

Bellechester City Council Meeting Minutes

March 17, 2021

Meeting was called to order by Mayor Jody Gordon at 6:02 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 Redepenning and Treasurer Kyle McKeown as well as city Engineer Matt Mohs. Council member Kyle Blattner was absent. Luke Morgan, Steve Gappo, Dan Schell, and Sam Gadiant were also present.

Minutes of February, 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:

- Portable Generator – update progress. Electrician was in today and looked installing a switchbox.
- Sewer Grant – update progress. Matt provided an update on financial opportunities for this. There are 3 avenues for possibility of getting grants to help out. Everything is going as plan. We may be able to use the recent Federal COVID money to assist in this project.
- ADA bathroom for Community Center/Raffle – update progress. Someone looked into the place that was discussed and it would work in that location. We are not certain on the exact cost as of right now could be upwards of \$20,000. That will be followed up on. There is a gun raffle currently in place to assist in the cost of this. Drawing is June 5th. We are also asking local business/organizations for donations.
- Bellechester lions club – update. There was a meeting with 25 members that signed up and qualifies for us to have our own club. 3rd Monday of every month at 7:00 at the Community Center. They will be involved in helping Bellechester. If you are interested in joining or receiving information on the club, you can contact Jody Gordon.

New business:

- Participating in a consolidation agreement with Goodhue County and the US Census for civil boundary updates. Motion was made by Rich Majerus with a 2nd by Mark Gerken to decline on the participation of this agreement with Goodhue County. Motion carried.
- Luke Morgan from SE Choppers – discuss event in town in August. Luke Morgan presented background information on the club and what they do for organizations and communities locally and across the state. He also discussed how current events they hold are run. They are looking at August 14th for this end of year event in Bellechester in the current park/ball field. They are unable to do it at the previous location they were at due to closure of the that establishment and are looking for a new place to establish this event for this year and in the future. They would come the night before to setup as well as vendor

setup also. The general public is welcome for this family-friendly event and it is no charge. Tentative event times are 11/12:00 start to 1:00 am which will include food and beverages provided by Tavern, live bands, bon fires, raffles etc. is anticipated at this event. The club is responsible for the complete assembly and clean up of the space they use for this event. Street closures will be needed. Approximate attendance can be 300-400 people. This event will follow all state-mandated COVID rules that will be in place at that time. Onsite camping was discussed. SE Choppers provide their own security at their events both members and attendees. Motion was made by Jered Buxengard with a 2nd by Rich Majerus to allow SE Choppers to have this event on August 14th. Motion carried.

- Storage Shed Request – BC Court - Jered Buxengard inquired on the specifics of storage shed requirements.
- Man Hole Cover Inquiry - Sam Gadiant asked about the holes that were dug for the manhole cover issues. It is on the land he rents and he wanted more information on them. These manhole covers that need to be raised are necessary for the water infiltration project that is currently in place. We will update Sam on the future progress on this.
- Set time for April Meeting – Council will meeting in conjunction with the Board of Equalization meeting in April with a start time of 5:00. This will affect the April meeting only.

Clerk Report – Garbage Bill – We received \$1282.90 in and paid \$1,315.12 out for February. Micro Loan Payment - \$46,275 was done 2/1. \$138,000 of principal and \$6950 of interest is remaining. Board of Equalization Meeting – I received the official notice from both counties and it they set each county to have their own time. Goodhue County Residents @ 5:00 - Wabasha County Residents @ 5:30. Will need to discuss if you want to meeting during this time, starting at 5:00, as there will be no county representatives present, only available via phone. 2nd Quarter Utility Billing – will be mailed later this month.

Treasurer Report – Shut offs were discussed as well as deposits of checks. Deposits are generally made every 2 weeks. If you drop off your payment at the Bank, it is not immediately cashed. It needs to be processed and recorded on our utility program first before deposit.

Water/Wastewater/Facility Report – There is a leak in the south well house that has occurred again. Kyle has all the parts to fix issue. Water may be need to be off for less than ½ hour to fix.

Mayor Concerns: None

Council Concerns: None

Adjourn

Motion was made by Rich Majerus with a second by Jered Buxengard to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Meeting was adjourned at 7:17 pm. Next meeting is April 13 @ 5:00 p.m. at the Bellechester Community Center.

Submitted by Lisa Redepenning – City Clerk

NOTICE – City of Bellechester is looking for a Part time Mowing Position

We will be looking for a mowing/weed whipping position for this summer for the city. If you are interested in doing this for the summer, please contact a council member and we will discuss at next meeting.

- **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.