



City of Stanhope
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City Council Proceedings September 13, 2023

ROLL CALL

Mayor Jeff Schroeder, at the Community Center located at 600 Main Street, called the regular meeting of the Stanhope City Council to order at 6:00 P.M. on September 13, 2023. Members answering roll call were: **Vickie Anderson, Terry Painton, Shaunna Zanker, & Beau Jensen**. Members of the public present: Bob McNally, Peggy Phipps, Phil Phipps, Brandi Dilley, Robert Johnson, Jill Haman, Wayne Romp, Brad Anderson, Dan Ostrem, David Turpen, Roger Anderson, Tim Dally. **Clerk Neuberger** acted in the position of Secretary. Terry Painton left at 6:24 to attend the Hamilton County Solid Waste Management Board meeting as the city representative.

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Vickie Anderson, seconded by Terry Painton, to approve the consent agenda consisting of the following: B-1. Approval of the agenda for 09/13/2023, notice of which was published as prescribed by 1-4 .0105 (2) of the Stanhope Code of Ordinances, 2008 on 09/11/2023, B-2. City Council Minutes of 08/8/2023. B-3. Approval of the payment of claims in the amount of \$54227.82 and B-4. Approval of the financial reports for the period of 08/01/2023 through 08/31/2023. Vickie Anderson-aye, Beau Jensen-aye, Shaunna Zanker and Terry Painton-aye. Motion carried.

REVISIT OLD BUSINESS

Mayor Schroeder informed council that the deadline to appoint a council member has passed. Clerk Neuberger informed county auditor that the seat was not appointed. The vacant seat will now be filled by the residents at the election in November.

APPROVAL OF SOUTH HAMILTON FLAG FOOTBALL DONATION

Motion by Shaunna Zanker seconded by Vickie Anderson to approve a donation of \$500 to the South Hamilton Flag Football Program. The program has been growing every year and currently has 11 Stanhope kids in the program. The home field is in the outfield of the Ellsworth baseball field. Shaunna asked if the games could ever be played in Stanhope. Toni said she will let the flag football directors know that Stanhope would be interested in hosting games as well. **Beau Jensen-aye, Shaunna Zaker-aye, Terry Painton-aye and Vickie Anderson-aye. Motion carried.**

PUBLIC WORKS REPORT

New public works director, Dan Ostrem, introduced himself and gave a report of what he has been doing since starting. He has been working a lot in the water plant and making some small adjustments to where it needs to be. Tim has been doing a lot of cleaning and working on equipment to get it started. CAT looked at the backhoe and we have a quote for some repairs that are needed. They serviced the mower. Ft Dodge Asphalt was in town and they measured for the patch on Bute and some other parts of town. He is currently waiting on the quote; it might not be repaired until spring. They are still working on the tree inventory to get a quote on removal of the dead trees in the city right of way. Tim has also been working on spraying weeds around town. Beau asked who cleaned the city truck. Tim cleaned out the truck and did a great job. Council thanked both Tim and Dan for all the work they have put in.

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NEW CITY TRUCK

The current city trucks have a lot of issues. Tim has been working on the white truck. Dan has talked to Karl Chevrolet and Karl Ford. Karl Chevrolet can not give a quote until December unless one is purchased off the lot. If purchased off the lot it would be \$4000-\$6000 higher. Ford is the same way but they do not know when the allotment would be available for ordering. \$45000 for a basic Ford extended cab short box truck, like the one we have. It does not include the plow, emergency lighting or anything else. Shaunna asked if the new truck would be for snow removal, Dan said yes. Shaunna asked if we could make it to December with the current truck. Dan said yes, but it does need new tires. He also said they can get the blade back on it but might take some work, there is some damage to the blade. If he can only get a few thousand for trade in, we should just keep the truck. If they are going to give \$10,000 we should trade it in. Beau asked if we could get a flat bed with a dump box or something instead. Dan has only looked into the basic truck but will look into it. Shaunna questioned if it is worth it to put more money in the burgundy truck or just buy new. Dan will do more digging and get more quotes before council makes a decision.

WATER TREATMENT FACILITY PLAN

Bolton & Menk toured the water treatment plant along with Jeff and Vickie. They sent in a quote of \$48,500 for the engineering report for updating the water treatment plant. This report will give us the options for replacement the water plant in parts or as a whole based on their investigation of our current plant. We can not apply for grants or get quotes on repairs or replacements until we have the engineering report. The fee will also include help from Bolton & Menk with funding. A new plant would be around \$5 Million (building and equipment), around \$2 Million to replace just equipment. This is just a ballpark figure.

Terry Painton left at 6:24 to attend the Hamilton County Solid Waste Management Board meeting as the city representative.

Questions was asked as to how long the water plant should last if replaced. Dan said it should last around 20-30 years but if maintained it could last longer. Another question was asked about how long our current plant will last. Dan said some parts are operating on borrowed time. Beau asked about Zenia water. From a maintenance perspective, that is a good option, but the town would lose all control over the plant, tower and anything related to the water. It is also more expensive for the homeowner. Toni will check with Bolton & Menk and find out if the fee needs to be paid all at once or if there is a payment plan. Council will table the decision for another meeting.

