

Bellechester City Council Meeting Minutes November 13, 2020

Meeting was called to order by Mayor Greg Majerus at 10:00 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 Redepening, Kyle McKeown and City Engineer Matt Mohs were also present. Jody Gordon, Paul Reding and Kevin Poncelet were also present.

Minutes of October, 2020 meeting were reviewed and motion was made by Brian Ringeisen with a second by Rich Majerus 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 2nd by Brian Ringeisen to close the regular meeting. Meeting was closed at 10:04. Motion carried.

Public Hearing was called to order by Greg Majerus at 10:04.

Public Hearing - Matt Mohs presented an overview of the project council is considering.

Paul Reding inquired about how long the lining will last. Matt indicated it would last as long as pipe would last. Main lines only or service to house lines also was asked. Matt stated that we would evaluate both scenarios in the PER to understand cost implications as well as what can be expected via infiltration if service lines are not included. Ground water and service water is coming to ponds and overwhelming them to near capacity. Lining the pipe versus digging will be looked at. Paul inquired about how much the grant was going to cover and how quickly this project would be done. Matt Mohs indicated a reasonable goal for a project is 2022. He also stated that grant amounts cannot be determined today and are a result of work that still needs to be done.

Greg Majerus asked for further comments or questions from the public. No further questions. Motion was made by Rich Majerus with a 2nd by Doug Majerus to close the public hearing at 10:16.

Motion was made by Mark Gerken with a 2nd by Doug Majerus to re-open regular city meeting. Motion carried. Meeting was re-opened and called to order by Greg Majerus at 10:16.

Old Business:

- Locker Plant – update progress. Work still continues on this.
- Portable Generator – update progress. Generator is ordered. Trailer is getting worked on, cement work is done. Electrical will be done when the generator arrives. Possibly mid-December for generator to be shipped.

- Sewer Grant – update progress. Matt Mohs gave a brief recap the grant process with USDA. Bellechester is one of the only cities applying for a SEARCH grant currently.
- Old Mowers – discussion. Old mower is running. Discussion on getting it to Graves Auction to sell. Motion was made to auction the mower by Brian Ringeisen with a 2nd by Rich Majerus. Motion carried.
- Old Bar – update. Nothing has been done. Oats were planted last month to help with erosion.

New business:

- Consideration of Engineering Agreement – discuss/approve – Matt Mohs gave a brief update on this agreement. Motion was made by Rich Majerus with a 2nd by Brian Ringeisen to accept the Engineering Agreement contingent upon RD concurrence and any future minor changes if needed. Motion carried.
- Special Assessments – Resolution No. 2020.5 - discuss/review/approve – Motion was made Rich Majerus by with a 2nd by Brian Ringeisen to approve the identified special assessments for 2021 giving allowances for payment to be made by 11/30. Motion carried.
- Dan Poncelet – request for posts/fencing on property. A drawing was presented to council on his behalf. There are snow/water issues currently. Dan will be asked to come to next meeting to discuss further with him.
- Kevin Poncelet inquired about water hookup and charges on his building.
- Canvassing of Election Results – approve. Motion was made by Mark Gerken with a 2nd by Rich Majerus to canvas the results of both Goodhue and Wabasha County. Motion carried.
- Agreement with Goodhue County for State Building Code Administration – approve. Motion was made by Rich Majerus with a 2nd by Mark Gerken to approve the State Building Code Administration agreement with Goodhue County. Motion carried.
- Approval of Final Levy for 2021 – approve Resolution No. 2020.4 – Set Final 2021 Levy. Motion was made by Rich Majerus with a 2nd by Mark Gerken to approve the final levy setting it at \$60,000 which is unchanged from preliminary levy. Motion carried.

Clerk Report – Dog License Renewals – I will be sending reminders to any license holders that have not paid yet. Consideration of Engineering Agreement – This is a document that is required for the Grant. It is a standard USDA document and Matt will have it to me by Tuesday and I will get it to you all before the meeting. 2021 Final Levy Approval – The preliminary was set at \$60,000, which was unchanged from last year. Generator Purchase – I authorized the payment for this and submitted the invoice to USDA for reimbursement. Special Assessments & Election Results – I will have the final list at the meeting.

Treasurer Report – Past due report was distributed.

Water/Wastewater/Facility Report – 3 year reports were distributed and water infiltration issues were further discussed based on the reports. Matt indicated that future growth of the city is not part of this project, it is only fixing current lines. A question on if we would be told to replace our ponds. The state is the entity could possibly replace our ponds. Currently the I & I is the main factor causing the stress on the ponds. Heaters were put in well houses and muskrats were taken care of. There may be another discharge before year's end.

Mayor Concerns: None

Council Concerns: Extra dirt at new generator pad was discussed.

Motion was made by Rich Majerus with a second by Brian Ringeisen to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Meeting was adjourned at 11:58 pm. Next meeting is December 9th @ 10:00 a.m. at the Bellechester Community Center.

Submitted by Lisa Redepenning – City Clerk

Due to the closure of the bank, night drop pickups in Bellechester will now occur only on Tuesday and Friday. You can still drop off utility bills at the black mailbox on the deck at the Treasurer's house (Kyle) at 204 Red Wing Avenue.

- **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.