

City of Pillager  
City Council Meeting Minutes  
March 10, 2015

Mayor Van Hal called the regular meeting to order at 6:30p.m. The pledge of allegiance was said. Council Members present were Leroy Smith, Clarence Voitalla and Bret Mattheisen. Guests at the meeting were Sandy Youngblom, Ken Newkirk, Norman Rohl Dan Hawley, Ginger Thrasher, Paul Odenthal, Jay Personous, and Pamela Withage. Staff present was Mitch Tavaras and Jan Loftis.

Mayor Van Hal made some additions to the Council Agenda. Items that were added to the agenda are as listed: update on The Crossing Plat update, ratifying the January minutes and a request from Chief Youngblom to purchase needed items for the police department.

**Motion by Council Voitalla to approve agenda with changes, seconded by Council Mattheisen, motion carried unanimously.**

**Motion by Council Smith to approve the February minutes and expenses, seconded by Council Voitalla, Discussion: add to the February minutes staff presented paperwork from BMS to the Council, last two sentences of minutes need to be stricken, as it came from the audience not the Council and was not part of the meeting, Council Smith made a motion to accept minutes with the above changes, seconded by Council Voitalla, motion carried unanimously.**

Council Smith would like usage rates and amounts, real numbers of time spent on water, he wants actual costs. He does not want us to charge off City Hall hours and raise water rates for it. **Motion by Council Mattheisen to table the discussion on water rates until next month, seconded by Council Voitalla, motion carried unanimously.**

Railroad house will not be condemned until Tim Caughey can access the property and make his assessment. The feed storeowner has been sent two certified letters and has not responded. Council needs to make a decision on how far they want to go and how much money they want to spend. Tim Caughey has stated the next step would be to contact the City Attorney and have a letter sent by the Attorney for the City in hopes that the owners will take note and at least contact us. If not we would need to get costs and tear down ourselves. The charges incurred would be added to the property taxes when done. **Motion by Council Mattheisen to proceed with process to tear down the feed store, Staff will contact the City attorney for his advice, seconded by Council Voitalla, motion carried unanimously.**

Donation to the Fairboard was tabled last month and was readdressed this month, **Council Smith motioned to donate \$500 to the Pillager Fairboard towards the City Celebration, seconded by Council Mattheisen, motion carried unanimously.**

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Council Smith motioned to approve the February Council minutes, and all motions and actions of Council Mattheisen at our January meeting, because he was late and missed the swearing in, seconded by Council Woitalla, motion carried, Council Mattheisen abstained.

Snowplow policy was sent out last month with our letter. Mayor Van Hal pointed out some errors in the typing of the policy. Council stated to correct the policy errors and they will approve at the next meeting.

**Motion by Council Smith to appoint Mayor Van Hal, Council Mattheisen, Norman Rohl, Paul Odenthal, Jay Personous, Betty Doss, Roger Albrecht and Pastor Paul Johnson to the contract negotiation committee, seconded by Council Woitalla, Motion carried.**

Roger Albrecht has resigned from the Pillager City Council. Motion by Council Mattheisen to accept the resignation of Mr. Albrecht, seconded by Council Woitalla, motion carried unanimously. We need to discuss appointing someone to replace Roger Albrecht. Mayor Van Hal has suggested Jay Personous. Council believes a letter should be sent to the residents of the City. Staff will send out a letter to the residence and see if anyone is interested in this position. This will be a separate letter from the cleanup day. Council Smith motioned to send a letter to City residents, notifying them of the open seat on Council and ask them to step forward if they are interested in serving on the Council. This needs to be done by the next Council meeting. Along with this, we will table the appointment of until the next meeting. Seconded by Council Mattheisen, motion carried unanimously.

Staff has turned in their reports. Craig Boyer is out on Medical and Chris Korwes has requested March 20 off. Chris will be on call if we need him. Council Smith and Council Mattheisen would like a short training on how to run the plant in case of an emergency before he goes on vacation. Jan will be here in case of an emergency.

Officer Youngblom has requested a Computer, a new vest, a body camera, and an air card for the squad car. Officer Youngblom's vest is out of date and he needs a new one. His vest is about \$600 and will be divided three ways. As far as the Computer, he does need it but Bret will go over what Officer Youngblom needs. He has also requested a body camera that is about \$100.00 and an air card. The County has started a new program and Sheriff Burch has included us in this program and is furnishing us with a used computer for the squad. We need to purchase a stand for the computer for the car and is about \$200. We have a record retention policy from the State that we follow. Officer Youngblom was talking about an external hard drive to store the data on from the body camera. Officer Youngblom should contact the County Attorney about how and where to store this data.

