

SOUTH HAVEN CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

February 3, 2020

The South Haven City Council met in regular session on Monday, February 3, 2020 at City Hall. Present were Mayor Kim Byers and council members Steve Nicholson, Katrina Hallman, Seth Brown, and Emily Harding. Linda Elliott was absent. Also present were Diane Hyde, Deena Byers, Brock Byers, Dena Craghead, Linda Baker, Tim & Penny Williams and children, Matt Metcalf, Fire Chief Garratt Locke, City Maintenance Thomas Bacon, City Clerk Amy Brown, and Municipal Judge Andrea Bekemeyer (arriving at 6:58pm). The meeting was called to order at 6:28pm and Mayor Byers opened with prayer.

The minutes of the January meeting were reviewed by council. Emily Harding motioned to accept the minutes as written and Steve Nicholson seconded. The council vote passed unanimously. The list of disbursements for January was then reviewed. Emily Harding motioned to pay the bills in the amounts of \$32,004.93 for regular disbursements and \$647.50 for fire department donation fund disbursements. Steve Nicholson seconded and the council vote passed unanimously.

PATRON INPUT. Diane Hyde commented on the burn pile and inquired about how to contact council members. Council member Emily Harding had patron input, wishing to notate the difference in the definitions of the amount of city debt and that of accounts receivable owed.

Thomas Bacon commented on the burn pile, noting that the wood chips in the burn pile would smolder for days if the pile was burned. Thomas reported a float had gone bad at the lift station. Thomas also commented on the condition of the roads and requested 8-10 loads of gravel. Thomas still had not heard back from Wheatland Electric about the tennis court lighting.

OLD BUSINESS. Burn pile. Mayor Byers reported speaking with the company and being told they would come down to assess the state of the pile by the end of January. Mayor Byers also reported stating council's desire to burn the pile if not chipped within thirty days. Garratt Locke commented on the time constraints of when the pile could be burned and Thomas Bacon noted the pile was full and pushed back as much as could be. Mayor Byers inquired about possibly loading and taking the contents of the pile to another facility. Mayor Byers will reach out to the company again.

Demolition project. Donated funds received to date are \$2200, with another \$200 promised but not yet received. A comment was made on the higher than expected bill from the trash company for the debris removal. Terms of the Kanokla grant were discussed.

Utility billing policy. Katrina Hallman noted several concerns with the proposed policy and also revision suggestions. Judge Andrea Bekemeyer arrived during this time. Discussion was held concerning the deposit section of the proposed policy and also returned payments. It was decided the proposed utility billing policy needed more time for review and the matter was tabled.

NEW BUSINESS. Katrina Hallman motioned to purchase ten loads of gravel and Steve Nicholson seconded. The council vote passed unanimously. Thomas Bacon noted the streets and alleys most in need of gravel.

Resolution No. 2-2020, a resolution providing for the regulation of the acceptance of donations and bequests and providing for other matters related thereto, was reviewed by council. Steve Nicholson motioned to adopt Resolution No. 2-2020 and Seth Brown seconded. The council vote passed unanimously.

Mayor Byers stated her reappointments: Garratt Locke as Fire Chief, Andrea Bekemeyer as Municipal Judge, Matt Metcalf as City Attorney, Penny Williams as City Clerk, Lonnie Cooper as auditor, and Emily Harding as City Treasurer. Questions were asked about the proposed city treasurer position, with Mayor Byers responding her proposed treasurer position was for the review of the bank statements. Discussion was held concerning if Emily Harding had been contacted or was willing to accept this position and whether a council member could be a paid employee. Mayor Byers stated the position would not be paid. Emily Harding referenced the current review process of the bank statements with governing body members reviewing them on an alternating basis and not wanting to be the only person doing this. It was decided to continue the bank statement review process as it now stands. Steve Nicholson inquired about the terms of the new city attorney. Mayor Byers stated the terms would be the same as the former city attorney. Steve Nicholson reminded Mayor Byers that at the last meeting, she stated she had no desire for different reappointments, just that she wanted to meet with all current employees before reappointing. Mayor Byers stated she had changed her mind. Lengthy discussion was held as to whether the proposed clerk appointee was qualified to do the job. Mayor Byers repeatedly stated the terms for qualification were being a resident and registered to vote. At 7:13pm, Katrina Hallman motioned to go into executive session for fifteen minutes for discussion of non-elected personnel. Steve Nicholson seconded and the council vote passed unanimously. All guests and employees left the room. At 7:28pm, council reconvened in open session.

Steve Nicholson motioned to accept the reappointment of Garratt Locke as Fire Chief. Katrina Hallman seconded and the council vote passed unanimously. Katrina Hallman motioned to accept the reappointment of Andrea Bekemeyer as Municipal Court Judge and Steve Nicholson seconded. The council vote passed unanimously. Steve Nicholson motioned to accept the appointment of Matt Metcalf as City Attorney and Emily Harding seconded. The council vote passed unanimously. Katrina Hallman motioned to not to consent to the appointment of Penny Williams as City Clerk and Steve Nicholson seconded. Seth Brown abstained from the vote and the council vote passed. Discussion was held concerning the corresponding resolution needed to corroborate council's non-consent to mayor's appointment of the city clerk position. Steve Nicholson motioned for the appointment of Lonnie Cooper as auditor and Katrina Hallman seconded. The council vote passed unanimously. Steve Nicholson motioned to appoint the South Haven New Era as the official city newspaper and Emily Harding seconded. The council vote passed unanimously.

Seth Brown noted the possible need to consider holding the council meetings at another location better suited to hold more visitors.

The next council meeting will be held March 2nd.

There being no further business, Steve Nicholson motioned to adjourn the meeting and Katrina Hallman seconded. The council vote passed all in favor and the meeting adjourned at 7:38pm.

Kim Byers, Mayor

Amy Brown, City Clerk