

**City of Pillager
City Council Meeting Minutes
February 10, 2015**

Mayor Van Hal called the regular meeting to order at 6:00p.m. The pledge of allegiance was said. Council Members, Smith, Woitalla, Mattheisen and Albrecht were present. Guests at the meeting were Paul Wickham, Sandy Youngblom, Boyd Loftis, and Pamela Withage. Staff present was Craig Boyer, Terri Wickham and Jan Loftis.

Mayor Van Hal made some changes to the Council Agenda. She tabled the discussion of the handbook do to the petition from the Union by the City Staff. Items added to the agenda was a request for a donation from the Fairboard, an inspection quote from Water/Wastewater Supervisor Craig Boyer, the work assessment from NJPA and the information from the Bureau of Mediation Services.

Mayor Van Hal started to swear in Councilman Albrecht and Councilman Mattheisen. Councilman Albrecht stated he could not be sworn in at this time because it stated in the oath that "I'm supposed to uphold what is going on in the City and that don't happen. We can't say we gonna uphold the interest in the City when no one else wants to be a part of holding up to what is going on in the City. They come here they decide they are gonna come here and get paid and go home and come and go whenever they want". Mayor Van Hal asked if he was talking about the language in the oath and he said no he was talking about was going on in Pillager. Mayor Van Hal explained to Council Albrecht that the oath she wanted him to take stated he would do his best to "discharge faithfully the duties of the office of the City of Pillager". She stated she would like him to do that with the rest of the Council and at some point down the road he felt different they could talk about it at that point. Council Albrecht stated "it came to a point there ain't much talking anymore. Between the employees that like to lie and the rest of them that don't want to do nothing there ain't a whole lot to really talk about." Mayor Van Hal stated at this point they would table that kind of conversation. Council Albrecht stated that was his feeling. There was no response from other Council members. Mayor Van Hal stated if he wanted to take the oath they could talk about his feelings under the advisement of their attorney or in a closed session whichever is appropriate but to run a nice clean meeting they need to keep it above board. She stated it was up to Councilman Albrecht, if he chose not to take the oath that would be considered a resignation on his part as he could not serve on Council without taking the oath. Council urged Council Albrecht to take the oath. Mayor Van Hal swore in Council Albrecht and Council Mattheisen.

There was a question regarding Council Mattheisen's involvement in the January meeting as he had missed the swearing that month. There were some motions and seconds made and we don't know if they are legal or not without him being sworn in. Mayor Van Hal will check with the City Attorney.

Motion by Council Albrecht to adopt the agenda as presented, seconded by Council Woitalla, motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Van Hal introduced her protocol for visitors at the meeting. It will not be used at this meeting as it had not been adopted.

We have been discussing the letter to the City residents. **Council Smith motioned to accept the letter to the City Residents, seconded by Council Mattheisen.** Discussion: Council went over the letter and changed the word crap to sewage; they would like to include something for the bridge closing. Jan will contact Morrison County and try to get something from them regarding the bridge and their time frame for construction. **Motion was modified by Council Smith to simplify the sidewalk clearing and to find a better word than crap. Council Mattheisen suggested sewage; Council Mattheisen rescinded his second and seconded the new motion. Motion carried unanimously.**

Increasing water rates is on the agenda to keep it on task. Was tabled until next month when they get the actuals so they can make an educated guess. . There is a million gallons that are not billed but is accounted for. We are in range of the 10%. **Council Smith motioned to table the water increase until the March meeting when they will have more information, seconded by Council Weitalla, motion carried unanimously.**

Tim Caughey he is working on the feed store. He has not been able to get a hold of the people in the railroad house. He did state the foundation on the house is good and if people want to bring up to compliance he would not condemn it at this time. The feed store we are sending a second letter to the owners and then if they do not answer we will start the process of condemning by having the attorney send them a letter. There is a process to do this and an expense. Council will have to decide if it is worth the cost to move forward with this.

Mayoral Appointments were discussed. Mayor Van Hal confirmed that Council Roger Albrecht will be the Street Commissioner, Council Bret Mattheisen will be the Fire Representative, Tom Pearson will be the City Attorney and Greg Van Hal will be on the Planning Commission. The EDA Commission had just started and the expiring dates would be Mayor Van Hal, 12/31/2015, Council Smith, 12/31/2016, Council Mattheisen 12/31/2017, Council Weitalla 12/31/2018 and Council Albrecht 12/31/2019, Secretary/Treasurer is Terri Wickham and is appointed until she is no longer with the City or until changed. **Motion by Council Mattheisen 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, and Greg Van Hal as Planning Commission member, seconded by Council Weitalla, motion carried unanimously.** Staff will include in City letter that we are in search of another planning Commission person for the Board.

