

Bellechester City Council Meeting Minutes

August 12, 2020

Meeting was called to order by Mayor Greg Majerus at 10:01 a.m.

Pledge to the flag.

Roll call was taken: The council in attendance: Mayor Greg Majerus, Council people Doug Majerus, Rich Majerus, Brian Ringeisen, and Mark Gerken as well as Lisa Redepenning. Treasurer Kyle McKeown was absent. Edith Buck and Shelly Poncelet were also present.

Minutes of July, 2020 meeting were reviewed and motion was made by Rich Majerus with a second Mark Gerken to approve the minutes with noted change. Motion carried.

Bills were reviewed and a motion by Rich Majerus as corrected with a second by Mark Gerken to approve and pay the bills as presented. Motion carried.

Old Business:

- Update on Grants – review information/discuss. Grant documents were signed last week. We have 180 days from approval to completion.
- Sewer Lines – review/discuss options - \$14,000 and \$21,000 bids were received. Rural Water made some recommendations for us to follow up on. Some more issues were found. We may try to hold off until we get someone that can better camera certain areas, hopefully we can get it done for less money.
- Locker Plant – update – progress is still being made on this by the owner.
- Lawn Mowers – There have been issues with current equipment. \$1700 for Scag work. Each mower has several hours on each and there have been many issues this year. \$8300 quote on new mowers was received as well as \$7500/year to outsource this. Costs for labor and expenses runs about \$4000/year to do it in house. Information was presented on a used mower council to consider.
- Waterway – We had someone come look and they gave us a \$1500 estimate for repair. We will need to look at for next year.
- Speed Signs – cement work and pipe work was done. When the signs are put in, there may be a need to move current speed signs based on current state and county regulations.
- 2021 Preliminary Budget – review expenditures, make changes/recommendations. No changes were made at this time.

New business:

- Mag Kunesh/ Edith Buck - Privacy fence – inquired about a wood fence on property of 8' high. Need to get written from other property owner and if over 6', a permit will be needed. Motion was made by Rich Majerus with a 2nd by Doug Majerus to approve fence with written approval by Dale McKay before constructions begins. Motion carried. Inquired about car port. If under 200 square feet, no permit was necessary.
- Shelley Poncelet – Book Share Library – Book Library is done, post needs to be put in.
- Building Permit – Jesse Duden - 13 x 16 deck to enter to front door deck. Motion was made by Rich Majerus with a 2nd by Doug Majerus to approve the permit as submitted. Motion carried.

- Building Permit – Nick Keller – interior remodel. Motion was made by Mark Gerken with a 2nd by Rich Majerus to approve the building permit as presented. Motion carried.
- Brian Ringeisen – will be adding an 11 x 15 lean to from the existing shed and presented drawings. It is under 200 square feet and a permit is not necessary. Motion was made to recognize the addition that Brian Ringeisen presented by Rich Majerus with a 2nd by Mark Gerken. Motion carried with Brian Ringeisen abstaining.
- Garbage removal – the ordinance was not done properly by the county and needs to be redone and published. The cost for our carrier to bring to Goodhue County will increase by \$33/ton.

Clerk Report – New Website went live on 8/1. Council Filings – 4 filings were made to date, Jody Gordon for Mayor, Doug Majerus, Jerod Buxengard & Kyle Blattner for Council. Last date to file was 8/11 and withdrawal date was 8/13. LGA & Property Tax Payments – We received our 1st half payment from the State of MN of \$11,697.00 and \$27,863.11 from Goodhue County. County CARES fund – I was contacted by Goodhue County of money that they indicated could be used for COVID-related expenses. Since we did not have any, that money goes to the County for other businesses in town to use. He identified the Tavern and BCCA could qualify. I gave them both the link to apply. Grant Documents – Greg and I signed the grant documents that were necessary to move forward. Sales Tax Audit – I will have the paperwork with me at meeting to look at.

Treasurer Report - Past due report was discussed.

Water/Wastewater/Facility Report – None

Mayor Concerns: None

Council Concerns: Placement of library was discussed. Also discussed out-of-town usage of brush pile with non-brush items also being placed there. The City’s brush pile is for city residents only.

Motion was made by Brian Ringeisen with a second by Rich Majerus to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Meeting was adjourned at 11:33 pm. Next meeting is September 9th @ 10:00 a.m. at the Bellechester Community Center.

Submitted by Lisa Redepinning – City Clerk

- **Yard Cleanup** – Please take the time to clean up anything stored on your property. Please be mindful that other people may not enjoy your lawn storage – please help to make our city tidy.
- **Fee Change for Utility Bills** – Shut off fee was eliminated with a single reconnect fee of \$100, a 10% interest fee after 90 days and returned check fee of \$25.
- **Burn Pile** – Please remember that burn pile is for brush and leaves only. We can get fined for all other items left here. The burn pile is for Bellechester City residents only. If you witness any dumping of unauthorized items or non city resident use, please call us.
- **Recycling** - Please recycle whenever you can. There is a recycling bin located on the north end of town by GB Feed and Supply. By recycling, this will keep our garbage rates from rising. Due to a recent change in Goodhue County, we may see an increase on our bill. Please try to keep your garbage separated from recycled goods. We are charged by the weight, so by keeping that down, we may be able to offset this increase and not have to raise garbage rates.