

McFarland City Council Minutes April 8th, 2024

At 6:00 pm, Mayor Ron Nehring called the regular monthly city council meeting to order with the following city council members present; Darrin Dillingham, Joel Green, Spencer Parker, Tom Dillingham, Lori Senne via “WhatsApp” and Superintendent Jeff Osif. Citizens attending the meeting were Jo Nehring, Joan Seitz, Scott Murray, Shawn Flach, Stephanie Imthurn, and Stanley Havenstein. Mayor Nehring asked everyone to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance. There were no questions or comments from the public.

In New Business; Stephanie Imthurn of Wabaunsee Co. Economic Development talked to the City Council about support for a mural. Wabaunsee Co. Historical Society would like to have a mural in each town. Stephanie has contacted Connie Havenstein co-owner of the property located at 221 Main Street about having a mural on the side of their building. If approved, artist Garret Lawson has quoted a price for the design shown to the city council. It’s the centennial design used on the belt buckle. The south wall of the building measures approx. 30 x 50 with a cost of \$9,000 for the painted design. The project would require matching donations such as power wash the wall, replace the plywood over the window, and basic wall prep for the project. Kansas Commerce could fund up to \$7,500 of the project. There is a deadline of May 10th to submit an application for funding or the project can wait until next year and submit the project then. City Council discussed the matter and is in agreement to support the project; Mayor Nehring commented that he would like to see McFarland out in the fore front on this project. Stephanie commented that two small grant applications could be filled out, one by the city and the other could come from TEAM. Jo Nehring representing TEAM commented that they could help out with a cash donation and would fill out an application and would help with the wall prep. City Council supports the idea whole heartedly.

Scott Murray of Paxico Ins. delivered to the city council the new insurance policy and explained the higher \$5,000 deductible premium for wind and hail damage. He also reported that a \$2,806 year-end dividend check has been sent to the city.

Mayor Nehring asked Superintendent Jeff Osif to give his monthly maintenance report:

Water: I have not had any issues at the water plant this month. Alexander Pump will be in contact about replacing the remaining galvanized piping at the water plant and provide an estimate for that project. They will also schedule routine maintenance with the city to acidize one of the city’s wells. Regarding the city’s inactive water well, it takes a certified engineer to oversee the project of bringing a well on-line. I have reached out to K-State both by phone and email about using an engineering student, and have not received a response. Larry and I opened up the well and it is 34 feet deep with the water column at 21 feet. The next step is the have the water tested.

Sewer: We were able to get the generator communicating with the lift station so that in case there is an electricity outage we will be prepared. The generator was sending the

wrong voltage to the lift station. This will be tested on a regular basis. There was no discharge from the lagoons. I will be starting weed control and mowing this week as well.

Retention Dam: If approved by the city council, I will have Darrin Meseke mow and remove the overgrowth of trees from within the fenced in area, including the south drainage ditch from Paw Paw Creek to Main Street for \$1,200 and the area north of the fence up to the land owners property line will cost \$800 to mow and clear trees. Afterwards the maintenance will be done by the city superintendent on a regular basis and be burned once a year.

Streets: I have reached out to the City Attorney Tim Liesmann and the city can have the repairs made to the culvert damage at Wheeler and E. Market Streets. Josh Hinch of Wabaunsee Co. Road & Bridge will get back with me when he can have a crew out here to cut the wing walls down to street level. Ron and I will complete the concrete work after that is done. Our goal is to get this all completed by May 7th, prior to court. I will be attending the court hearing with pictures. The Mayor and I have coordinated with TEAM McFarland to start trimming tree limbs. This is scheduled to start on April 28th and end on May 25th. Street crack repair will begin around April 15th; TEAM McFarland will help with the effort. A minimum of three persons is needed. The equipment and materials are ready to go. Shawn Flach of Fire Dist. No. 7 will help with the upcoming flushing the fire hydrants. Public will be notified of the dates as well as a notice at the Post Office.

Park: I received the “turn off circuit board” and replaced it early this month. It lasted one week and died again. Century Storm Siren came out and got it back up and running. He tested the backup batteries and they were dead and those were replaced. If that doesn’t fix the issue, the main circuit may have “solder” issues.

Gas: Nothing new.

Misc.: City-wide cleanup is scheduled for April 26th, 2024. The city will also have a 40 yard roll-off container behind City Hall for larger items. No hazardous waste will be accepted with the exceptions of paint in its original container. No tires, motor oil herbicides or other chemicals will not be accepted.

City Council heard discussion on the purchase of a used enclosed trailer for equipment. Jeff Osif shared several pictures of trailers and the prices associated with each. All were within the \$3,000 to \$4,000 range. Osif is asking for approval up to \$4,000 to get the trailer. Council Member Darrin Dillingham asked Osif about the old city truck once we get a trailer. Jeff commented that the city would sale the truck. City Council Member Tom Dillingham made a motion to spend up to \$4,000 (but not over) to get a 7’ x 12’ (and not smaller) trailer. Seconded by Spencer Parker, motion carried. Council Member Lori Senne voted no. Jeff Osif also commented that the sprayer needs something to haul it around. The city was using an ATV in the past.

The minutes of the previous meeting held on March 11th, 2024 were read. The Treasurer’s Report and monthly bills were reviewed. Council Member Joel Green made a motion to approve the minutes, treasurer’s report and pay monthly bills. Seconded by Lori Senne, motion carried with all voting yes.

In New Business; Bids for concrete floor at the sewer lift station were review by the city council. Two bids were received, one from Moreno Foundations for a 4 inch thick floor and the other from Jacob Havenstein for a 5 inch thick floor. City Council heard specifics on the details by each contractor. Council Member Darrin Dillingham made a motion to go with the 5 inch floor using the bid from Jacob Havenstein for \$7,250. Seconded by Spencer Parker, motion carried with all voting yes. Citizen Joan Seitz attended the meeting to ask the city council to consider amending its Dangerous Dog Ordinance. She has adopted a shelter dog and it's a pit bull, which is banned by the ordinance. Council Member Darrin Dillingham commented that there are other aggressive dogs in town that are not on the list of dogs banned. City Council heard in great length discussion on the dog's demeanor, possible certification from a dog trainer of the demeanor of the animal to possibly repealing or amending the ordinance. The matter is tabled until the Saturday May 20th work session to come up with language regarding the ordinance.

Jo Nehring of the McFarland TEAM commented that they will wait for a call from the city whenever they are ready for help on city projects. Jo discussed TEAMS service project grant applications that have been submitted to Stephanie Imthurn. Jo also discussed the grant for the scoreboard and another additional team wanting to use the ball field for practice games. Road side had ten volunteers to help clean up along K-185 and has been extended down to Red Fox Road. June is rummage sale month. Jeff Osif commented that he would have the restrooms open for the ball games.

Under Property Concerns; Compliance Officer Lori Senne commented on non-compliance issues and letters sent to 307 Main St., 221 Agnes, 203 Magnolia St., and 607 Main St. Superintendent Jeff Osif was asked to take pictures of progress or lack of at property located 203 Magnolia. Mayor Ron Nehring said that he had spoken with the owner of the Magnolia property and asked for communication between both parties. City Council heard good comments made on the progress at 221 Agnes property and house.

Mayor Nehring commented that at the next "work session" they would discuss long term goals such as working on the north drainage ditch running alongside of Toredens' house to include widening the ditch and using rip rap rock on the sides. Also on the work session agenda will be clothing allowance for city employees.

At 7:50 pm, Council Member Tom Dillingham made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Spencer Parker, motion carried with all voting yes.

Larry Senne
City Clerk

