

McFarland City Council Minutes March 11th, 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, Lori Senne, Spencer Parker, Tom Dillingham and Superintendent Jeff Osif. Citizens attending the meeting were Jo Nehring, John Walker and Avery Trecek. Mayor Nehring asked everyone to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Nehring opened the meeting with questions or comments from the public. Jo Nehring representing TEAM McFarland gave an update on the rummage sale on June 7th & 8th to coincide with the Alma city- wide garage sales. Will be submitting documents signed by the Mayor regarding “First Impressions” to K-State Research & Extension. Road side cleanup along K-185 will take place on a Saturday sometime in April. Jo also requested that the city to consider the parking spaces out front of the Senior Center, which needs graveling. Mayor Nehring commented that the city could use some of the millings it has to cover parking alongside Main Street in front of the Senior Center. City Clerk reported there was one municipal court case this month on the 19th, Tony Morway’s inoperable vehicle.

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

Water: I have rebuilt several chlorine and aqua mag pumps and have set up a quarterly maintenance schedule to rebuild and replace the pumps as needed. Purchased rock salt and a 55 gallon barrel of chlorine. I reached out again to KDH & E and was directed to Dan Clair, Chief Engineering and Permits Unit. He emailed the process of adding a new well and one of the first steps is securing the services of a professional engineer licensed with the State of Kansas to oversee the project. I attended a seminar in Beloit, KS on ground water and waste water.

Sewer: Spent several hours with Brian from KRW (Kansas Rural Water) and we went over the entire operation of the lift station. The floats have been cleaned off last week and set up a bi-weekly maintenance schedule to keep them clean. There is minimal standing grease in the lift station well. Brian and I also walked the lagoons, he suggested that we empty the third cell on or about the first week of January every year and let it fill up over the summer. That way we would only have to test the discharge water once a year each January and not have any concerns of discharges other than a large rain event. There has been no discharge this month from the lagoons.

Retention Dam: Tom Dillingham, Ron Nehring and I made a visit up to the retention dam to view maintenance issues. The trash rack is overgrown and retaining water and is in serious need of cleaning out of the brush. Will start working on it this week. The forestry dump has been burned this week.

Streets: The city had no sealed bids to repair the culvert damage at E. Market & Wheeler streets, so I reached out to Moreno Foundations and they provided a bid to repair damages to the wing walls. We have two bids for a lift to be used for trimming trees. One from Equipment Share and the other from United Rental. They both range from \$1,400 to \$1,500 a week to rent or \$2,500 for the month. I recommend that we do

the month long to give Ron and I enough time to get volunteers from TEAM McFarland to help. I recommend that we go with Equipment Share, it is cheaper and they provide the insurance.

Park: The computer board has arrived for the storm siren and been installed in the unit and all is working well. When the City has the lift in town, we will test the batteries in the unit to see if any or all would need replacing.

The minutes of the previous meeting held on Feb. 12th, 2024 were read. Council Member Lori Senne made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Seconded by Joel Green, motion carried with all voting yes. The Treasurer's Report was reviewed. Council Member Lori Senne made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report. Seconded by Tom Dillingham, motion carried with all voting yes. The monthly bills were reviewed. Council Member Darrin Dillingham made a motion to pay the bills as presented. Seconded by Spencer Parker, motion carried with all voting yes.

In Old Business; Mayor Nehring reported that there were no updates on the RV park, and asked that the Superintendent get ahold of Alexander Pump for a quote on replacing the galvanized piping at the water plant.

In New Business; The City Council heard discussion on the recommendation from Josh Hinch with Wabaunsee Co. Road & Bridge to cut off the top of the wing wall level with the street at E. Market St. and Wheeler St., and then pin and cap the concrete. We could then install reflective posts on each end of the culvert delineating the edge of the street. It was also discussed doing the same on E. Second St. at the entrance to the sewer lift station. Council Member Tom Dillingham stated that this wing wall should be left alone citing 5 -to -6 feet drop off in the drainage ditch. Also in new business, Mayor Nehring presented a plumbing permit from Frank's Plumbing for approval. Council Member Tom Dillingham made a motion to approve the plumbing license from Frank's. Seconded by Darrin Dillingham, motion carried with all voting yes.

Citizen Avery Trecek asked to be on the agenda to discuss a non-compliance letter he received. Compliance Officer Lori Senne commented that the letter was on the vehicle up on concrete blocks without wheels, and passed a photo of the car in the back of the alley for council members to view. Avery stated that this racing car is his hobby car and explained why it is up on blocks due to the expensive tires that are sensitive to cold weather which can damage the tires. City Council heard discussion on the safety issues of a car up on blocks. Avery said that the cribbing under each wheel is very secure and once the weather is warmer the tires can go back on. Both Council Members Tom Dillingham and Lori Senne had no issues with the seasonal condition preventing the tires from being on the car. Avery stated that he had no room in his garage to store the car as it was used for his business equipment and supplies. Council Member Spencer Parker commented that it was a slippery slope having a car up on blocks. Council Member Lori Senne suggested tabling the matter for 30 days giving council members time to further investigate the car. No action taken at this time.

Superintendent Jeff Osif recommended a concrete floor inside the lift station. Upon review of past records, the temperatures can get upwards of 135 degrees, and the station needs to be climate controlled starting with a concrete floor. Mayor Ron

Nehring asked to save this topic for discussion at this months “Work Session” being held on March 16th at City Hall from 8 am to 12 pm. Jeff commented that he would place an ad in the newspaper for sealed bids for the concrete floor in the lift station and table this until the meeting on Saturday.

Under Property Concerns; Compliance Officer Lori Senne reported that letters have been mailed out to both property owners Tornado and Lannan requesting that they both attend this month’s meeting, neither has showed up. Non-Compliance letters have been mailed to the following properties; Bayless, Abrams, Gleue, Beavers and Ricky Smith. Pictures of these properties were passed to city council members to view; most have had a 30 day extension on their non-compliance issues. Lori asked the city council how they wanted to proceed on these non-compliant cases. Mayor Nehring said that he would reach out to all of them and discuss their violations, no action taken at this time.

City Clerk reported that the dog clinic has been set for March 26th, 2024 at the fire station from 4 – 6 pm. A reminder the work session meeting is set for March 16th, at 8 am. Spring Cleanup date is pending, Waste Management has provided free delivery of a 40 yard roll off and the rate of \$235 if the city chooses to use this to help citizens dispose of larger items.

Council Member Tom Dillingham asked if there was anything new to report on replacing the gas line under the trailer court. Mayor Nehring reported that Michael Slobodnik reported once Alma has finished up with the gas line project they are working on, they will do McFarland’s gas line project. Tom also commented on re-sloping the south drainage ditch for maintenance and drainage purposes. It was also noted that the retention dam needs to be burned this year.

At 7:20 pm, Council Member Lori Senne made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Joel Green, motion carried with all voting yes.

Larry Senne
City Clerk