August 12, 2019

The regular meeting of the Cuyuna City Council was held at 7:00 pm in City Hall. Present were Mayor Brix and council members Stockard, Workman and Zontelli. Council member Z. Brix was absent.

Mayor Brix led the pledge of allegiance.

**Motion by Workman to approve the July 8, 2019 regular council meeting. Second by Zontelli. Motion carried unanimously.**

**Motion by Zontelli to approve payment of the invoices and forthcoming regular monthly invoices. Second by Workman. Motion carried unanimously.**

**Fire Chief Report:**
- Fire Chief Karl Hasskamp shared the monthly report. There were 6 first responder calls for the month. There were 2 fire calls which were in response to carbon monoxide alarms.
- Training for the department members will be on the pumper; Positive Pressure Fire Attack.
- No council action was required.

**Water and Sewer Report:**
- Mayor Brix noted the City of Cuyuna’s SLSSD rate would increase $70.25/month.
- Council discussed the sewer flow rates as they are not reducing as expected from the recently completed sewer line project in Cuyuna. The city pumps on average about 250,000 but the recent sewage flowage has been around 550,000. City Engineer Tim Houle shared the city could take 3 steps. First, look down the manholes one late evening after a rainstorm to see if there is flowage. It might indicate a residence has a sump pump still active. Second, the city could conduct a smoke test to isolate individual residences that might be contributing to the infiltration. Third, the city could then televise certain lines.
- Councilmember Zontelli asked if the private sanitary line repairs can be assessed. City Attorney Bender said they could be, but there is a process and several steps that take time.
- Mayor Brix updated the council on the Serpent Lake Sanitary Sewer District (SLSSD) sewer force main crossing Hwy 6 north of Crosby which should be completed by the end of August. The SLSSD will have an unanticipated expense of over $125,000 for this project after the IRRRB grant of $125,000 is applied to the costs.
- Councilmember Zontelli asked how the cost will be paid. He did not feel the sewer and water users should be paying for a tunnel under Highway 6 which was the action causing the sewer force main to be moved. He stated each city should pay their own portion. Mayor Brix said, as SLSSD chair, he will be calling a meeting of the four city’s mayors to discuss this issue. He for one does not wish to see user rates go up.

**Building Construction Activities:**
- 2 land use permit applications were sent out in the past month and 3 visits performed for projects in process.
Police Chief Report:
• Police Chief Jesse Smith shared the monthly report with the council. Department officers issued 42 verbal speed warnings during the month to encourage reduced speed as traffic has increased on the county road due to the closure of the state highway 6. The department officers also provided several agencies assists.
• Chief Smith stated the county installed electronic speed signs on CSAH#31 in the downtown area. Chief Smith will maintain the batteries.
• Chief Smith noted there are no speed limit signs on Cottontail Drive and this is a safety issue. City engineer Tim Houle stated he could assist with the review. County Engineer, Tim Bray, shared there is a new law out regarding posting speed limits.

Attorney Report:
• Attorney Bender discussed his monthly activity with the council. Upon request of the Mayor he is reviewing if there is any issue with a private company marketing itself as Cuyuna Adventure Town USA. Attorney Bender will research further for the council.

Campground Report:
• The campground new storage shed is installed and the grass cutting and trimming equipment previously stored in the extra bathhouse room is now moved into the shed.
• The council agreed to move forward soliciting quotes for a second bathroom and shower in the campground facility.
• The pumptrack surface is in good shape.
• The RV campsites are full each weekend in August and the tent sites are running at 80% filled for the weekends in August.

Website Report:
• Department updates are in process.

Cuyuna Lakes Chamber:
• Upcoming events are the Cuyuna Crusher Mountain Bike Race in August and Music in the Park.

