Rutland City Council
November 6, 2023

The monthly City Council meeting was convened at 5 p.m. by Mayor Mahrer. Council Members Anderson, Erickson (by phone), Lysne, and McLaen present. City Engineer and City Auditor also present.

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

Minutes: Lysne/Anderson moved approval of the October 2, 2023 minutes. Motion carried.

Water Mains/Gate Valves: The City Engineer reported that cost estimates for water main and gate valve replacements are being developed. Some lines are very old; the ones with PVC piping will be included in the cost estimates. AC pipes are very fragile and can snap when moving dirt so they will not be included.

Engineer Contract for Services: Anderson/Erickson moved approval and execution of the Engineering Services Agreement with Interstate Engineering for professional services required for the design and construction of the sidewalk improvements through the ND DOT Transportation Alternatives Program Project No. TAC-0041(022) PCN 23942 at an approximate cost not to exceed $62,000. Motion carried.

Mike Bassingthwaite, City Engineer, reported that the field survey for the project has been completed before snowfall.

The Mayor noted that the recent Maguire Iron cleaning crew commended the City on having one of the best water towers. Bassingthwaite noted that the tower has leaked periodically. Erickson suggested obtaining cost estimates from Maguire and others for relining the tower. Bassingthwaite reported that the City of Forman is proceeding with replacement of the water tower. The City Auditor will obtain and forward the Maguire Iron report, with photographs, for additional information.

Lysne entered the meeting at 5:10 p.m.

Water Sample Contract Renewal: Anderson/Lysne moved approval of a Water Sample Contract with Southeast Water Users for October 1, 2023 through October 1, 2026 to collect and submit samples to the ND Department of Health for analysis at the cost of $50.00 per month. Motion carried.

Water Rates: The City Auditor reported that the City's cost of water will increase by $0.25 per 1,000 gallons in January 2024. The City raised the water rate per in 2015 from $19 to $20 for 3,000 gallons and in 2017 to $23. Water could be set for an annual % increase, for example, 3% ($.69 increase would cover $.23 of the increase) or 5% ($1.15 increase would be $.38 per 1,000).

Lysne/Erickson moved to increase the water rate by 5% effective with the January billing. Motion carried.

2024 meeting schedule: Adopt the 2024 meeting schedule as presented: January 8 and 29, March 11, April 1 - Board of Equalization & Regular, May 6, June 3, July 8, August 5, September 9, October 7, November 4 and December 2, 2024. Motion carried.

County Forfeiture: The City Auditor reported that the County Commission meets November 7 and will set the sale price on one lot in Rutland: Block 2, Lot 16, Original Townsite. If the property does not sell, the City will have the opportunity to purchase it for $1.00 plus specials.

Anderson/McLaen moved that the City purchase the lot if not redeemed at the County sale. Motion carried.

Financial Report: Lysne/Anderson moved approval of the October 2023 financial reports as presented. Motion carried.

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

	General Fund		
ACH	DRN	$ 146.64	Phone
ACH	ND Job Service	159.15	2023 Qtr. 3
ACH	Waste Mgmt.	101.18	Hall garbage
ACH	Waste Mgmt.	1799.95	City Contract
13684	Otter Tail Power	943.69	Electricity
13685	Scott Haan	1255.14	Oct 8-21
13686	Valley Glass Shop	7600.71	Hall doors
13687	Deborah Banish	831.15	October
13688	ND One Call	1.30	Line locate
13689	Quill	2.00	Paper supply balance due
13690	Riteway Business Forms	137.01	Water bill forms
13691	Roger Pearson	75.00	October
13692	Sargent County Teller	60.80	October minutes publication
13693	Scott Haan	1046.40	Oct. 22-Nov. 4, 2023
13694	SE Water Users	390.00	130,000 gals. 8/24-9/21
13695	SE Water Users	600.00	Water sample contract
13696	Team Laboratory	1031.50	Lagoon winter blend chemicals
13697	US Postmaster	102.00	Postcard stamps

Motion carried.

Delinquents: There are two delinquent accounts at this time that will be turned off this week if not paid.

Auditor Report: There was a surprise inspection of the City landfill and the gates were unlocked and there is no signage. A new lock has been installed. The Auditor was authorized to order and purchase a sign for the gates at the municipal waste site.

Mayor/Council Reports: The Mayor reported that the bank is taking ownership of the old Bradbury property. The street light is out but the fallen trees are on private property.

McLaen noted the upcoming events: Santa Day on December 2, the Fireman's breakfast on December 3, and the Dueling Pianos event on January 19.

Erickson has been in contact with the Postal Service. The latest update is they are getting the funding lined up and then it is expected to be approximately another four months before the site will be ready to open. He is in contact weekly on updates.

The meeting adjourned at 5:40 p.m.

ATTEST:

Deborah Banish, City Auditor

Michael Mahrer, Mayor