

August 7, 2023

The regular meeting of the city council was called to order by Mayor David Witucki. Council members present were Tom Boeck, KC Reuter, and Tiffany Sevcik. Gina Massop was not present. Also present were Don Wolters, Patty Smith, Tamara Dicks-Maple River Messenger, Rep Bjorn Olson, Bruce Ward and Carol Herden.

Everyone stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes: A motion was made by Reuter and 2nd by Sevcik to approve the minutes of the July 10, 2023, meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Bills: A motion was made by Reuter and 2nd by Boeck to approve the bills.

City of Amboy Check 11066 – 11131 & EFT's 813E-820E \$100,832.01

Smith had no additional bills. Motion carried unanimously.

RO Update: No one from SEH attended the meeting. The VFD's were delivered on July 31, 2023. The engineers and construction company were told that day. No restart of construction schedule has been given. Council will probably not approve another extension.

District 22 A Rep: Bjorn Olson introduced himself to council. The districts were restructured after the 2020 census, and he is our representative. Olson is on the transportations committee and would be a useful source if the city needs street projects or other funding. He has helped other communities like Madelia and Vernon Center receive funds. It would be a process and take 2 -3 years. Olson also serves on the tax and veterans committee. Boeck asked about solar panels and Witucki asked about public smoking of marijuana, Olson said to email him, and he can give us more information.

Nixle Messaging: Only 60 people have signed up for the messaging service this past year. We have sent about 25 messages. The renewal is \$3700.00. Discussion was held and with the low usage, it will be discontinued. Smith will send out 2 more messages, reminding residents that it will be ending and to watch for updates/information on the city website. A motion was made by Reuter and 2nd by Boeck to discontinue Nixle Messaging Service. Motion carried unanimously.

Resolution 2023 – 5 Fire Department on Alcohol Sale: A motion was made by Boeck and 2nd by Sevcik to approve Resolution 2023-5 On Sale Liquor License for Amboy Fire Relief during Amboy City Celebration. Motion carried unanimously.

Resolution 2023 – 6 Fire Department Charitable Gambling: A motion was made by Reuter and 2nd by Boeck to approve Resolution 2023 – 6 Charitable Gambling for Amboy Fire Relief during Amboy City Celebration. Motion carried unanimously.

Resolution 2023 – 7 Snowbirds Charitable Gambling Waiver: A motion was made by Boeck and 2nd by Reuter to approve Resolution 2023 – 7 Snowbirds 30-day waiver for their annual raffle to start selling tickets for the raffle on February 18, 2024. Motion carried unanimously.

Zoning Permit: Trailside Sports, 217 Maine Street E submitted a zoning permit to move a utility shed 10'x12' on to the property. It will be on the east side of building. A motion was made by Reuter and 2nd by Boeck to approve if setbacks are met. Motion carried unanimously. Nicholas Devens, 300 2nd Ave S submitted a zoning permit application for patio pavers and backyard privacy fence. The fence will be 6' high. A motion was made by Boeck and 2nd by Sevcik to approve the patio pavers and backyard fence if setbacks are met. Motion carried unanimously.

Community Club: Carol Herden presented to the council ideas for the new park by recreational area. Herden received grant money and has made a life size cow, 4'x4'x8'. This cow would be placed in the park with a plaque behind it telling the Red Cow story. Herden also proposed bringing in bunker walls, 10' x 5' that would be painted with a mural about Amboy. Herden would like the school bell moved closer to the school monument so the cow could be placed where bell is currently. Discussion was held, council likes the cow to represent Amboy and would be okay with moving the bell closer to the school monument. They did not want the bunker walls to block people from watching people using the recreational area. The bunker wall could be on the south side. The recreational area is not completed. The city is still waiting for the court to be painted and the outside around the court to be finished. A motion was made by Boeck and 2nd by Reuter to temporarily bring in the Red Cow for the Amboy City celebration. An informational area will be there to show proposals to residents. Motion carried unanimously. There was also discussion on using part of the new park for a veteran's memorial area. It would be east of the cow. Council may also wait to put in sidewalk as more plans are proposed for the new park area.

Reports: Reports were received from public works, fire department and police department. Smoke testing was completed on July 25. Wolters spoke to residents that had smoke issues, most of the repairs needed are a simple fix. Smith will work with Wolters to send letters to the owners with I & I issues, so we can show MPCA we are continuing to work on I & I. Wolters will be taking his Water D test on August 9. The Mapleton police will have a 3% increase in 2024, council said this is okay.

Budget 2024: First look at the 2024 budget, it is currently at an 8.1% levy increase. Need to cut back \$18,000.00 to have levy at 3%. Not using Nixle will save \$3000.00. We could also transfer less into the water department. Reuter suggested less in sidewalks as we may hold off on sidewalk by recreational area in 2024. Boeck asked about the LGA; it may be higher; Smith will have better numbers later this month. The sewer/water committee met earlier and needed repairs at the WWTP should be done in 2 years unless we can receive grant money. Smith will ask Carson. If no extra funding is available, the first phase would be \$51,000.00 in 2024 and \$86,000.00 in 2025. We should televise again in 2024 our sewer lines; Smith will look at getting more bids before deciding how much to do each year. If council has any other suggestions, please let Smith know by end of August, as the September budget will need to be submitted to the State.

Open Comment: Palmer Bus Company invited the council to their open house on Thursday, August 10 from 3:30 – 7:00 PM.

Miscellaneous: Amboy Days is September 9 with parade at 4:00 PM and dunk tank with Mayor Witucki at noon. Next council meeting is Tuesday, September 5.

A motion was made by Reuter and 2nd by Boeck to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously.

David Witucki, Mayor

Council

ATTEST:

Patty Smith, Administrator, Clerk-Treasurer