

MORRISTOWN CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
Regular Meeting Wednesday, September 06, 2017 7:00 P.M.

Council Present: Lisa Karsten, Kathy Wolf, Seth Prescher and Tim Flaten

Absent: Mayor Kurt Wolf

Others Present: City Attorney Mark Rahrack, Sargent Tom McBroom, City Engineer Rich Revering, Fire Chief Troy Dahle, Mike O'Rourke, Steve Nordmeier, Mark Morris, Adam Uittenbogaard, Leon Gregor, Bill Weber and City Clerk Sheri Gregor

1. The regular meeting of the Morristown City Council was called to order on Wednesday, September 06, 2017 at 7:00 p.m., in the Council Chambers, at 402 S. Division Street, by Assistant Mayor Lisa Karsten.
2. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
3. Additions/Corrections to the Agenda:
Add 7. New Business - H. City Property Fall Lawn Care, I. Street Light Pole and J. Paving at the Mill (All bids). A motion was made by Seth Prescher, seconded by Kathy Wolf, and carried unanimously to approve the amended Agenda.
4. Consent Agenda:
A request was made to pull the Police Report. A motion was made by Seth Prescher, seconded by Tim Flaten, and carried unanimously to approve the Consent Agenda minus the Police Report. Sargent Tom McBroom spoke about the August law enforcement activity. Deputies are monitoring passing on the right along Holland Ave. / Hwy 60 and speed on Iona Ave.; traffic stops are up and citations issued. A County alcohol/tobacco sting operation was conducted at two establishments and both passed. The Sheriff's Dept. created a Morristown business notification (phone tree list) for businesses to successively notify another establishment of a sting or attempted underage purchase to raise awareness. Sargent McBroom also would like to include a cut-off/impaired patron, to the notification list. The Sheriff's Department is hoping to see some results by the end of the year. There has been an increase in (outdoor) thief going unreported. Get the word out to call the Sheriff's Dept.; instead of posting it on Facebook.

4. Consent Agenda: (cont.) Police Report - If you are witnessing a crime being committed, call 911, instead of the non-emergency number.

Another service Morrystown residents may take advantage of is a house residents/property check. Notify the Sheriff's Department or speak with the deputy on duty, when you are going on a vacation or away for the winter. They will perform house checks. A motion was made by Seth Prescher, seconded by Tim Flaten, and carried unanimously to approve the Police Report as presented.

5. Comments and Suggestions from Citizens Present:

Mike O'Rourke informed everyone on the progress of the playground project. Mike "thanked" Rich Revering for turning us onto the DNR grant, for which we will receive funding to expand the purchase of new equipment. Mike also "thanked" Troy Dahle and Tim Minske for the removal of the decaying trees. A small retaining wall will be built this weekend, by the steep hill neighboring the park. Mike asked permission, from the Council, to use the City's 1 ton truck to aid in this barrier project. The playground committee would like to have a few new trees planted this fall. There is approximately \$1,300.00 available in the "2017 parks budget" to purchase them. The installation of the playground equipment has been moved to September 15th and 16th. A ceremonial ribbon cutting will be planned.

6. Unfinished Business:

- A. IT System Solutions Proposals is tabled, due to the absence of Kurt Wolf.
- B. The enforcement of City ordinances will be shared between the City and the Sheriff's Department deputies. The law enforcement will cover public traffic, streets/safety/nuisance related violations. The City will notify private property, nuisance and zoning issues by letter, with the administrative penalty (fine) notice. The Council members are to look over our current "Complaint Procedure" (involving citizen's concerns, complaints and comments) and will be comments/suggestions to edit and/or revise.
- C. The City Clerk forwarded Mark Rahrack an abstract entry proving that properties in question by the State Office of Boundaries, were detached from the Village of Morrystown into the Township, in 1940. MNDOT is revising and processing their mapping.
- D. The Council directed Mark Rahrack to suggest to the Riverside Mobile Home Community management that the City will maintain and hire the repair of the ISO valve at their expense. Mark will ask for an answer by the next regular meeting.

6. Unfinished Business: (cont.)

- E. The 2017 budget included \$2,000.00 for downtown beautification. A discussion was held on what to do about the missing and the few existing trees on the downtown boulevard; to replant trees or put in planters with flowering plants, during the spring and summer. Seth Prescher will speak with the businesses about the trees and see what their thoughts are. The Council will vote, at the next regular meeting, whether or not to remove the existing trees. The beautification item is tabled until February 2018.**
- F. The Commercial Club is to be in charge of planning how to pay tribute from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. for the National Pregnancy and Infant Loss Remembrance Day on October 15, 2017.**
- G. Two Lakes Design has created, for the City, the Official Morristown Social Media Page available on Facebook and Instagram at this point. Seth Prescher suggests the approval process to be as follows: Anyone can submit an item for the social media page. The item is routed to the Mayor, Kurt Wolf, who needs to approve it. The City Clerk, Sheri Gregor, will then send the item to Two Lakes Design via the city's email address. Two Lakes Design will then post the item within 24 hours.**
- H. Leon Gregor informed the Council of the Morristown firefighter's decision to not ask the City to increase their retirement benefit this year. In another issue, Lisa Karsten ask to table the annual \$5,000.00 contribution to the Morristown Fire Relief, to the October 2nd meeting.**