**Motion by Council Smith to approve a new vest for the Police department for \$600, seconded by Council Woitalla, motion carried unanimously.**



**Motion by Council Mattheisen to approve the purchase of an air card monthly and a computer stand for the squad, seconded by Council Weitalla, motion carried unanimously.**

Mayor Van Hal would like to meet with the City Businesses and do get some ideas as to what they would like to see in the City. Council Smith motioned to meet with the businesses in the area on March 23 at 6:30 at Pillager City Hall. Staff will work with Mayor to send out the letter to the local business', seconded by Council Mattheisen, motion carried unanimously.

**Motion by Council Smith to accept the quote for the Civil Defense Siren from Frontline for \$710.00, seconded by Council Weitalla, motions carries unanimously.**

Discussion on the squad car was tabled until Council has more financial information.

Hours were discussed for the office while Admin/Clerk Wickham is on leave. Jan Loftis requested permission to carry more than forty hours of comp time if needed as there is not time to take it off right now. **Motion by Council Smith to approve Jan Loftis carrying over 40 hours of comp time because we are short staffed, seconded by Council Weitalla, motion carried.**

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

**Motion by Council Mattheisen to continue the meeting at 8:45 until March 23 at 6:30 p.m. seconded by Council Weitalla, motion carried unanimously.**

### **March 23, 2015 Continued Council Meeting**

The Mayor reconvened the meeting at 6:30pm. Council present was Clarence Weitalla, Leroy Smith, with Council Mattheisen arriving at 6:55. Guest at the meeting were Louise Johnson, Shane Johnson, Shawna Johnson, Pam Withage, Anna Hunstad, Dennis Loucks, Gail Levenson, Jamie Hauge, Bette Doss, Tim Rice, Paul Odenthal, Marie Odenthal, Sandra Fischer, Steve Statema, Steve Uban, Dianna Lindgren and Terry Gardner.

**Motion by Council Smith to approve cleanup day for 2015, Seconded by council Weitalla, motion carried unanimously. Staff will gather information and bring back to Council in April. Staff will also get information on including the garbage from inside the house that burnt.**

**Motion made by Council Smith to table water rates and snow plow policy until April Meeting, seconded by council Weitalla carried unanimously.**

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April is Child Abuse Awareness Month. Myra Horner with the Pillager Area Family Center asked that the City join in to help raise awareness of this by adopting a proclamation. **Motion by Council Weitalla moved to approve the Proclamation declaring April as the Child Abuse Awareness Month in the City of Pillager, second by Council Smith, motion carries unanimously.**

Meeting was opened up to the public with an introduction of each visitor and what they represent:

Anna Hunstad- Shante 2007- 10 employees  
Paul and Marie Odenthal- Paint Company- Property Management 1990  
Pam Withage- May open business  
Dennis Loucks, Steve Statema - Encounter Ministries non-profit (?) school 2012, started 2008.  
Sandra Fisher works at school  
Diana Lindgren- Learn more about Community Center  
Terry Gardner Antique Store- 30 years  
Betty Doss- Director of Pillager Family Center  
Steve Uban- School Board- Chair, Education Foundation  
Gail Leverson Cass County EDC- 11 years  
Tim Rice – CEO Lakewood Health Systems- 900 total employees with 15 being in Pillager  
Louise Johnson- Grandpa G's farm- Century Farm turns 100 in 2020  
Shawna Ellingsen- 4 acres in vegetable produce and some meats  
Jamie Hauge –Pillager Fair Board- Community Center, Fair Grounds is busy all the time with Horse shows, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, golfers, skating rink- school.

Strengths for the City of Pillager include

Betty Doss- Has been growth  
Tim Rice - Great school  
Uban- the river  
Pillsbury State Forest-  
MP & L Dam  
Location State Hwy 210 and Cass County Hwy 1  
Pillager Lake Park  
Marie Odenthal- Swans, geese- migration- Monarchs migration  
Camp Ripley- Trail Head  
History and Heritage- "Pillager Gap"  
Red River Ox Cart Trail  
Police and County Sheriff  
Faith Community

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Challenges-  
Mobile Society  
Lack of businesses  
No property to expand  
Buildings- Curb appeal- structurally  
Need to do Beautification  
Proximity to Baxter

What we would like to see and preserving Pillager:

Small town feel- Main Street  
Community relaxed living  
Knowledge of Elders  
Curb Appeal- flowers  
Signage for business  
Boat Launch  
Camping  
Grocery Store

Festival Ideas:

Music Fest (like Halfway Jam)  
Flea Markets  
Swap Meets  
Trapping festival  
Car Show

Jan Loftis brought up the sign uptown by the Café. The Lions would like to update and make it more usable. Council member Smith stated he believed that sign was put up by the Business Association years ago. Staff will try to find out who owns the sign and see what we could do to update it after we have more information.

**Motion by Council Mattheisen to table any decision on the sign until next meeting to give staff time to find out any information they can on it, seconded by Council Voitalla, motion carried unanimously.**

  
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Sue Van Hal, Mayor

  
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Jan Loftis, Deputy Clerk