

# **Bellechester City Council Meeting Minutes**

## **July 21, 2021 @ 6:00 PM**

Regular City Council Meeting was called to order by Mayor Jody Gordon at 6:00 p.m.

Pledge to the flag.

Roll call was taken: The council in attendance: Mayor Jody Gordon, Council people Jered Buxengard, Rich Majerus, Mark Gerken, as well as Lisa Redepening. Councilmember Kyle Blattner, Treasurer Kyle McKeown and City Engineer Matt Mohs were absent. Goodhue County Sherriff Deputy Jeremy Lorfald, Goodhue County Sheriff Marty Kelly, Goodhue County Sherriff Deputy Jenny Hofshulte, Sue Majerus & Luke Morgan from SE Choppers was also present.

Minutes of June, 2021 meeting were reviewed and motion was made by Mark Gerken with a second by Rich Majerus to approve the minutes. Motion carried.

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

### **Old Business:**

- Sewer Grant – update progress. Waiting of easements verification.
- ADA bathroom for Community Center – update progress. Fixtures are next and then plumbing.
- Park Upgrades – Monday the picnic tables were installed and cleaned up around the grounds.

### **New business:**

- Dance Permit – SE Choppers for August Event. Luke Morgan was present with the dance permit. Flyer of the event was questioned as well as expected procedures of this event. Motion was made by Rich Majerus with a 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mark Gerken to approve the dance permit. Motion carried. Motion was made by Jered Buxengard with a 2<sup>nd</sup> by Rich Majerus to approve the closing of street and allowing alcohol consumption in fenced area to be controlled by The Tavern. Motion carried.
- Goodhue County Sheriff Police Contract Review Discussion – Goodhue County Sherriff Marty Kelly presented information related to the contract we have with the County for policing services with costs involved in our rate. Speed in town was addressed as well as solutions to slowing down traffic.
- Review Preliminary Budget – Preliminary budget information was reviewed.
- Building Permit – Dan Poncelet. Motion was made by Rich Majerus with a 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jered Buxengard to approve the building permit as presented. Motion carried.
- Dance Permit – AIR – Motion was made by Mark Gerken with a 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jered Buxengard to approve the dance permit on July 17th. Motion carried.

- Generator Maintenance Contract – Discussion on the contract as presented. Motion was made by Jered Buxengard with a 2<sup>nd</sup> by Rich Majerus to not enter into a contract with Cummins for generator maintenance. Motion carried.
- Funding – Small Cities Development Program (SCDP). Motion was made by Rich Majerus with a 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mark Gerken to approve the pursuit of a SCDP grant application for a cost Not-to-Exceed \$3,700 without Council approval. Motion carried.

## **Engineering Report –**

**Clerk Report – RD Grant** – FYI - Matt indicated that there needs to be a representative for the city to attend meetings, etc. during this upcoming process. He asked me if we wanted to hire someone, as other small cities do, due to not having someone available. He indicated that over the application process moving forward, approx. 40 hours would be needed as well as travel time to Rochester and/or Faribault. I told him that I could make myself available for this and that an additional outside representative did not need to be hired and cost added to the grant request. If this is not what you'd like to do, please let me know. It would not be a problem with me. Also as part of the grant, there will need to be a survey of residents done. Matt asked about the best way to do this. I told him that the next quarterly billing will be September 27th and it would be best to coordinate it with that billing, as it would be the most effective way to survey versus online or emailing. Matt, Kyle, Jody and I did all the required submittals for the RD grant and Matt informed Laurie @ USDA of completion. Garbage Switchover & Utility Billing Done. Portable Generator Grant & SEARCH Grant – I received the final electrician bill for generator grant as well as the final invoice from Bolten & Menk for Matt's work on the SEARCH grant and submitted to Laurie @ RD. Jody and I will be doing the closing on these next week and therefore, we will get reimbursed \$60,000 that we initially paid for these items. 2021 - Preliminary Budget – First look at what was spent and a start on next year's budget. We do not need to get preliminary levy numbers (property tax) to county until September 30 with a final levy date of November. By September meeting, you need to decide on if the Levy should change or remain as last year (\$60,000). You cannot go up on the Levy amount after the preliminary is set, only down before the final. Need to think about if increasing levy amount is necessary to start collecting funds for Sanitary Sewer Collection System Rehabilitation project expense. Quarterly Filing – County Building Permit Report; MN Unemployment, Withholding & Sales Tax; and Federal Withholding have been done. Wabasha County Tax Payment – was received \$5924.93

**Treasurer Report** – Utility past due list was distributed and reviewed.

**Water/Wastewater/Facility Report** – Mowing/sprayed/baling was done at ponds.

**Mayor Concerns** – Inquired about the location of soccer nets.

**Council Concerns:** It was noted that according to the Historical Society sign, Bellechester is 150 years old.

**Adjourn**

Motion was made by Rich Majerus with a second by Jered Buxengard to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Meeting was adjourned at 7:29 pm. Next meeting is August 18 @ 6:00 p.m. at the Bellechester Community Center.

Submitted by Lisa Redepenning – 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.
- **Power Outages** – If you have power outage in your home, please check Xcel’s website for an update on current outages and contact them directly as they provide the power for Bellechester.