

Bellechester City Council Meeting Minutes

September 9, 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 Redepenning. Treasurer Kyle McKeown was absent. Larry Gilsdorf, City Engineer Matt Mohs as well as Rick Lohmann from Bolton Mink were also present.

Minutes of August, 2020 meeting were reviewed and motion was made by Rich Majerus with a second Mark Gerken 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.

Old Business:

- Update on portable generator – base is done, framing needs to be done and cement work. All expenditures will be done through Majerus Garage and then paid out to each vendor. Rich is working on getting items ordered and organized.
- Sewer Lines – review/discuss options – Matt Mohs distributed information to council. Our current system is being taxed and it needs to be addressed. 3 funding options are available Public Facilities Authority (state), USDA (federal) and small cities development program (state). USDA Rural development is the best option for us. Lining could be used to rehab our problem lines. We could qualify for approximately up to \$865,000 in funding. Matt's recommendation is to contact USDA Rural Development moving forward.
- 2021 Preliminary Budget & Proposed Levy – approve. Motion was made by Rich Majerus with a 2nd by Doug Majerus to approve Resolution 2020.1 approving the preliminary levy for 2021 of \$60,000 and 2021 budget as presented. Motion carried.
- Mowers – Mowers are not currently working. Quotes on new mowers are being sought. Motion was made to purchase a new mower by Brian Ringeisen with a 2nd by Doug Majerus. Motion carried.
- Locker Plant Update – Matt indicated that no money currently is available for locker plant project as far as state or federal funding. He will continue to monitor if this changes. The locker plant may have an option to purchase land.

New business:

- Water & Sewer Rate Increase – discuss. Base rate was recommended it should be \$39. We are at \$34.25. \$2.00 increase for each water and sewer was discussed. Motion was made by Brian Ringeisen with a 2nd by Rich Majerus to increase water and sewer \$2.00 each to start January, 2021. Motion carried.
- eCharge setup with Attorney – discuss. Motion was made by Rich Majerus with a 2nd by Mark Gerken to approve the eCharge setup. Motion carried.

- Dog Fostering/Kennel Inquiry – Any person who is starting this in Bellechester needs to come before council with information to get approval.
- COVID Money – BCCA will be getting funding. We will be putting in an application to get the remaining money if any.
- Larry Gilsdorf – 7' x 8' shed request. It is under 200 square feet and does not require a permit.

Clerk Report – Water Rates - USDA recommended that we need to look at our current water rates. Base rate should be \$39. We are at \$34.25. Election - Canvassing of Results – we were notified by the county that the state is extending mail in voting mailing time to allow 7 days for them to be received after they have been postmarked by Election Day. Therefore, we will need to have a special meeting on the evening of November 12th or on November 13th. They will have abstracts and write-in sheets to us sometime during November 12th. PERA – I was notified by PERA that they are missing a Salary Deduction Report for December, 2017 from us, which is due monthly. I gave them the salary for that month and we owe \$164.14 for that month that I paid. e-Charging – Up to this point, the city attorney's office has had to file written complaints and have the officers come to their office to sign. It is much easier to e-charge on their end. Per the attorney's office, there are no fees at this time. The contract with the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension is renewed every year, so if there are associated fees in the future, they will let us know. Special Assessments – need to be to the county by November 30th. Reminders were in the 2nd quarter mailing and will be in this month's 3rd quarter mailing also. Last year we gave them a 10/1 deadline to get current. Preliminary Levy – last year it was \$60,000. Loan Interest Payment – An interest only payment was made in August of \$2,275.00. Barb Haley - member of the Minnesota House of Representatives and represents District 21A in southeastern Minnesota. She will be here at our next meeting for a Q and A with you. Please have questions in mind for the time she will be here. Dog Boarding/Fostering/Kennel – our current ordinance indicates: *Subdivision 7. Kennel License: No owner may own, harbor, feed, board, or keep more than two (2) dogs over 4 months of age on their premises without obtaining a kennel license.* It does not say the fee for the license, but just says they need one from the city. Goodhue County indicates that there are no permits required at the county level.

Treasurer Report – None.

Water/Wastewater/Facility Report – None.

Mayor Concerns: The old bar will be demolished soon. \$15,000 to tear down. Wabasha County inquired on if we were interested in helping out in the cost. Clerk pay was also discussed. Motion was made to increase the clerk salary by \$2.00 by Brian Ringeisen with a 2nd by Rich Majerus. Motion carried. Greg met with insurance adjuster for the League to go through all our properties to verify.

Council Concerns: Speed signs are up in town.

Motion was made by Brian Ringeisen with a second by Rich Majerus to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Meeting was adjourned at 12:42 pm. Next meeting is October 14th @ 10:00 a.m. at the Bellechester Community Center.

Submitted by Lisa Redepenning – City Clerk

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the City of Bellechester will hold a Public Hearing on November 13, 2020 at 10:00 at the Bellechester Community Center during their regular monthly council meeting. **The regular monthly meeting will be moved to this day also.**

This will be an informational meeting to discuss the City of Bellechester's Sanitary Sewer Collection System Improvements, including economic and environmental impacts, service area, alternatives to the project, and potential funding sources, including USDA Rural Development. All residents and property owners within the City of Bellechester are encouraged to attend.