Unfinished Business:
• County Engineer Tim Bray and Commissioner Doug Houge were again present to restate the county’s commitment to share in half the cost to improve the access to Powderhouse Road. Mr. Bray said this is his 4th meeting in a row attending the City meetings and he is looking for a partner to help with the cost. He asked if there was anyone interested in this project. The county is willing to pay 57% of the $30,000 and needs a partner for the other 47%. Mayor Brix stated the road is private and the council cannot do anything. In responding to the complaint, the access is unsafe, Mr. Bray stated it met the road specifications at that time. Clerk Bedard questioned that as the county standards have not changed that much and the approach incline is at the high end and does not include a landing at the bottom which the county does require for approaches. Clerk Bedard asked the council for permission to speak as a resident of the road. Council approved. Mr. Bedard noted the access was good in 1979 when he purchased his lot and built their home. The approach was changed significantly in 1991-92; resulting in a steep incline and no landing for a vehicle at the bottom. He said the previous county engineer recognized the issue, noting the county overlooked the residence on Powderhouse Road, and
the engineer stated he would work with the developer to resolve the issue. Additionally, the city and residents on the road wrote letters to the county sharing the reconstructed approach was a safety issue. The County made several attempts to improve the safety by blacktopping, committing to sanding the approach, to lastly placing a bin of sand at the top of the approach for the resident to shovel onto the road surface. The present condition is a safety issue, a county issue, and 28 years overdue to fix. Fire Chief Karl Hasskamp stated a fire truck or ambulance would have difficulty climbing the incline of the approach and would be a safety issue coming back down on a wet or icy surface. Council members Stockard and Zontelli said the county should make the approach safe. Mayor Brix stated the slope was unsafe to start with and should have been fixed. Councilmember Stockard asked Mr. Bray why the county just wouldn’t fix the issue for $30,000 as it is their liability. He asked the County to step up and take care of the issue. The developer will not. Mr. Bray said there were a lot of approaches like Powderhouse Road in the county. He was asked how many were created by the county road reconstructions. He shared one. Mrs. and Mr. Leonhardt, Powderhouse Road residents, asked if the county could fix the approach and assess to the developer who owns the road.

- Councilmember Zontelli said there were two issues with Powderhouse Road. The approach the county needs to fix and the fact the developer, Richard Harrison, never finished the road nor provided a final plat. Mr. Harrison still owns title to the road and has sold off all the lots over the years. Zontelli said the city needs to make Mr. Harrison complete a final plat and upgrade the road to city specifications.
- **Motion by Zontelli to write a letter to Mr. Harrison informing him he needs to finalize the plat and upgrade the road. Second by Stockard. Motion carried unanimously.**

The council discussed the status of the non-compliant sewer lines. Council discussed the several remaining non-complaint sewer line properties. Councilmember Stockard said it would not be fair to not impose a penalty to those property owners who have not finished the required repairs to bring their sewer lines into compliance. Assessment might be the only way to go, but it is a process. Attorney Bender will review the assessment steps required for this type of action. City assistant engineer Tony Pohl shared his personal experience living in Duluth. The city of Duluth required any home not to have a sump pump. The Cuyuna council discussed the city hall sewer line is non-compliant. The most efficient repair is the in-lining process with a cost of $4000. The other way would be to dig up the line, but the outside cement ramp and the sidewalk would need to be removed and then replaced.

- **Motion by Stockard to have the city hall sewer line repaired by lining it. Second by Workman. Motion carried unanimously.**
- **Council discussed the North Street main water line. Tony Pohl shared the insulation requirements for water lines less than 6.5 feet deep and for water lines more than 6.5 feet deep in the ground.**
- **Motion by Zontelli to have the North Street water main line dug up and correctly covered with insulation sheets and under the direction of the City Engineer. Second by Workman. Motion carried unanimously.**

**New Business:**

- The City will assist in collecting water samples from Agate Lake and the city well to see if any surface water is entering the city aquifer from unsealed wells. This is a requirement of the Well Head Protection Program.
- 6 water/sewer shut off notices were sent out.
- Council will review the 2019 year-to-date expenses and revenue at its September meeting and set a preliminary budget and levies for 2020.
- **Motion by Stockard to adjourn. Second by Zontelli. Motion carried unanimously.**

William F Bedard  Lloyd Brix
Clerk.  Mayor