

McFarland City Council Minutes October 14th, 2024

The regular monthly meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm by Council President Lori Senne with the following city council members present, Darrin Dillingham, Joel Green and Spencer Parker. Mayor Ron Nehring was absent. City officials present were City Clerk Larry Senne, City Treasurer Tracy Logan, and City Superintendent Jeff Osif. Public attending the meeting were Avery Trecek and Matt Steele. Everyone stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Council President Lori Senne opened the meeting with comments or questions from the public. There were none. Compliance officer Lori Senne reported the municipal court case with property owner at 607 Main Street had complied and the case has been dropped. City Clerk reported the municipal court case involving Mike Newton has been dropped as he has complied in getting his dog vaccinated and purchasing a tag.

City Superintendent Jeff Osif gave his monthly maintenance report.

Gas: Nothing new. Council Member Lori Senne asked about the gas line replacement project at the trailer park. Osif replied that Michael Slobodnik had indicated sometime mid-October, as he needed time to schedule it in their work plans. Jeff to reach out for an update on the project.

Water: All is well with the water plant, not issues. We will be draining the water tower sometime in the first week or two for maintenance on the tower. Utility Service Co. will be installing a new overflow down spout pipe from the top to just short of the base of the tower, as required per our last inspection regulations. Where the brackets are welded to the tower, the inside will need to be cleaned and repainted. Notices will be at the post office and on next month's utility bills. Water service will come from the clear well tank at the water plant, conservation efforts would be expected at this time from the public.

Sewer: All is well with the lift station. Insulation has been sprayed on the walls and is working well in maintaining the temperature. The temperature has not been fluctuating much during the cold mornings and highs in the afternoon.

Retention Dam: We will be cleaning out the trash rack and spillway this week. I will be using help in hauling the brush and trees out of the bowl of the dam to be taken to the forestry dump.

Streets: Crack sealing is still on going, trying to find people to help. We are finding more wide cracks and need to fill them up with sand just below the surface and then seal the crack. Council member Lori Senne asked if the signs had been put up. Jeff replied not yet, one will be going up on the school bus sign on W. Market Street.

Park: Nothing new.

Equipment: The four cameras ordered are due in this week. They will be installed on Main Street as we come into town on the corner of West Market and Main Street, on Market as you come into town and the other in the park. While approved to purchase a utility vehicle, we have held off on making the purchase this year until after the first of next year due to spending was budgeted for this purchase was for a 2025 expenditure.

Misc.: We had one locate this month. I have a couple of places yet to mow for the last time so as all looks good during the winter months. We have hired a 16 year old to help out on a "as needed basis" for labor only; he won't be operating any equipment.

The minutes of the previous meeting held on September 9th, 2024 were read. Council member Darrin Dillingham made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Seconded by Spencer Parker, motion carried with all voting yes. The monthly treasurer's report was reviewed. City Clerk commented on the report that 69 per cent of the general fund budget had been spent and the remaining budgets for all utility funds looked good as well coming into the 4th quarter of the year. Council member Darrin Dillingham made a motion to approve the report. Seconded by Joel Green, motion carried with all voting yes. The monthly bills were reviewed. Council member Joel Green made a motion to pay the bills presented. Seconded by Spencer Parker, motion carried with all voting yes.

In Old Business; City council reviewed the current penalty section of the current Dog Ordinance No. 262 for possible changes. It was agreed to make no changes to the ordinance. ***The penalty section states that if said tax is not paid within 30 days from the date such tax is due the fee shall be \$20.00 for each dog. For each day after the 30 days the fee shall increase by \$1.00 per day until paid. Said 30 day time shall not be considered a grace period or defense concerning a violation of the provisions of this ordinance. The total fine should not exceed \$125.00, passed and approved on July 12th, 2018.***

Superintendent Jeff Osif reported on his trip to Kansas City to look at "Snowdog" snow plows from American Equipment Co. City council heard quotes on two snowplows for the city truck. A quote of \$7,372 for a heavy duty 7' 5" easy mount snowplow and a quote of \$8,012 for a medium duty snowplow designed for smaller truck and cities. Jeff also commented there is a comparable plow called the "Boss" for \$8,084. The plows come with a 2 year warranty and they will install it, about a day process. After further discussion and reviewing the invoice quotes, council member Darrin Dillingham made a motion to approve the purchase of the "Boss Snowdog" snowplow for \$8,084 with the quick easy attachment and snow wings. Seconded by Spencer Parker, motion carried with all voting yes.

In New Business; City council heard from Matt Steele on his Engineering and Environmental Consulting Services proposal for technical assistance for city water and wastewater infrastructure to help in the process of bringing water well No. 5 on line as required by KDH & E. Matt reported to the city council in doing his research for the project the Legislature has put together an 80 million dollar grant package covering multiple years and discussed the data that they are looking for in applying for these grants. The goal is to get grant money to pay for all items in the proposal citing growth up to 50 more houses as the limit for services being provided by the infrastructure. The areas of concern are water rights, water treatment and system infrastructure, storage capacity and wastewater treatment capacity and finding out those "limits" Matt stated that writing up a discrepancy in providing services can cover 50 to 100 percent of engineering costs. City council heard discussion on performing a current LMI study and getting ready by September and putting together a report in August. The report would be submitted to all grants, stating that there is money available for the project. Council member Lori Senne asked Matt Steele to discuss his engineering fee, he commented that his fees are without budgets and he is flexible on payment and arrangements. In closing

Matt said he would be on the lookout for areas having money and grants and when the city is ready to move forward to give him notice. The best thing is to be ready in advance of the open grants. No council members had any further questions. Lori commented that they would discuss this further in the next work session on Monday October 21st, 2024. Also in new business city clerk commented that there were two variations of examples of ATV / UTV ordinances for consideration by the city council to review, keep what they like and discard what they don't like about the ordinances and discuss it at their next work session. City Attorney Tim Liesmann at the previous city council meeting suggested that the city have in place an ordinance addressing ATV / UTV ahead of purchasing its own.

Under Property Concerns; Council member Lori Senne asked about sidewalk replacement on the north side of the Lutheran Church, if the city would consider paying half of the cost of replacement of the sidewalk from the corner on Main Street to the alley, and the Lutheran Church to pay the other half of replacement cost. City council agreed to table the matter to the next work session and meeting. Compliance Officer Lori Senne passed photos of non-compliant properties currently being addressed for viewing. A citizen's complaint was read siting snakes and rats coming from that property for further action by the city to address these concerns. Lori also stated that the city would be starting all over again with non-compliant issues on 221 Agnes in municipal court. City council heard discussion on who is responsible for making repairs to the concrete driveway at the fire station and if that was in the current lease with Fire Dist. No. 7, council member Lori Senne said that she would check into the matter as she was asked by a citizen about the spalling concrete.

At 7:10 pm, Council member Joel Green made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Spencer Parker, motion carried with all voting yes.

Larry Senne
City Clerk