

## **Bellechester City Council Meeting Minutes**

### **June 16, 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, Kyle Blattner as well as Lisa Redepening, Treasurer Kyle McKeown and City Engineer Matt Mohs. Paul Reding was also present.

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

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

Motion was made by Rich Majerus with a 2<sup>nd</sup> by Kyle Blattner to close the regular meeting. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Rich Majerus with a 2<sup>nd</sup> by Kyle Blattner to open the public hearing for the Sanitary Sewer Collection System Rehabilitation project at 6:08 p.m. Motion carried.

**Public Hearing** – Sanitary Sewer Collection System Rehabilitation project – Matt Mohs presented information on the project. Pipe lining – Cured in-Place Pipe is what is recommended in the PER as a resolution to repair the mains and addresses the water infiltration issue we currently are having with our system. This is called a trenchless option and minimizes the need for excavation. The services can also be lined from middle of street, approximately 30' (to the right-of-way) in towards homes, so no one needs to come into any homes. There may be some sections that may need to be dug up for repair. Estimated cost as presented was \$1,095,800. Funding sources we are looking at are USDA-RD low interest loan (approx. 1.75%), and USDA-RD Grant and possibly the State of MN (PFA) or a Small Cities grant to fund an anticipated gap. USDA RD is 55% loan, 45% grant program. Estimated financial affordability for each resident is an increase of approximately \$6.50/household. To qualify for the Small Cities program, we'll need to do an income survey of the town to get better estimate. This survey will remain anonymous and is used entirely for the paperwork for the programs we can utilize for assistance in the cost. Estimate construction start is September with an estimated completion date of November, 2022. Paul Reding inquired about if there will be outages while this will be going on. Matt indicated it will be a matter of hours, not days or weeks. There will be a by-pass system put in place while it is being done, but limiting your usage during this time would be appreciated. There will be door hangers done at each residence prior to work being performed. Televising of lateral lines was asked and Matt indicated it will be done. Will recommendations be made to residence if work is needed from the end point to house? Recommendations like this will be made at the time this project if there are issues found. Motion was made by Rich Majerus with a 2<sup>nd</sup> Kyle Blattner by to close the public hearing. Motion carried. The public hearing was closed at 6:42 p.m.

Motion was made by Jered Buxengard with a 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mark Gerken to open the regular city council meeting. Motion carried. Regular City Council Meeting was opened at 6:42 p.m.

### **Old Business:**

- Portable Generator – update progress. Electrician is done. Cummins needs to come down and do a startup. When this was done, this will complete the project.
- Sewer Grant – update progress. Still progressing. Online and hard copy signature will need to be completed.
- ADA bathroom for Community Center – update progress. Plumbing is done, electrician and wall board needs to be done yet. Laminate flooring will also be done. Door will swing right. If there any more updates, the Goodhue Lions do have additional funds that we can submit to them via application. Discussion was made on possible improvements to the Community Center to utilize this offer from the Goodhue Lions.
- Park Upgrades – wood chips are down in play area. More will be added. Picnic tables will be purchased. Park CD money will be utilized for this. Kyle got bases in and outfield fencing will be done. Water access at the field was discussed. More information will need to be obtained on this request before a decision is made. Field upgrades were also mentioned as a possible improvement we can submit to the Goodhue Lions club for help in this cost. July 24<sup>th</sup> is Bellechester Lions meet and greet.
- Garbage Proposal – Lake City Disposal – A quote was submitted by Lake City Disposal for council review. Each resident will be 1 can, if you have more that will not fit and put it into something else or on the ground, it will not be picked up and you will be billed for a 2<sup>nd</sup> receptacle. Commercial accounts will be provided a 2 yard dumpster. If any current commercial account want to have the same as a 65 gallon tote residential, they can request it. Pickup data will be changed to Wednesdays. Recycling will still be done by the County, like now. Motion was made by Rich Majerus with a 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mark Gerken to change to Lake City Disposal as our garbage carrier as presented. Motion carried.

### **New business:**

- Building Permit Request – Mark Gerken – Deck. Mark Gerken submitted drawings for deck on the east side of house. Motion was made by Rich Majerus with a 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jered Buxengard. Motion carried.
- Ag Partners Building Permit – Building permit was presented for a 30,000 LP tank installation. Motion was made by Rich Majerus with a 2<sup>nd</sup> by Kyle Blattner to approve the building permit as presented by Ag Partners. Motion carried.
- Vulnerability Assessment- Emergency Response Plan – review and adopt. Motion was made by Rich Majerus with a 2<sup>nd</sup> Jered Buxengard by to approve and adopt the Vulnerability Assessment Emergency Response Plan. Motion carried.
- Garbage Rate Increase – discuss options – rates will be increased per discussion above.
- Resolution #2021-01 to Accept the ARPA funds – review and approve. Motion was made by Kyle Blattner with a 2<sup>nd</sup> by Rich Majerus to accept the ARPA funds. Motion carried.
- RD Loan – options on how to pay for – Tax Increase or Water/Sewer charge increase – discuss. Rate increase and/or tax levy was discussed as a way to pay for the Sanitary Sewer Improvement project. It was discussed to increase rates ahead of time to starting saving for this so it isn't as big of an increase when we need to fund this project. We can do this to help out the burden of the cost of this. This will be discussed closer to the time.

**Engineering Report** – See above.

**Clerk Report** – Garbage Bill – We received \$1722.21 in and paid \$1473.24 out for April. Waste Management’s first bill to us is \$996.52 for May. Bond Council – needed for RD Loan. Richard Gorman put me in contact with someone that could provide the letter needed by USDA to meeting the requirements for the grant. It needed to be a formal letter. I was contacted by the person who is doing a bond opinion for us as part of the USDA grant process. She asked how we were going to pay, Levy Increase or water/sewer rate increase. Discussion will need to be had on this subject so we are ready when/if we progress. Current Garbage Rates - \$12.25/household & \$28.75/account for commercial. Lake City Disposal info - they will provide bins, Commercial Accounts - GB, Elevator, Tavern, Fab Tech, Poncelet, Community Center, Flat Rate Billing to us, if individual billing is done they will not pick garbage up if not paid, 3rd Quarter Utility Billing – will be done later this month. ARPA – I filled out the forms to receive this money. It is expected that we will receive \$15,146.02 that can be used for our Sanitary Sewer Collection System Rehabilitation project.

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

**Water/Wastewater/Facility Report** – Quarterly samples will be done this week. No more discharging will be done. We need to monitor the ponds for animals coming in. Baling was done by the ponds to cut down on mowing.

**Mayor Concerns** - None

**Council Concerns:** Need to discuss about moving speed sign and speed of vehicles going through town. Street cleaning will be done.

## **Adjourn**

Motion was made by Rich Majerus with a second by Kyle Blattner to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Meeting was adjourned at 7:41 pm. Next meeting is July 21 @ 6:00 p.m. at the Bellechester Community Center.

Submitted by Lisa Redepenning – City Clerk

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- **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.