TOWN BRUSH/BURN PILE

Jill Haman addressed council and asked about the town brush/burn pile. She thanked Tim for cleaning it up. She asked if there is a way to have it unlocked on a Saturday morning. The key can be picked up at the city office during office hours. Dee (Stanhope Library) also has access and can loan the key out during library hours. Dan stated that it can not be left unlocked due to DNR regulations because the burn pile is by the lagoon. If the burn pile was at a separate site, not at the lagoon, we would not have to lock it. Residents can also get a hold of Dan or Tim, they alternate working weekends, and they can unlock it on Saturday morning when they come in to check the water plant. We also need to make sure it is locked so the goats do not get out.

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SPEED CAMERAS DISCUSSION

Beau Jensen talked about installing speed cameras along Hwy 17 in town. It would be a good way to get revenue for the city and will hopefully slow down speeders. Dave Turpen is concerned about the constitutionality of speed cameras. He thinks if you should be able to confront your accuser, ie the police officer. Webster City is installing speed cameras in the near future. It was suggested that we wait until Webster City puts theirs up and then talk with them to see how it was going. The speed sign is nice but it does not necessarily slow people down enough. Vickie asked if they should install a stop sign instead. To put a stop sign, it would need to be approved by DOT due to it being a state highway. Speed cameras also usually require a contract with a 3rd party where they get some of the revenue. All are in agreement that something should be done but no decision was made.

WATER RATE REVIEW

Water rates have not been raised in a while. Toni reached out to surrounding towns see how Stanhope compare. We are currently below most surrounding towns and we do not have a separate account to help with repairs. With the repairs that need to be done on the water plant and sewer lines, council will look at raising rates. Rates will not all be increased at once, it will be incremental over a few years. Current revenues and past increases will be looked at before deciding on the rate. Iowa League of Cities has some information also that we can use to determine rates. It was discussed a few years back but never implemented.

APPROVAL OF TRICK OR TREAT NIGHT

Motion by Vickie Anderson seconded by Beau Jensen to set October 31st 2023 for Trick-or-Treating between the hours of 6:00pm to 8:00pm. Approval was also given to use the Community Center for refreshments like it has been in the past. It was also discussed if the park could be used for a truck or treat for rural residents. **Beau Jensen-aye, Shaunna Zanker-aye, and Vickie Anerson-ayE. Motion carried.**

NON-AGENDA ITEM #1

Dave Turpen addressed council about the current noise ordinance. It currently says 12:00 am (midnight) to 7am. He would suggest moving it to 9:00 pm or 10:00 pm. Shaunna said that was something they discussed at the last meeting with MIDAS when codification of the current codes.

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NON-AGENDA ITEM #2

Dave Turpen addressed council about the city parking by the School St apartments. The parking lot is supposed to be for the basketball courts. He has heard that there were talks about the school bus stop there and possibly a shelter/bike rack. He wondered if the bike rack could go on the pavement instead. Beau asked if we could put signs up that say basketball court parking or bus stop parking and tow away zone. So if someone is parked there that should not, the city can tow the vehicle. Jeff didn't think it was council action and Beau said it would just to approve using the piece of property to put the bike rack, which Jeff said is not an issue. Peggy said the Lions had also talked about putting up some sort of shelter, which they are fine with. She is concerned about the dead tree and if a limb falls off and hurts a child because that is where they put their bikes and stand under it when it rains or for shade. Shaunna said it is an ideal location for privacy from other vehicles but not ideal for the little kids because it is a jaunt, but if they had a space to be it would be better. Peggy said they have put down some rock to help keep kids out of the mud but if they pull around the corner where the cement is they wouldn't be in the mud. Jeff asked when the rack will be in, Shaunna said she thinks it is already ordered. Beau thought it should be on the agenda to approve the placement on city property and changing the parking spot to bike rack and bus shelter. Peggy did suggest keeping one spot as a handicap spot for someone who lives at the apartments. Someone asked about the possibility of moving the school bus stop to the park because the bus barn is not owned by the school anymore and it already has a shelter. The council stated that you would need to go through the school board to get it moved. Beau said they have been trying to move the car wash spot for a while and they have not been able to move it. Shaunna said the superintendent has said in the past that parents need to attend a school board meeting if they want to change bus stops in town. If the bus stop was moved to the park, it would already have a shelter but it does not have a bike rack. Discussion was held about bus stops at the park, fire station and closer to Daniel's. Vickie said she could talk to Heather Holm about it. Jeff stopped the discussion by stating they need to go to the school board to get it changed.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by *Shaunna Zanker*, seconded by *Beau Jensen* to adjourn the meeting. *Vickie Anderson-aye, Beau Jensen-aye, and Shaunna Zanker*. Motion carried. Time: 7:08 P.M.

ATTESTATION

Toni Neuberger, City Clerk
Jeff Schroeder, Mayor

ATTEST:

Toni Neuberger, City Clerk

Jeff Schroeder, Mayor