

## City of Hadley Minutes

9 November, 2020

Present: Rick Like, Bonnie Peterson, Henry Veldhuisen, Nick Pieske, John Brouwer, Myron Bennett, Judy LaBoda, Riley Engbarth

Meeting was called to order by Mayor Like at 6:30pm

Welcome Guests: Kelsey Waltz - SEH Representative, Merlyn Anderson - City Attorney, Dean Larson, Gaylen Jensen

Approval of October Minutes: Minutes are approved

Review of Liquor Fund: Nick questioned how long we have had ATM in the liquor store and the consensus was 4 years. He would be interested in seeing a report showing the deposits/revenue generated from the ATM since its inception – Judy and Riley will work on generating the data for review at our December meeting. John questioned what items fall under the fund classification of “food purchases-other” and Myron mentioned that this line item is most likely pizza’s. The fund was approved.

Review of General Fund: A portion of the city’s property taxes were received during the month of October and have been deposited. With no questions, the fund was approved.

Review of Water/Sewer Fund: With a gap in utility billing, Bonnie mentioned that she paid for 2 months of utilities this past month as she was unsure of the amount outstanding. Judy briefly discussed the glitches we are experiencing when reading the water meters, she is working with a representative at Ferguson Waterworks to resolve current issues. Theresa Hughes’ prior tenant called concerned that she owed for the past due utilities billed to Theresa, however this is not correct as the property owner is responsible for the outstanding balance. Judy and Riley are working with Heidi on getting this balance added to Theresa’s property taxes due in 2021. Judy will attempt to contact Debra Lee and Brittany Skillings by phone regarding their past-due utility balances, in an attempt to collect payment. Tim Bengtson of Tim’s Plumbing & Heating has not made it to Hadley yet to inspect several faulty meters. Since this is the case, Nick mentioned that we may want to consider asking Darren Haroldson if he has time or interest in looking at the meters in question. There were no questions on the sewer portion of fund and the water/sewer fund was approved.

Old Business:

- Bar Window Replacement/Repairs: Myron is still waiting for Gordy Oslund of Oslund Construction to install the window and finish repairs in the bar, hopefully before winter.
- Cable/Internet Provider: no new updates on cable/internet switch, Myron called phone number provided by Judy last month and was told that Mediacom service is not available in Hadley. He is going to place a call to Jeff Engelkes, who works for Mediacom locally to see what options we have.
- Generator: no new updates from Henry related to the generator
- CARES dollars: funds were received and deposited at the beginning of November. The application for funding was strictly based on lack of business and revenue for the liquor store. One of the payments will be used to cover unemployment insurance.
- Water/Sewer Billing Rate Increases: Judy spoke with Rebecca of Kinner and Co, who is currently on maternity leave. Bonnie reviewed the data that Rebecca had sent previously to see if she could make

sense of it. It was mentioned by Bonnie to consider increasing the water base rate and decreasing the sewer base rate in hopes of keeping both utilities above the breakeven point. Rick mentioned that Darren's fees are only accessed to water, so this should be taken into consideration. It was decided by all to wait for Rebecca to finish maternity leave and provide the council with some direction before adjusting billing, as it does not need to be done immediately.

- Rick's Bank Building: Rick is in the process of putting fencing around the building for safety and has been in contact with Bill regarding next steps. He is considering removing the windows prior to doing anything with the brick so they don't shatter into the building. An invoice was received by the City of Hadley from Bill's Backhoe Service for the removal of the sidewalk and cement in front of the building, however Rick is responsible for payment of this bill.

#### New Business:

- Dean Larson: Prior Minutes, Citations, Tree Removal, Nuisance
  - Prior Minutes: Minutes from a prior meeting were referenced and Dean was upset that his name was mentioned in the minutes, using the word "ludicrous" to describe the scenario. One of his neighbors attended the prior meeting and expressed concerns, which is the reason why his name was included in the minutes for that meeting. Since Dean was reluctant to mention the name of his neighbor and failed to give relevant information that the council could provide an adequate response to, there was no further discussion on this topic.
  - Old Cars/Expired Vehicle Registration: He thought the city was favoring Rick Like by not asking him to remove his abandoned vehicles from properties within the city. Mayor Like has discussed his intentions for the vehicles with the council; however Dean has not and is not complying with the city ordinance(s).
  - Tree Removal: Dean was upset that someone had drug a broken chunk of tree onto his property and expected the City of Hadley to remove it. Members of the council offered to remove the tree, even though it is not the city's responsibility and the city had nothing to do with placement of the tree on his property; however they were threatened by Dean to be billed for damages made to his property that could be caused by the removal. He also wanted to see proof of insurance before the removal would take place. Merlyn Anderson, City Attorney suggested the city remove the broken part of tree from Dean's property and remainder of tree from Theresa Hughes' (property owner) property. Following removal, Theresa would be billed for the removal, as tree maintenance/cleanup has not been the city's responsibility and this case is no different. Trees are the responsibility of property owners within the City of Hadley. There was no further discussion regarding the tree, at this time.
  - Dean refused to remove his tape recorder from the council table following his business, at the request of Mayor Like. Merlyn Anderson, City Attorney, provided consultation stating that he should comply, however he still refused. For the sake of time, decision was made to continue council meeting under recording, however Murray County Sherriff Deputy was called to meeting to handle situation and prevent escalation. Later in the meeting, a sheriff's deputy arrived and asked Dean to pick up his recorder and step out of the meeting to discuss. The deputy later came back in and informed the council that Dean was asked to leave the building for the evening and complied.
- PO Box in Slayton: Judy researched costs associated with obtaining a PO Box at the Slayton Post Office for City of Hadley mail, as changes will need to be made to current mail delivery following her departure as

City Clerk. MSP by John and Bonnie to open a PO Box in Slayton for city mail following the clerk transition for uniformity and convenience.

- Street Repair/Parking Lot Resurfacing: Kelsey Waltz, SEH representative (engineering consultant) was present to discuss the options being considered for city street repair/replacement and parking lot resurfacing next to the Community Center.
  - Design, Project Bidding and patching holes are all included in the engineering costs
  - Visual was presented by Kelsey outlining areas that need work
  - \$15k estimated for project engineering costs
  - Possibility of installing gutters on side of Community Center that dump into drainage tile installed
  - Timeline for proceeding: Bid project in March, with surveying prior however this will be tough in winter. Decision should be made by year end to decide on moving forward with project.
- Special Election: Merlyn Anderson, City Attorney was present to discuss the topic of a special election, which is required per state law when a council member resigns with over 2 years left of term. Since Dale Pavlis' vacancy fit this description with a term not expiring until 1/2023, John Brouwer was appointed by the city council to fill his vacancy, until a new council member is voted in by a special election vote. A special election is being tentatively planned for the second Tuesday in April (4/13/2021) from 5-8pm at the Community Center for in person voting. With guidance from Merlyn, it was decided to wait until December to motion on approving the special election, since results from the general election are not official and a canvas hasn't been released to date. Merlyn will be working with the city clerk and auditor on specifics for the special election. Cost of the election will be minimal for the city.

MSP by Henry and Nick to move monthly council meeting time to 6:00pm beginning next month (December) and continuing through the winter months, returning back to 6:30pm in March of 2021.

MSP by John and Bonnie to pay the bills.

MSP by Henry and Bonnie to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted by Riley Engbarth, City Clerk