The guest protocol procedure is in the packet and is from the LMC. This is pretty straight forward. This would limit the public input at Council meetings. Council Mattheisen suggested we add a line to the sign in sheet to state the reason for being at meeting. Council Smith did not believe we should restrict anyone from speaking at our meetings. He felt it is their right to speak and should not have to fill out another form. Mayor Van Hal stated it is easier to lighten up and let people speak but if not in place we have nothing to stop a lot of the bantering back and forth. **Motion by Council Mattheisen to approve the guest protocol and add a line to the signup sheet for public speaking, seconded by Council Weitalla, motion carried with Council Smith opposing.**

Family Center is putting out a survey next month and Mayor Van Hal would like us to fill that out and to work with the Family Center and the Initiative Foundation to work together to "embrace the temporary" by doing something short term in the space that the Family Center has purchased uptown.

City Web site is in the process but City staff has not had a lot of time to work on it. Mayor Van Hal has requested the password so she can work on the web page. **Motion by Council Smith to release the password to Mayor Van Hal, seconded by Council Mattheisen, motion carried unanimously.**

The Pillager Education Foundation is doing a fundraiser called the Plunge. Mayor Van Hal has consented to jump and has asked other Council members to join her.

The work session that was to be held was to go over the handbook but in light of the events that have taken place, it should be tabled unless they want to work on something else. Council decided to wait until full staff is back to go over things. City Attorney has recommended that things be tabled until appropriate to work on and then in a closed session.

Motion by Councilman Voitalla to approve the change of meeting time to 6:30 from 6:00 to ensure enough time for the Council to get to the meeting in a timely manner, seconded by Council Albrecht, motion carried unanimously.

Staff will post the changes.

Mayor Van Hal requested written reports from different departments. They were very small as the request came in close to meeting. Staff did best they could determining the time spent in water department which is what was requested at last meeting. These times change monthly depending on what is going on with water/sewer.

Motion by Council Smith to approve the Annual Inspection request submitted by Water/Wastewater Supervisor Boyer, cost is \$875.00 per year; this is cheaper than having to fix any of the pumps. This is considered a maintenance item. Seconded by Council Voitalla, motion carried unanimously.

Pillager Fairboard has requested a donation from the City. City gave them \$500 for the City Celebration last year. This will be added to the agenda for next month.

NJPA Statement of work is just an assessment for Council from the time that NJPA came in and helped us with our Computers. They stated the computers are old and should be replaced, we should have some offsite storage for back up, wireless should be updated to be safer and harder to hack into, and to upgrade to a paid Avast protection program.

Council Mattheisen stated that the Fire Department cannot donate to the Pillager Fairboard directly as they also have a gambling license. He is going to contact the gambling board to see if it is legal to run that donation through the City.

We are still working on the Crossing tax forfeiture with the State of MN. This has gone to the attorney at the State Capital for rewriting the law.

Mayor Van Hal did a ride along with Officer Youngblom the other night. He said he wasn't aware of some of the activities at the school so Mayor Van Hal brought some information to him. She rode with him for four hours.

Mayor Van Hal and Council Albrecht went to the Newly Elected Officials conference and they thought it was a very good thing to do. There is a second step to this and Council should all attend that if they wanted to.

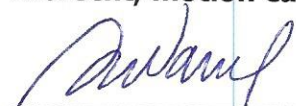
Motion by Council Mattheisen to approve the bills as presented, seconded by Council Voitalla, motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Council Voitalla to approve the January minutes and expenses with corrections, seconded by Council Albrecht, motion carried unanimously.

The employees of the City of Pillager felt they needed to join a union at this time. Paper was presented to the City Council from Bureau of Mediation Services for their signature.

Motion by Council Smith to consult with the City Attorney and act upon the direction the City attorney suggests, Mayor Van Hal stated she would stop back in and sign if so directed by the attorney, seconded by Council Mattheisen, motion carried.

Motion by Council Mattheisen to adjourn the meeting at 7:45, seconded by Council Albrecht, motion carried unanimously.



Sue Van Hal, Mayor



Terri Wickham, Administrator