

January 2, 2024

The regular meeting of the city council was called to order by Mayor Dave Witucki. Council members present were Tom Boeck, Tiffany Sevcik, Gina Massop and KC Reuter. Also, present were Patty Smith, Bruce Ward, Maria McCarty-SEH and Koni Preston-Maple River Messenger. Don Wolters was absent.

Everyone stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes: A motion was made by Boeck and 2nd by Reuter to approve the minutes of the December 11, 2023, meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Bills: Witucki asked about chemicals from Hawkins; they are for the RO system and not included in the contract. The antiscalant is from H2O and not billed yet. A motion was made by Boeck and 2nd by Massop to approve the bills.

City of Amboy 11299 – 11378 & EFT's 852E-863E \$167,740.61

Smith had no additional bills. Motion carried unanimously.

RO System: Maria McCarty informed council the reverse osmosis system ran today with no issues. Will be starting it on Wednesday, January 3 for the trial period. They are recommending we run the full 30 days/4 weeks before dismantling our current system. Our next council meeting is February 5, decision can be made on that date. The last completion date was January 5, 2024; contractor has given a new completion date and SEH is checking it over before submitting it to the council. It could be April 2024 for final completion.

Tom Madden with SEH was unable to attend meeting, did submit to Smith a contract amendment for an additional \$12,000.00 for SEH due to the contractor having not completed their work to start the RO in December as expected. Madden suggests deducting from the contractor's payment. Council asked SEH why they don't bill the contractor directly. The contractor has a contract with the City and SEH has a contract with the city (they represent us). SEH has no contract with them. Council also asked why SEH is not responsible for some of these delays (like missing VFD's to make RO run). Maria deferred this to having Tom Madden explain better at our February meeting. The original contract with SEH ran over a year longer and that is part of the reason they are requesting more money.

The painting of the back outside wall cannot be done by final completion. There is also grading to be done by the contractor. The seeding will be done by the city. Maria said it could either extend the completion date or add it to the punch list when the city and engineers go through final inspection.

Witucki is concerned the contractor will walk away from project; we have withheld the allowed 5% and Witucki does not think they will come back and finish for the additional \$75,000.00. Smith will have city attorney look at information/contract submitted by SEH.

A pay application for \$87,706.43 was submitted. A motion was made by Reuter and 2nd by Boeck to approve pay application 22-830-00018 for \$87,706.43. Motion carried unanimously. Smith had question on grains of hardness. Witucki had the formula; if the city is sending out water softened to 100 divide by 17.6 will give you 5 grains of hardness.

Approve Committees and Other Designations: A motion was made by Boeck and 2nd by Reuter to approve the committees and bank (same as 2023) and IRS mileage to \$0.67 for 2024. Motion carried unanimously.

Council 2024 Schedule: Witucki has some work conflicts that will need some months to be set for the 2nd Monday of the month. March – June will be the 2nd Monday of the month instead of the 1st Monday of the month. July may be changed; it will be discussed at the June meeting. A motion was made by Boeck and 2nd by Reuter to approve the council 2024 meeting schedule. Motion carried unanimously.

Pay Equity Report: Every 3 years the state requires you to evaluate the pay to make sure it is fair. With only 2 employees the state does not look at the total wage, only the points assigned to make sure we are in compliance.

Smith used the MN State Point Rating system that we have used since 2015. The report was submitted to the state and will be posted at city hall for the required days. A motion was made by Boeck and 2nd by Massop to approve the Pay Equity Report for 2024. Motion carried unanimously.

Sport Court Painting: Three companies were contacted to submit bids for the painting of sport court/recreational area. Received 2 bids – Surface Pro-\$23,000.00 and C & H Sport Surface - \$16,995.00. A motion was made by Massop and 2nd by Sevcik to approve the bid from C & H Sport Surface for \$16,995.00 Motion carried unanimously.

Zoning: Casey’s Retail Company submitted a zoning permit application to change the signage at the store. A motion was made by Reuter and 2nd by Boeck to approve the application for signage. Motion carried unanimously.

Reports: Only report submitted was from public works. Witucki said the landscaping and structure changes made by Wolters at the Wastewater plant are a vast improvement needed for the safety of employees and to keep ice out of building. The electrical work will be finished soon also to make it OSHA compliant.

Income Level for Reduced Sewer & Garbage: The current rate is \$19,000.00 and was updated in 2021. Discussion was held and a motion was made by Boeck and 2nd by Massop to increase the income level to \$21,000.00 and to evaluate it every year. Motion carried unanimously.

Open Comment: Reuter would like the city to continue to work with the contractor and keep in good standing with Joseph’s Company; Witucki agreed also. Witucki asked council to have a 2nd public works employee at 32 hours per week; the city needs to think about the 5-year plan for employees and the training needed.

Miscellaneous: Audit with Abdo on January 8 and 9 and next council February 5, 2024

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

Mayor, David Witucki

Council

ATTEST:

Patty Smith, Administrator, Clerk-Treasurer