

November 6, 2023

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

Everyone stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance

Minutes: A motion was made by Reuter and 2nd by Massop to approve the minutes of the October 9, 2023, meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

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

City of Amboy	11210 – 11257 & EFT's 837E – 844E	\$189,909.64
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Smith had an additional bill from Nielsen Blacktopping for Recreational Area \$90,995.00. Motion carried unanimously. The surface of recreational area still needs to be painted, Smith will get bids, so court can be painted in the spring.

Regular meeting was closed for Public Hearing

Public Hearing Unpaid Utility Bills and other bills due city: Discussion was held with resident on the amount owed for clean up of property. Original bill was \$480.62, Wolters, Smith and resident discussed in July and reduced it to \$315.22. No payment has been received from resident. Utility billing is also delinquent with inconsistent payments received. With inconsistent payments, water would be shut off; if put on taxes, water will be left on as city will collect past due when taxes are paid in May and October 2024. Wolters offered to pay \$50.00 towards clean up costs. Resident agreed and left the meeting.

Public Hearing was closed, and regular meeting was opened, and a motion was made by Massop and 2nd by Sevcik to put the 4 residents that are delinquent onto the property tax rolls. Motion carried unanimously.

Regular meeting was closed for Public Hearing

Public Hearing Ordinance Prohibiting Cannabis Use within Public Property: No comments from the public. Public Hearing was closed, and regular meeting was opened.

Ordinance No 130.10 Prohibiting Cannabis Use within Public Property: A motion was made by Reuter and 2nd by Massop to pass Ordinance 130.10 Prohibiting Cannabis Use within Public Property. Motion carried unanimously. Ordinance will be active once it is published.

RO Update: No pay requests or change orders were received. The reverse osmosis system should be online December 4, 2023. All outside connections have been completed. Council asked Smith 2 questions for engineers; When running anything to watch for in smell, color, or taste of water and when can residents stop using water softeners? PSIG grant was approved for the additional \$110,000.00 that was not in the original contract, which will still be an 80/20 split.

City Whistle: Surveys were sent to all residents (270) and received 80. The breakdown is 7:00 (54), 12:00 (55), 6:00 (55), 9:00 (46), No (22). Many did request to have the whistle shortened if possible. Council discussed with Sevcik and Massop wanting to have less whistle blowing times, no 7 AM or 9 PM and Reuter and Boeck wanting to keep since that is what majority of residents said to do. A motion was made by Massop to table city whistle; no second, motion failed. A motion was made by Reuter to keep the whistle as it currently stands; no second, motion failed. No decision was made.

APPROVAL OF TOBACCO LICENSE & 3.2 BEER LICENSE FOR CASEY'S: A motion was made by Reuter and 2nd by Sevcik to approve the 3.2 License, motion carried unanimously. A motion was made by Reuter and 2nd by Massop to approve the tobacco license, motion carried unanimously.

Zoning: Deb Glickman, 130 4th Ave, submitted an application for a backyard fence. The fence was installed before the application was approved. Planning Commission did not approve as fence does not meet setbacks. Fence on north side is on property line and fence on south side is too close to property line. Council agreed with planning commission and letter will be sent that the sides of fence need to be moved. A motion was made by Reuter and 2nd by Sevcik to deny the application. Motion carried unanimously.

Jamie Rose, 400 North Street E, submitted an application for a storage shed. A motion was made by Reuter and 2nd by Massop to approve the storage shed if all setbacks are met. Motion carried unanimously.

Reports: Fire department, police department and public works reports were received. Water tower inside cleaning was done this week. Getting ready for winter, new plow for new truck was installed. Payloader is inside and may need new batteries. Council asked Wolters to have red tractor accessible, if we need to widen streets from snow it is available. Garage door on east side of shop needs repair. Overhead door estimate is \$4777.00. Wolters will order new track and repair instead of a new door.

PERSONNEL POLICY UPDATES: Earned Sick and Safe Time has been updated to include the extra people and reasons that you may use sick/safe time, for domestic abuse and work closures. Part-time will earn 1 hour for every 30 hours worked and maximum days to keep was changed from 30 days to 40 days. A motion was made by Massop and 2nd by Reuter to update the Sick time to Sick and Safe Time Leave to be in compliance with MN sick and safe leave, effective January 1, 2024, and to increase the total accumulation of days from 30 to 40 days

and to add part-time employees to receive sick and safe benefits according to MN law. Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion was held on adding the Columbus/Indigenous holiday to our holiday schedule. This holiday is optional not mandated like the other 10 federal/state government have approved. Reuter said it would be okay to add; Massop said 10 holidays a year is generous, and we do not need additional. As a small city it is not needed. Boeck asked for a motion. Reuter made a motion and 2nd by Sevcik that 10 days is okay and will not make a change to our holiday schedule at this time and will look at it again in 2024. Motion carried unanimously.

LJP Rate Increase: LJP contract is increasing garbage and recycling rates by 4.3 percent for 2024. A motion was made by Massop and 2nd by Reuter to approve Resolution 2023 – 11 Increasing Garbage and Recycling rates in 2024. Motion carried unanimously.

Open Comment: Wolters spoke to council on holidays. Even though we have 10 holidays in a year, the employees still need to go to the water and wastewater department daily to read meters and make sure plants are working properly. We split the schedule which only gives us 5 whole days off for holiday, not 10.

Smith has new website ready at amboymn.com There are still areas to be added, it is currently live, and residents will be notified in the December newsletter.

Miscellaneous: Next council meeting will be on December 11, 2024.

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

Tom Boeck, Acting Mayor

Council

ATTEST:

Patty Smith, Administrator, Clerk-Treasurer