


City has received \$7200 from the State for roads. This is half. We will get the other half with second disbursement of LGA.

Council was given the proposed budget work sheet. Admin Wickham asked if they wanted the 2016 proposed budget prepared by staff as always or a different way. Staff usually puts it together and Council goes through it. It was decided that it should be done as we have in the past. The budget has to be certified by end of September. There will be a work session after they meet with their legal counsel.

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

Motion by Council Odenthal to adjourn the meeting at 8:50pm., seconded by Council Woitalla, motion carried unanimously.



Mayor Sue Van Hal-Mayor



Admin/Clerk Terri Wickham

**City of Pillager
City Council Meeting Minutes
August 11, 2015**

Mayor Van Hal called the regular meeting to order at 6:36 p.m. The pledge of allegiance was said. Council Members present were Leroy Smith, Clarence Voitalla, Paul Odenthal; Councilman Bret Mattheisen was absent. Guests at meeting were David Drown, Norman Rohl, Kerry and Ann Meyer, Greg Van Hal, Kim Fiest and Pamela Withage. Staff present was Administrator Terri Wickham, Ben Wiebolt and Jan Loftis.

Council Smith made a motion to approve the August Agenda as presented, seconded by Council Voitalla, Motion carried unanimously.

Visitor Form: No comments

Council Smith made a motion to approve the July expenses as presented, seconded by Council Odenthal, motion carried unanimously. Council minutes were not approved until we can get clarification from Council Mattheisen regarding whether or not he recorded the work session on a different recorder.

Mayor inquired about posting minutes to the City website. Staff will look into doing this.

There were questions regarding the property located at 107 Ironwood Ave E. They have a motor home hooked up to the sewer with the water access being available. Staff sent a letter to Mr. Carlson requesting he inform the City of his intentions at the property. He was invited to attend the meeting. He is collecting a lot of stuff including vehicles. Officer Wiebolt will check to see if the motor home is licensed. Staff will send a letter to all properties in the City limits that need to be cleaned up. This is a process and an expense to go through the Courts if need be. **Motion by Council Odenthal to send cleanup letters to the properties in the City that need to be cleaned up, and to bill the owner of the property, Jason Alexander for sewer and water, seconded by Council Voitalla, motion carried unanimously.**

David Drown from Drown and Associates congratulated the City on getting the tax-forfeited lots back. He suggested that now we sell them for the cost of the assessments on them. He stated there is no need to pay to have them assessed again; we can sell them out right. He also suggested we set up a Tax Increment Finance District once we have a parcel sold. Housing lots can be set up for 26 years and the Commercial lots for 9 years. Anyone who has a combined income of \$85,000 or less would qualify for a TIF backing. Because this is an Economic Development, we do not need to worry about selling all for the same price or with same incentives. He suggests we do not sell unless the buyer intends to build within a set amount of time. Council needs to approve a selling price and a time frame for construction before we can start marketing them.

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The Pillager Feed store has been demolished.

Council discussed the water/sewer rates and feels that at this time they do not want to raise them.

Motion by Council Smith to not raise Water/Sewer rates for the 2015 fiscal year, seconded by Council Odenthal, motion carried unanimously.

Ann Meyer stated the new playground equipment at the City Park is very nice. The park by City Hall needs to be checked to see if it needs to be power washed again.

A thank you card will be sent to the Pillager Lions for the improvements at the City Park.

Mayor stated Chief Youngblom had given her a report and would like Council to consider hiring Officer Wiebolt permanently. He is doing a great job and he has been turning down jobs in other Cities. Council stated we need to keep Officer Wiebolt where Officer Tavares was until the new budget is prepared.

Mayors Report:

Mayor Van Hal read a statement:

"We have an employee who clocked 28 hours and has turned them in to be used to purchase sick hours or comp hours. These hours were three forty hour weeks and are not included in a paycheck. Upon the advice of the League of Minnesota Cities, I instructed our clerk to include these hours in the next payroll check. This employee maintained this practice was allowed and did not authorize our clerk to make a payment of these hours in a paycheck. I have checked with the City Auditor, and the City Council's Labor Attorney, both who say this is highly unusual practice and we should not allow it. I have researched this gain per our company policy 2004 which says in 4.4 Compensatory time off will be paid at a rate of one and a half times the number of hours worked over forty hours in a work week. City Council, what would you want to instruct this employee? Basically, a person worked these hours and didn't take pay and put those hours in the comp column." Council was informed they were not in the comp column. These were straight time hours and were being paid back because of short-term disability. There were multiple comments from the audience. Council Smith tabled this matter until the next meeting and Council Smith will stop into City Hall and get a full understanding of the issue.

City Letter went out. Would have liked to see other things in the letter, such as a thank you to the Lions, the Family Center and welcome to the two new businesses.

Council needs to set up a closed session with the Labor Attorney.

MN DOT is putting up a pedestrian sign on 210 by the City Limits.