

# **Bellechester City Council Meeting Minutes**

## **March 9, 2020 @ 6:30PM**

Meeting was called to order by Mayor Greg Majerus at 6:00 p.m.

Pledge to the flag.

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

Minutes of February, 2020 meeting were approved and a motion was made by Rich Majerus with a second Doug Majerus to approve the minutes. Motion carried.

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

### **Old Business:**

- Update on Grants – review information/discuss – Greg and Rich met with USDA regarding moving forward with this grant. Generator will be put on a trailer on a slab for storage. The grant will cover 75% of the grant. Rural Water could be a possibility to receive a grant for most of the remaining cost. LP generator bolted to trailer and hooked to pump house. 1000lb tank will be put on it. Generator will be self contained. Cabling to it will be addressed. Will hopefully have it final before next meeting.
- City Attorney vs County Attorney retainer – review and discuss. Greg received a letter from Gorman inquiring on our decision. We will be charged for BCA for setup charge using either firm. Motion was made by Brian Ringeisen with a 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mark Gerken to stay with Gorman. Motion carried.
- Update on LP storage tank - property was surveyed since last month. Temporary tank was moved in. Measurements are unchanged and a fence will surround it. This LP tank will be a great cost savings to Fabtech. Placement of tank was discussed. Questions will be brought up and tabled until variance permit is presented.
- Sealcoating Update – We have not heard back from county on cost. It was estimated at \$16,000 for horseshoe area that was brought up as a possibility. \$30,000 for entire town.
- Forfeited property – Auction April 16<sup>th</sup>. The city is not interested in purchasing the property as it sits.

### **New business:**

- FEMA Flood Plain Map Open House in Zumbrota.
- Inquiry about home-based business from a resident. Traffic concerns and storage were addressed. Business will be evenings and part time, traffic should be minimal. Small engine repair will be done. Council does not have any issues with business as presented.

**Clerk Report – Street Repair Bill – FYI - As if today (Thursday), it has not been received. Wabasha County Appraiser Jeff Wagner – FYI, gave notice and is no longer working for Wabasha County. I have no information on replacement at this time. 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter utility billing – will be sent out later this month.**

Flood Plain Meeting in Zumbrota 3/11 – they would like to have a count of people attending for the City of Bellechester.

**Treasurer Report** - Past due list was presented.

**Water/Wastewater/Facility Report** – When Fabtech starts discharging, we will have to have an agreement with them if extra costs will be incurred due to this. MPCA will be monitoring this, there is a limit they will have to meet. Steel washing is the concern if the PH will rise. Kyle will look into the agreement wording for them. Manhole covers were looked at for flow. More covers will be checked for water flow. Residents with sump pumps need to ensure that they are pumping outside versus going down in sewer system. If residents need assistance, they can contact the city. We can do a test from resident's home. We will look at water rates within the next few months.

**Mayor Concerns:** None

**Council Concerns:** Council was informed by USDA that we need to look at our current water rates. Base rate should be \$39. We are at \$34.25. We will need to look at this, if we will need to get water meters if we receive a grant for future water. Council discussed moving the meeting time to day to accommodate schedule.

Motion was made by Rich Majerus with a second by Brian Ringeisen to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Meeting was adjourned at 7:11 pm. Next meeting is April 16<sup>th</sup> following the Board of Equalization meeting @ 5:00 at the Bellechester Community Center.

Submitted by Lisa Redepenning – City Clerk

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- **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.
- **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.
- **Warming house building** - is available for free, first come, first served. Contact Greg Majerus or the city if interested and for removal. (building by recycling bin).

**Council meets the 2nd Wednesday of the month @ 10:00 a.m. at the Bellechester Community Center.**