.

**MOTION:** A motion was made by Braker and seconded by Borst to approve the aforementioned correction to the July 2, 2012 minutes. All in favor. Motion carried.

Finally, the clerk presented to the council, the recommended water/sewer certifications for 2013 property taxes.

**MOTION:** A motion was made by Thomas and seconded by Borst to approve the recommended water/sewer certifications to 2013 property taxes. All in favor. Motion carried.

**MAINTENANCE REPORT:** The city clerk presented the revised Pine River Sanitary District's contract to now include handling the city's maintenance. The annual cost of the contract with PRASD is \$38,400 and for two years effective October 15, 2012.

**MOTION:** A motion was made by Braker and seconded by Thomas to approve the revised contract with Pine River Area Sanitary District for \$38,000 for two years.

**ZONING:** No report.

**EDA:** No report.

#### **GENERAL GOVERNMENT:**

The council was presented with Resolution 2012-19 Acknowledging Donations from Community Ladies Aid and Lorraine Noerenberg.

**NOVEMBER 5, 2012**

**MOTION:** A motion was made by Thomas and seconded by Borst to adopt Resolution 2012-19. All in favor. Motion carried.

**MOTION:** There being no other business to come before the council, a motion was made by Thomas and seconded by Borst to adjourn the meeting at 8:19 p.m. All in favor. Motion carried.

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

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

DRAFT