

Monday, June 1st, 2020

Hartland City

In Attendance: Warren Johannsen, Linda Pederson, Megian Bell, Kelly Routh, Brooke Olson, Andy Flatness, Allyson Olson, Nancy Toot

Absent:

Others in Attendance: Lance Skov, Linda Johannsen

Mayor Kelly Routh called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

Motion to approve the agenda, approve the general meeting minutes from March 2nd meeting, the e-meeting minutes for May, and approve the accounts payable was made by Linda, seconded by Nancy; motion carried.

Public Input:

-Lance Skov, City Auditor with Hill, Benda, Skov & Bernau, PA in Albert Lea presented the 2019 city audit that he submitted to the state. The City was given a clean report; the funds, income, and receipts were discussed. Lance commented that the City planned and used their budget well. The City reserves are sitting in a comfortable spot, given the delayed due date for the first half of 2020 property taxes. Overall, there were no major issues with the City's 2019 audit.

Fire Dept.:

-No input or new issues at this time.

City Maintenance:

-Andy mentioned that the City has talked in the past about tiling the baseball field since it is in a low spot and has standing water any time it rains. This year may be the best time to move forward with that project since there will not be Little League this summer. The council has given Andy permission to go ahead with planning and completing the tiling project in the baseball field.

-The 5 year well inspection has been completed. The well pipe passed, but the well pump was corroded due to the acidic soil; it was promptly replaced. The water delivered to resident's homes is not affected by this corrosion due to the filtration system in the treatment plant.

-The City would like to Chip Seal a few roads in town this year. At this time, the chip sealing company should be able to complete the project by the end of July; scheduling has been an issue due to COVID.

-The playground project is being overseen by Jon Bakken; Matt Staloch will drill the necessary holes for the equipment and Jon will organize the construction of the equipment. Andy and Kelly both mentioned getting more equipment to add more variety for the kids to play on. The location of the swings will be moved south to condense the playground area and to get the swings out of a low spot that is under water most of the summer.

-The council has safety concerns with the playgrounds this summer, and it was suggested to get hygiene signs for both parks to promote hand washing and safe play amidst the COVID pandemic. Brooke will look into ordering signs.

City Clerk Updates:

-No issues at this time. The city office was closed to the public during the Stay at Home order, but has opened to the public again as of May 19th.

Council Concerns:

-A few properties in town have unruly grass. These residents will be approached informally to address the issue before the City takes action.

-One residence in town has a basketball hoop kept on the road. The council is looking to be understanding since children do not currently have many outlets of activity. There have been incidences where the children playing basketball at the hoop do not stop and move for oncoming cars. If this action continues, the City will have to address the issue with the owners.

-The City has passed a resolution to be a mail ballot precinct for the Primary Election. The council discussed whether or not to keep that resolution in effect for the General Election, as resolutions affecting an election must be passed at least 90 days before said election.

-Megian made a motion to vote on revoking Resolution #2020-1 designating the City of Hartland as a mail ballot precinct, seconded by Warren; motion carried. The council vote was unanimous to revoke the resolution, therefore designating the City of Hartland as having a public polling place for the 2020 General Election.

-Resolution #2020-2 revoking Resolution #2020-1 and therefore designating the City of Hartland as having a public polling place for the 2020 General Election will be filed with Freeborn County.

*****Edited to add on 6/23/20:** Freeborn County Auditor Pat Martinson informed the City on 6/22/20 that a Minnesota statute does not allow the polling place to be changed between a primary and general election. Resolution #2020-2 is therefore void.***

-Council member Warren Johannsen's seat will be considered a special election in the General Election as he was appointed with greater than 2 years left on his term. The City cannot make appointments greater than 2 years, so the special election will be for the remaining 2 years of his term.

Mayor Concerns:

-In March, the City issued certified letters to various residences in town to address their nuisance issues by June 1st, to avoid action taken by the City. Many residents have contacted Kelly and explained the actions they are taking to clean their properties. One residence that has been an issue in town for many years has made no effort to contact the City and address their property issues. Kelly will move forward with notifying and informing them that the City will take action with cleaning their property.

Miscellaneous:

-Next meeting is Monday, August 3rd at 6:30 pm; due to the holiday and lack of issues within the City, the council has decided at this time to not hold a July meeting.

-Nancy motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:15, Warren seconded; motion carried.

Brooke Olson, Hartland City Clerk