

January 3, 2023

The regular meeting of the city council was called to order by Mayor Dave Witucki. Council members present were Tom Boeck, KC Reuter and Tiffany Sevcik. Absent was Gina Massop and Don Wolters. Also present was Patty Smith.

Everyone stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Swearing in of Elected Officials:** Smith swore in re-elected Mayor Dave Witucki and Witucki swore in Tom Boeck and newly elected Tiffany Sevcik.

**Minutes:** A motion was made by Reuter and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Boeck to approve the minutes of the December 5, 2022, meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

**Bills:** A motion was made by Boeck and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Reuter to approve the bills.

City of Amboy	Check 10699 – 10782 & EFT's 763E – 770E	\$401,919.84
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Smith had one additional bill from League of MN Cities for \$26,066.00. Motion carried unanimously.

**RO System:** Maria McCarty joined the meeting on speaker phone. Painting of the walls should start on Wednesday afternoon and the high service pump should arrive this week. Discussion was held on the letter sent by Tom Madden to Joseph Company. The letter states in the contract that Joseph Company was to bid a fully operational Reverse Osmosis system. If they did not order/bid enough VFD's to complete the project, it is their responsibility to have them ordered and pay the extra costs. Council asked Maria what the difference is between this issue and change order 7 that will be all the city's expense. Maria explained the missing VFD's required to complete the project are the contractor's error in not bidding the project that would be fully operational. Change order 7 is an upgrade of motor that was bid on project. The manufacturer of the motor recommends a 5-horse motor, not a 3-horse motor that was originally bid, so this is a change. Boeck questioned the change order amount; is it for a full price of the 5-horse motor or did we get a credit for the 3 horse already in the bid. Maria said it should be just the difference in price; she will confirm and get back to Smith. Council asked about the ventilation and heating in the chloride and hydrochloric acid rooms. Maria said it looks like all the small rooms have a separate small heater in them. Maria will confirm the ventilation and let Smith know. The existing hanging heater will be used for the shop area, and they will be putting another heater in the RO rooms. There is duct work for all that area. Dehumidifiers were included in the bid; Maria will confirm with Smith where they will be placed at the next construction meeting on January 5 at 9:00 AM. A pay request 22-830-00009 for \$20,330.00 was presented to council. A motion was made by Boeck and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Reuter to pay the request. Motion carried unanimously. SEH recommends to the council to approve change order 7; it is a separate issue than the letter sent to Joseph Company on the needed equipment to complete the project. A motion was made by Boeck and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Reuter to approve Change Order 7 for \$6,032.24. Motion carried unanimously. Maria has let the Dept of Health know that the project is behind; they are okay with that as long as we keep them notified of the delays. They understand that there have been issues with many projects in getting the required material to complete the projects. There were no other questions for Maria and the phone call was ended.

Council is very disappointed in the work we have been receiving from SEH. There seems to be many changes to this Reverse Osmosis system that should have been taken care of by the engineers earlier on in the process. Joseph Company did give the council a proposal to "Remove furnishing and installing the sealer on existing and new concrete floor from the contract" for a credit of \$9,103.50. A motion was made by Boeck and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Reuter to approve this proposal. The city will do the work themselves after the project is completed.

**Approve Committees and Other Designations:**

After some discussion these are the councilmembers assignments for the 2023 year.

Official Paper: Maple River Messenger	Acting Mayor: Tom Boeck
Water and Sewer Committee: Witucki & Boeck	Fire Dept Committee: Reuter & Massop
Employee Committee: Witucki & Massop	Sidewalk & Park Committee: Reuter & Sevcik
Audit Committee: The Entire Council	Official Depositories: Community Bank
Police Commission: Boeck & Sevcik	Mileage Paid for 2023: IRS set at 0.655 cents

A motion was made by Boeck and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Sevcik to approve the assignments and designations for 2023. Motion carried unanimously.

**Council 2023 Meeting Schedule:** Most meeting will be on the first Monday of the month with 2 adjustments for 4<sup>th</sup> of July (second Monday) and Labor Day holidays (first Tuesday). Meetings will begin at 7:00 PM.

**Recreational Area Bid:** Only one bid was received; Smith had sent a request to 4 companies and published in Maple River Messenger. The bid received was from Nielsen Blacktopping for \$134,295.00. Council did not accept this bid. Boeck made a motion to accept Nielsen Blacktopping as our contractor for this project and the Park Committee will meet with Nielsen to discuss building options and request another bid. Motion was seconded by Sevcik, and motion carried unanimously. Reuter will contact Nielsen to discuss the recreational area.

**Reports:** Reports were received from public works, fire department and police department. Wolters was not at meeting as he was plowing snow. We did receive an estimate from D&K to repair the transmission on the city pickup for \$4180.00. The new truck is ordered but it will be 9 months before we receive it. Discussion was held; we use the pickup daily, not just for plowing snow. To drive around in the tractor instead of the pickup for 9 months is not a solution. Even though the pickup is 20 years old, it could still be used by the city when we receive the new pickup. A motion was made by Reuter and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Sevcik to approve the transmission repair for the pickup. Motion carried unanimously. An MPCA approved digest oxygen meter is needed at the WWTP; the previous one purchased in 2020 is not approved by MPCA. An approved meter has been ordered. We will have more repairs to do at the WWTP, will be waiting for spring to receive estimates on what repairs should be done next to keep the plant operational.

**Income Level for Reduced Sewer & Garbage:** The current annual income is \$19,000.00. It was increased in 2022. Council will leave it at \$19,000.00 for 2023.

**Open Comment:** Boeck would like us to ask Benco about having solar panels on part of the school property. Smith will ask Benco to see if it is an option for the City of Amboy. Smith gave the council a letter, Region 9 is looking for someone to fill a vacancy; if someone would like to do it, they can contact Region 9. Boeck invited the council to attend the annual meeting of the Maple River Chamber of Commerce on January 23 at Maggie J's. Boeck is a member, and the chamber is a good source in promoting and helping businesses and projects in the Maple River area. Witucki asked about any polices we have with the fire department on who appoints the chief and a no alcohol policy. Reuter will check with fire department and let the mayor know. Reuter asked about the "no dig" area on the school property; could that be made into an area where we can plant trees, have wildflowers. It would be a good use of the land.

A motion was made by Boeck and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Reuter to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

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Dave Witucki, Mayor

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Council

ATTEST:

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Patty Smith, Administrator, Clerk-Treasurer