

SEPTEMBER 19, 2023 MEETING MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL

A meeting of the Cottonwood City Council was held on Tuesday, September 5, 2023, 7:00 pm, in the Cottonwood Fire Hall with Corey Moseng, Shawn Myers, Joel Dahl, Shannon Geihl, and Mike Horner present. Also, present was City Administrator, Teather Bliss; Public Works Supervisor, Allen Olsen; Lyon County Sheriff, Eric Wallen; and City Engineer, Kent Louwagie. Mike Maxwell present for Maxwell Masonry.

Mayor Corey Moseng called the meeting to order and led in the Flag Pledge.

Council reviewed the minutes from August 1, 2023.

A motion was made by Shawn Myers to approve the August 1, 2023 City Council minutes. Seconded by Shannon Geihl. Carried.

Jason Overby presented updated information to the City Council on the status of the north project as well as a potential site in Vallers Township for LPRW water tower. Jason also updated Council that with the letter of support that was sent out from Cottonwood, LPRW was also selected for Senate Committee's Capital Bonding Tour and would be meeting with the Committee the day after Cottonwood presents to the Senate Committee.

Bliss stated that Jason Overby had wrote Cottonwood in as a place holder for USDA Rural Development Funding and if Cottonwood does not have intentions to hook up to Rural Water then Jason needs to know so that he can pursue another community to include for USDA Funding.

Joel Dahl wants more information which includes a public hearing for the community because we have a water source, put money into both wells, and should not hook onto rural water just so the golf course can have a water supply.

Bliss assured that the golf course cannot be apart of Rural Water per Rural Water policies so that was never a consideration for Rural Water, the consideration for Rural Water came from the fact that Cottonwood has hard water, rich in elements that are hard on households.

Mike Horner asked Jason Overby what the costs were for a community and what the timeline would look like for Cottonwood to connect.

Jason stated that the current timeline is still a connection date of 2027. The cost for communities is \$3.10 per 1,000 gallons of water. The initial buy in that was quoted to Cottonwood last year was \$3,900,000.

The next steps for the City will be to hold a public hearing to see if there is enough public interest in pursuing Rural Water or if the construction of a treatment facility is a better option.

Bliss updated the council on issues with the AC Unit in the Senior Center. It will need to be replaced and cost effectively, adding heating with the unit would be the best route.

Council suggested looking into insurance coverage for the unit if it was due to the storm and we only are finding out now because we just got power back to the building since the damage occurred.

Sheriff Wallen presented the Sheriff's Office monthly incident report. He also updated that multiple calls have come in about a man walking on the highway, it was resident Joe Rains from Cottonwood, and he has told the deputies that responded – he is done with Minnesota and is walking to South Dakota.

Al Olsen presented an update on the public works department. The siren behind Legend is not working – West Central Communications will be out to check on it. Manhole rings are done on the manholes in the Barstad ditch and by Myrviks. The fence around the retention pond on Lake Street is gone.

John Murphy was asking if he is able to dig in the road in order to have a plumber fix the sewer line at the apartments on Prairie Street. Because Murphy does have a business for dirt work, he would need to produce a certificate of insurance with the appropriate amount of coverage in order to do work within the City Road.

A motion by Joel Dahl to approve the quote for manhole lining totaling \$22,601.80. Seconded by Mike Horner. Carried.

Kent Louwagie presented information to the City Council regarding the meeting with Lyon County Engineer, Aaron VanMoer, about the needs for replacing Main Street water main. The project would include removing everything from building to building between Barstad and West 2nd Street in order to make everything ADA compliant, replace the watermain, replace the service lines to all the buildings, install new curb stops, and a new road. The water main would also be directional bored under the railroad and then minimal road disruption on East Main Street.

Bliss presented updated collateral to the Council.

Bliss presented different location options for the temporary PO Boxes that would be delivered on Wednesday. The requirements for placement are on public property and a paved surface. The council discussed each location before determining placing the boxes on the north side of the fire hall.

A motion by Shawn Myers to place the boxes on the north side of the fire hall. Seconded by Joel Dahl. Mike Horner opposed. Carried.

Bliss presented a new contract with EMS|MC, the new contract will help with meeting audit standards for the Minnesota Department of Revenue Recapture and no change occurs with pricing.

A motion by Shawn Myers to approve the new EMS|MC billing contract. Seconded by Joel Dahl. Carried.

Council reviewed the September Meeting Minutes of the Cottonwood Fire Department.

LeeAnne Boehne updated the Council on the billing services of EMS|MC – LeeAnne and Teather spent a few days going through all of the accounts on the Account Receivable as well as having a zoom meeting with Beth from EMS|MC going through each account. After what has been gone through, LeeAnne and Teather are both satisfied with the progress that has been made.

Mike Maxwell presented a quote to the City Council on the repairing of the west side of the library. Due to sheets of stucco type material being placed on the side of the building, the brick and mortar are deteriorating. In order to fix the wall, 4 inches of brick would need to be removed from the wall and replaced. The cost to do the work is quoted at \$19,064.00

A motion by Joel Dahl to approve the quote from Maxwell Masonry. Seconded by Shannon Geihl. Carried.

Bliss briefly presented the Neptune 360 Customer Portal – the cost is \$10,000 for an initial setup. As of right now it is not a need and funds are need elsewhere within water and sewer.

A motion by Shannon Geihl to approve building permit 2023_33. Seconded by Joel Dahl. Carried.

A motion by Joel Dahl to approve building permit 2023_34. Seconded by Shawn Myers. Carried.

Council reviewed building permit 2023_42 at 42 East 4th Street.

A motion by Shawn Myers to approve building permit 2023_42. Seconded by Joel Dahl. Carried.

Council reviewed building permit 2023_43 at 93 East Prairie Street.

A motion by Mike Horner to approve building permit 2023_43. Seconded by Joel Dahl. Carried.

Council reviewed the bills totaling \$22,779.44

A motion by Shawn Myers to pay the bills. Seconded by Joel Dahl. Carried.

Bliss updated the Council that the October 3rd meeting would need to be moved due to staff presenting the Cottonwood capital bonding request to the Senate Committee at SMSU. The meeting will be officially changed to October 10th.

Council discussed the need for a third staff member in the office. All members of the council agreed and wanted an advertisement prepared with a job description.

A motion by Shawn Myers to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Shannon Geihl. Carried at 930pm.