

CITY OF MAPLETON
COUNCIL MINUTES
Tuesday July 21st, 2020

Members present: Maslakow, Froehlich, Warner and Hollerich. Absent: Christian

Staff members present: City Clerk Duncanson, Deputy Clerk Fay.

Others present: Tamara-Maple River Messenger, Judd Schultz-MVAC, Sandra Danberry, Harlan Marble.

Mayor Hollerich called the council meeting to order at 7:00p.m. in the Council Chambers at the Mapleton Fire Station.

Pledge of Allegiance

All present stood and said the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

Agenda

Mayor Hollerich added item B. Meeting Date Changes and Workshop Date to the agenda.

Councilor Froehlich moved and Councilor Warner seconded to adopt the agenda as follows. All present voted in favor thereof. Motion carried

Consent Agenda

Councilor Warner moved and Councilor Maslakow seconded to adopt the consent agenda as follows. All present voted in favor thereof. Motion carried.

- A. Minutes 7/7/2020
- B. Bills \$526,942.70
- C. Zoning Permits- J. Weyhrauch, J. Wittrock, J. Larson
- D. Construction Update

Community Comment:

- Sandra Danberry was present to discuss the large playground she is building at 502 5th Ave NE. It was brought to the city's attention that where she is building the playground is the public right-of-way. Danberry stated that she has always thought this was her yard, and she called city hall before she started building to ask if a permit was needed and was told no. Councilor Froehlich noted that what she has build is not the typical backyard swing set, it is a very large structure. Being described as a swing set would not make it necessary to need a permit, but what she has built would need a permit. Mayor Hollerich stated that his main concern is not that Danberry did not obtain a permit, but that there are water and sewer mains right under where the playground sits. Danberry asked if they can just leave the playground there and move it in the event the mains need to be repaired. Hollerich stated that could cause problems with potential future owners of the home. Councilor Warner stated that Danberry should go through the process of a building permit and see what the zoning board would like to do. Hollerich instructed Danberry to stop any further construction on the playground and turn a building permit into city hall. Danberry also noted that there are some dead trees in the right-of-way that she would like public works to take a look at.
- Harlan Marble was present to raise concern about the fence his neighbor is building. He also heard that his neighbor is intending to run a dog kenneling business out of his backyard as well. Mayor Hollerich assured Marble that the fence is compliant with city ordinances and it is off the property line, so it does not need Marble's approval. As far as the kennel business, Hollerich stated that the city will need to contact his neighbor for a permit and thanked him for the heads up.

Presentation: Judd Schultz MN Valley Action Council Update: Judd Schultz was present to update the council on multiple things he has been working on for the city:

- **Small Cities Development:** Schultz informed the council that he has just received the contract for the rehab project. He and his staff have been working on the environmental impact that the rehabbing could potentially do, and they are hoping to start taking applications within the next four to six weeks. The project will allocate for 12 rehab projects in the target area.
- **Rental Property Inspections:** Schultz stated that MVAC is still closed to the public and not doing inspections yet, but they are working on a protocol to safely do inspections due to Covid-19. Ideally, they will request that no one will be in the home or isolated to one room, and the inspection will only take 15-20 minutes to limit contact.
- **Mobile Park Closure:** Schultz wanted to address the council regarding the roadblocks that came up due to the mobile park closure. He said that the mobile home trust program is not used very often, and Minnesota Housing had new staff working on this closure. He stated that all the houses that were set to be moved have been moved and contractors have been paid.

Unfinished Business:

- **None**

New Business

- A. Refund for Utility Customer Credit Balances Policies and Procedures:** Clerk Duncanson brought to the council a draft for a policy for utility refunds. This policy would allow a refund or credit to utility billing discrepancies up to one year from the billed date. Mayor Hollerich stated he would like to add that it is the resident's responsibility to review their bill and contact city hall for any mistakes. It was the consensus of the council to add these revisions and vote on the final copy of the policy next council meeting.
- B. Meeting Date Changes and Workshop Date:** Duncanson brought to the council a schedule of council meeting dates for the rest of the year. Changes in dates are due to vacations and elections. She is also proposing a council workshop for August 10th to discuss the 2021 budget and utility rates. It was the consensus of the council to accept the meeting and workshop dates.

Councilor Froehlich moved and Councilor Warner seconded to adjourn the meeting. All present voted in favor thereof. Motion carried. Mayor Hollerich adjourned the meeting at 7:40p.m.

Recorded by Sarah Fay, Deputy Clerk

John Hollerich, Mayor

Amber Duncanson, City Clerk