

**City of Pillager
City Council Meeting Minutes
January 13, 2015**

Mayor Greenheck called the regular meeting to order at 6:00p.m. The pledge of allegiance was said. Council Members Smith, and Woitalla were present with Council Mattheisen arriving at 6:15; absent from meeting was Council Albrecht. Guests at the meeting were Paul Odenthal, Sue Van Hal, Pamela Withage, Mike Withage, Jamie Hauge, Donna Klimek, Kami Van Hal, Philip Berg and Katie Eastman. Staff present was Craig Boyer, Terri Wickham and Jan Loftis.

Donna Klimek requested approval on an application for a raffle at the Fiddler's Contest on April 11th 2015. This will be the same type of raffle they have had in the past.

Motion by Council Smith to approve the application for the Pillager Fairboard to have the raffle on April 11th 2015 at the Fiddler's Contest, seconded by Council Woitalla, motion carried unanimously.

The Fairboard is in the process of getting a grant from the Agricultural Department to restore the gate and the gate house which was built by the WPA and to refence. We will need a copy of what they intend to do so that Tim Caughey can give them an amount that can be added to the grant. They were informed that they would need to contact Tim Caughey to get a dollar amount. Donna Klimek will call him. If anyone has any information on who built that they would like that information as well.

Mayor Greenheck stated he was moving the increase of water rates from old business to new business as he felt the incoming mayor should have some input on this issue.

Mayor Greenheck swore in the New Mayor Sue Van Hal and the reelected Council Members. Mayor Van Hal took over the meeting at this point.

Mayor Van Hal thanked outgoing Mayor Gary Greenheck for all of his hard work and dedication to the City. She presented him a plaque from the City and thanked him for his service of 21 years to the City. Mayor Van Hal recessed the meeting for a few minutes to have a little party to thank the outgoing mayor and to welcome our incoming mayor.

Mayor Van Hal reopened the meeting. Discussion was held on the fee schedule. She was wondering about the cost of copying documents. Her feeling is they are a little high and would like to see it reduced. She also was wondering if we wanted to leave the snow plowing in as it had been discussed previously to just do it ourselves for the downtown area. Council Smith also wanted to know if there had been any changes since last year. In October the water meter rates were changed to reflect actual cost because of the new meters. **Motion by Council Mattheisen to accept the fee schedule as presented; seconded by Council Woitalla, motion carried unanimously.**

Mayoral Appointments were discussed. Council Smith believes that Council Albrecht would be a better fit for the Street Commissioner than himself. Mayor Van Hal agreed and stated we would appoint him and he could refuse if he so chose to. Terri Wickham stated that Gary Greenheck has agreed to stay on as the Emergency Manager Director until we can find someone to replace him. Jan Loftis stated she would not be the Fire Representative any longer but would stay on for the Park Board Representative. Tom Pearson has been the City Attorney for the past year. Discussion has been that representation has been rather slow. Council Smith felt we should leave it as is for now and we can change by motion in the future if we need. Planning Commission has an empty spot or two. Mayor Van Hal stated she personally would like to see her husband be appointed if that was appropriate and she would step down at that time from

the Planning Commission Board. Fire Representative was discussed and Council Mattheisen stated he was fine being the representative as long as it was okay with Chief Lee. Mayor Van Hal will be the Police Commissioner. **Motion by Council Smith to accept the Mayoral appointments with the following changes, Council Albrecht as Street Commissioner, Council Mattheisen as Fire Representative, Mayor Van Hal as Police Commissioner, Gammello, Pearson Qualley and Mallak as the Firm for City Attorney and Gary Greenheck as the Emergency Manager Director, seconded by Council Woitalla, motion carried unanimously.**

With the changing of the Mayor we need to update the signature cards at the bank. **Motion by Council Mattheisen to approve removal of Gary Greenheck from the signature cards at Unity Bank and adding Mayor Van Hal in to the signature cards, seconded by Council Woitalla, motion carried unanimously.** Terri Wickham and Jan Loftis are also on these cards.

Excel sent a letter stating they are making progress and about done in Pillager. They will be back in the spring to finish up the job. People were wondering who paid for the water they used as they were backing up to a hydrant by the Café. They are billed at \$4.00 per thousand plus \$100 hookup fee.

Mayor Van Hal and Council Albrecht will be going to the leadership conference in Brooklyn Center at the end of January.

EDC information is in the packet for Council. Mayor Van Hal stated she has had four different people contact her about doing business in town.

Motion by Council Smith to approve the bills as presented, seconded by Council Woitalla, motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Council Woitalla to approve the December minutes and expenses as presented, seconded by Council Mattheisen, motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Van Hal stated she would like to table the water rate increase for a month or so and get the facts as to where we really stand at this time. Council Smith would like to see what the exact expense is that is being billed to this fund and see if anything can be removed. He wants staff to keep track of their time and see how many hours they actually work in the water department.

A work session will be scheduled so Council can go over the employee handbook, and anything else that needs to be discussed. Mayor Van Hal would like Council to think of a date to have a meeting to do some strategic planning.

Mayor Van Hal stated she would like to see a letter sent to the Pillager Lions thanking them for the path at the City Park and that we will be fixing the blocks that were broken. Council Smith stated it really wasn't the City Staff that broke these blocks it was a company we had hired to pump the portable toilet. The Lions would like to do a lot more improvements at the park if the City would allow this. The next thing they would like to do is to install a good flag pole.

Motion by Council Mattheisen to adjourn the meeting at 7:15, seconded by Council Woitalla, motion carried unanimously.


Sue Van Hal, Mayor


Terri Wickham, Administrator