Rutland City Council
January 9, 2023

The monthly City Council meeting was convened at 5:00 p.m. by Council President Erickson. Council Members Anderson, Lysne, McLaen present. The Mayor arrived late. City Auditor also present.

Agenda: Anderson/McLaen moved approval of the agenda. Motion carried.

Minutes: McLaen/Lysne moved approval of the December 5, 2022 minutes. Motion carried.

Public Comments: No members of the public present.

Sidewalk Grant: The Auditor reported that the City has been awarded a Transportation Alternatives (TA) grant for sidewalk construction. The project would be done in 2025 with the bidding through NDDOT between October 2024 and May 2025. The City Engineer will attend the March meeting to discuss the process.

Property Purchase/Sale: The City purchased the tax forfeited property at 217 Arthur Street and will be able to sell the two lots after the property deed is obtained from the County. If the deed is received this month, the Council could publish the call for bids/sale in February, with a bid opening in March.

The Council discussed the process with an intent to open the written bids at the March meeting and allow those bidders to attend to bid in person after the opening and the high bid is known.

Garbage Rates: The City Auditor noted that the garbage rates have not been raised since 2005 when the current rate was set. The City is also billed for the recycling collection and pays a fuel surcharge. The City made $367.05 on the garbage contract service in 2022; that does not cover all expenses for salaries and the Municipal Waste Site. The garbage enterprise fund continues to decline annually. In 2022, the fund started at just over $10,000 and ended around $8,900. Since 2005, the cost of living has increased by 52.59%. Some communities have a flat rate over the garbage for each container, some do annual percentage increases, and others do a combination. Forman is raising their rates by 10% in 2023.

Anderson/McLaen moved to increase the garbage rate by $5.00 per container effective with the next billing cycle. Motion carried.

Mayor Mahrer entered the meeting at 5:10 pm and chaired the meeting.

The City Auditor noted that the sewer charge of $5.34/month has not been raised since before 2005. The fund has had a slight decline for several years; in 2022, expenses exceeded revenues by about $1,000.

Anderson/Lysne moved to raise the City sewer monthly charge by $1.00 effective with the next billing cycle. Motion carried unanimously.

Anderson suggested that the Council may want to consider an annual percentage increase of the water/ sewer/garbage rates.

Financial Report: Erickson/McLaen moved approval of the December 2022 financial report as presented. Motion carried.

Bills: Lysne/Erickson moved approval of the payment of bills:

ACH	DRN	$ 147.10	Telephone
ACH	Waste Management	1829.96	Garbage contract
13527	Walock-Johnson	11.00	Bobcat blade insurance
13528	Bill Anderson	277.05	July-Dec 2022
13530	Delores Lysne	130.87	July-Dec 2022
13531	Jacobson Plumbing,	$1,641.52	Curb box
13532	Lillegard	$19.72	Bobcat filter
13533	Lori McLaen	$277.05	July-Dec 2022
13534	Michael Mahrer	$304.75	June-Dec 2022
13535	Nardini Fire Equipment	$368.00	City Hall Monitoring Fee
13536	Quill	$55.09	Hall trash bags
13537	Riteway Business Forms	$141.59	Water postcards
13538	Rodney Erickson	$184.70	July- Dec 2022
13539	Rutland Township	$202.49	1/2 Joint Shop utilities & taxes
13540	Sargent County Teller	$53.44	Dec. minutes
13541	Sargent County Treasurer	$1,101.58	Drain 8, City specials
13542	Southeast Water	$708.00	236,000 Gals. Oct-Nov '22
13543	Sweeney Controls	$540.00	Water Tower Monitoring System
13544	US Postmaster	$236.00	Stamps
13545	Scott Haan	$ 1,123.79	December 14-31, 2022
13546	Maguire Iron	1,632.00	Water tower 2021 service
13547	Vining Oil & Gas LLC	1,435.82	Hall propane
13548	US Treasury	2,376.85	Form 941, 4th Qtr. 2022

Motion carried.

Delinquents: There are three delinquents at this time.

The Auditor reported that the City's new Bobcat is anticipated to be delivered in February.

The meeting adjourned at 5:50 p.m.

ATTEST:

Deborah Banish, City Auditor

Michael Mahrer, Mayor