7. New Business:

- A. Bill Weber, representing Sunrise Energy Development, ask the Council to hold a public hearing and amend our ordinance to allow community solar gardens in the agricultural zoned districts within the city limits. The Council requests the Zoning Board's input and to bring their exact proposed adjustments of the ordinance to the next regular Council meeting; if they want to amend the ordinance. Minnesota State law requires application request action to be taken within 60 days. A motion was made by Seth Prescher, seconded by Tim Flaten and carried unanimously to request to extend an additional 60 day window. Bill Weber consents to allowing an additional 60 day extension (120 days total).**

7. New Business: (cont.)

- B. Lisa Karsten request Attorney Mark Rahrlick draft a letter and send to the owner whom violated a City Ordinance, Chapter 92 – Section Open Burning: §92.56 Prohibited Materials (A).**
- C. The City Committee Appointments is tabled until the next regular meeting to fill the vacant Park/Trees/Weeds & Animal Control Officer positions.**
- D. The City’s insurance does cover volunteers; as they lend their helping hands to remove the old and install the new playground equipment.**
- E. A motion was made by Seth Prescher, seconded by Kathy Wolf, and carried unanimously to move to two meetings per month for City Council. First meeting will be regular, second meeting will be special/work session. They will be listed as the first and the third Monday of each month, subject to holidays and changes, effective immediately. Council members will designate which meeting to add their agenda items to. The Mayor will approve the Agenda prior to the three day posting rule. Mark Rahrlick and Rich Revering’s attendance at the special/work session meeting will be optional; as to if their input is needed. Seth Prescher amended his motion, seconded by Kathy Wolf, and carried unanimously to start the scheduled two monthly meetings in October.**
- F. A motion was made by Tim Flaten, seconded by Seth Prescher, and carried unanimously to approve LaCanne Paving’s bid to seal coat and re-stripe the Community Center parking lot; suggesting they try to do the work on a Monday.**
- G. A motion was made by Seth Prescher, seconded by Kathy Wolf, and carried unanimously to allow fall open burning from October 15th through November 15th by permit only; suspending the rules of our ordinance as written. Mark Rahrlick will present an ordinance amendment that moves it to a permitted allowance during the time authorized by the Council.**
- H. A motion was made by Seth Prescher, seconded by Tim Flaten, and carried unanimously to approve Milt’s Lawn Service bid for fall lawn care.**
- I. The Council decided not to relocate the street light pole, at the intersection of Franklin and Division Streets; therefore not accepting the LaCanne Electric bid to move the location.**
- J. A motion was made by Seth Prescher, seconded by Tim Flaten, and carried unanimously to approve using funds out of the Historical Site capital outlay to repave the feed mill parking lot and extending to the end of the city’s property and accept the LaCanne Paving bid of \$3,250.00, suspending the two bid rule.**

8. Correspondence and Announcements:

Lisa Karsten announced Kurt Wolf and Kris Scouton had a baby girl on Tuesday, September 5th.

Tim Flaten told about the tree that went down on Holland Avenue. Tim Flaten called Tim Minske to get it cleaned up. Tim Flaten said a couple local people called him and were impressed on how fast it got taken care of.

9. Claims and Accounts:

A motion was made by Seth Prescher, seconded by Kathy Wolf, and carried unanimously to approve to pay the August 16, 2017 Mid-Month Claims and Accounts totaling \$3,335.52 from the General Fund, \$3,425.65 from the Fire Department Fund, \$993.73 from the Water Operations Fund and \$1,304.52 from the Wastewater Operations Fund; the September 06, 2017 Current Claims and Accounts totaling \$9,967.88 from the General Fund, \$448.14 from the Fire Department Fund, \$4,270.12 from the Water Operations Fund, \$2,691.11 from the Wastewater Operations Fund, and \$68.00 from the Refuse Fund; and the September 06, 2017 Late Claims and Accounts totaling \$65,648.71 from the General Fund, \$659.25 from the Fire Department Fund, \$82.98 from the Water Operations Fund, \$6.45 from the Wastewater Operations Fund and \$4,183.22 from the Refuse Fund.

10. Council Discussion and Concerns:

A phone complaint on traffic regulations and safety will be forwarded to the sheriff's department.

The 2014 Feasibility Report for street improvements will need to be updated, as Seth Prescher makes plans to incorporate this project into the 2018 budget. Seth Prescher asks Rich Revering for information on available grants to off-set the city's share.

11. Adjournment:

A motion was made by Kathy Wolf, seconded by Tim Flaten, and carried unanimously to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

12. Next Meetings:

The next work session is Thursday, September 14, 2017 at 7:00 p.m.
The next regular meeting will be held on Monday, October 02, 2017 at 7:00 p.m.

ATTEST:

/s/ Sheri Gregor

Sheri Gregor, City Clerk/Treasurer

/s/ Kurt Wolf

Kurt Wolf, Mayor