

February 6, 2014

The regular meeting of the Cuyuna City Council was held at 7:00 pm in City Hall. Present were Mayor Brix and council members Zontelli, Bedard, Stockard, and Eisen. Mayor Brix led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Motion by Zontelli to approve the minutes for the January 2, 2014 meeting. Second by Bedard. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Stockard to approve payment of the invoices and the forthcoming regular monthly invoices. Second by Bedard. Motion unanimously.

Fire Chief Report:

- Chief Lou Dirkes presented the monthly CFD report. No council action required.
- Three first responder calls during the month.
- The kitchen water line broke at the fire hall. Cuyuna firemen fixed the break. The incident has been reported to the insurance company and the Fire Chief and clerk have met with the insurance adjuster. The expenses incurred to repair and replace damaged items at the hall are covered by insurance less the \$500 deductible.

Water and Sewer Report:

- No current report for the SLSSD.
- Mayor commented on one sewer line that required line jetting. Council member Zontelli asked if the line was dirty. Mayor shared that it was and the repair was the responsibility of the city. In the spring Ritter and Ritter will also be requested to quote the line jetting for the city.

Building Construction Activities:

- No building activity.

Police Chief Report:

- The monthly police department activity report was received. There were 2 emergency medical responses in the month's activities. No council action required.

Engineer Report:

- Tim Houle, WSN Engineer, was present for updates in the Unfinished Business portion of the agenda.

Attorney Report:

- Attorney Bender reviewed the January minutes and asked if the city would want a resolution for the CFD's request to place their donation into the equipment fund. He noted that a motion and an approval are parliamentary procedures and he would recommend passing a resolution also. Council discussed but took no action.
- Reported that he saw no obstacles to accepting the donation of property from Habitat for Humanity. Did not see any hidden problems. A HRA entity is not required to accept the property.

Website Report:

- 1219 page visits from 381 individual IP addresses.

Blandin/Cuyuna Chamber:

- No new activities reported by Council member Bedard.

Unfinished Business:

- Tim Houle, WSN engineer, reported that the City's wastewater project might be considered for the WIF list for bonding projects. Rural Development will also be evaluating if the project is eligible for funding. Spoke with Jordan Vandal about the Public Work Program grant with IRRRB. IRRRB would like to see other entities partnering for funding the project.
- As the state bonding bill for the Wastewater Infrastructure Funding (WIF) is a potential source, it would be good for the council and mayor to contact the area legislators and encourage inclusion of Cuyuna's project on the list.
- Reported that the City will need to contact a financial advisor to establish a structure for financing the project; i.e. financing to bridge the gap between construction and receipt of governmental funds.
- Council discussed the lots donated by Habitat for Humanity. Mayor Brix noted the lots could be used as part of the park development; possibly overflow parking. Council member Zontelli said the lots are also buildable. **Motion by Zontelli to accept the lots from Habitat for Humanity. Second by Bedard. Motion carried unanimously.**
- Council member Zontelli presented plans and options further develop the pump track, build a road, provide fencing, a water system, pavilion, kiddy track, and informational kiosks. Approximate cost of \$65,000. The drawing plans were donated by a volunteer of the Cuyuna Lakes Mountain Bike Crew.
- Council member Zontelli also presented plans and options to develop primitive campsites by the pump track and which could generate yearly revenue to support the track maintenance. Depending on camping rates applied, this could generate revenues of \$14,000 to \$20,000. Costs would be about \$57,000. Optional plans would include pit toilets, well, septic system, city water, and showers. These options would add \$60,000 to the campground project. Council member Zontelli will approach our area representatives to seek inclusion of the plans in the bonding bill.
- In reviewing the campground plans, IRRRB indicated they are focusing on projects generating employment. Mayor Brix supported the project, saying finishing the pump track was a priority and then could complete the additional park projects as more funding is found.
- Fire Chief Dirkes commented that the pavilion could also provide revenue when used for family events.

New Business:

- Council discussed the need to develop a long term strategy to maintain the pump track; connect to the bike trail system; establish a campground; and plan how to promote the area for the City's future. Council discussed an opportunity to partner with the Cuyuna Lakes Mountain Bike Trail Crew and Club to market and maintain the pump track. Discussing the levels of partnering and sponsoring, Council member Zontelli noted the pump track is the trail head of the mountain bike system and adds value in that capacity. Council member Bedard and Stockard indicated their support up to the \$3,500 participation level for one year participation. Mayor Brix mentioned the recent photo selection of the Cuyuna Lakes Mountain Bike Trail for the 2014 State Park Permit and that will draw visitors. Council further discussed the support provided by the trail crew and the club for building the track, applying for a Safe Route to School grant, working with the county, and advertising. Fire Chief Dirkes commented partnering with the club would promote the track and Cuyuna and be a good investment of tax dollars. Council member Bedard motioned to partner at the \$3,500 level for one year. Council discussed further; Cuyuna does not have a park and recreation crew. Also, that

partnering would be good for the economic development in the area. Motion was held and the asked that the trail crew and club attend the March meeting to expand on how the city funds would be spent.

- Mayor Brix expressed concern with the extreme cold and potential to have water lines freezing. Clerk has also received requests from homeowners concerned with freezing lines. Mayor Brix recommended that residents that could have water freezing problems contact himself or the clerk to get permission to run water continuously. The Cuyuna water operator would meet with the home owner to help with setting the amount of water to run. The resident would only pay for their normal water usage.

Informational:

- 8 delinquent water accounts.
- Sheriff visit at March meeting.

Adjournment:

- **Motion by Bedard to adjourn. Second by Zontelli. Motion carried unanimously.**

William F. Bedard
Clerk

Lloyd Brix
Mayor

Approved