

City of Martensdale
Regular Session Minutes
December 8, 2014

Meeting called to order by Mayor Morrow.

Members present: Scott Henson, Ryan Baker, John Carroll and Nathan Wheeldon.

Members absent: Doug Reynolds.

The consent agenda November 10, 2014 minutes were approved, with an additional payable to McClure Engineering for \$605.00 on a motion by S. Henson; seconded by R. Baker. Question was called for and on a voice vote Mayor Morrow declared the motion carried unanimously.

David Roe, 216 Walnut Dr., Martensdale, IA was present to ask for a variance for a garage. Safe Compliance denied his permit due to set backs. Mayor Morrow will contact Dan Black and have the Board of Adjustments meet to review the garage building permit and the setbacks.

Jason Van Ausdall was present to discuss with the city council becoming the building inspector for the City. Jason was the building inspector for the City previously. He said he is presently the building inspector for Veenstra and Kimm for the city of Windsor Heights, Iowa. S. Henson made a motion hire Jason as the building inspector for the City and to give notification to Denny , Safe Compliance that effective January 1, 2015 his services will no be needed. J. Carroll second. Question was called for and on a voice vote Mayor Morrow declared the motion carried unanimously.

Dave Lester from City State Bank, Martensdale, IA was present to discuss becoming the financial institution. He stated that they have been in business since 1898 and have been paying taxes in Martensdale since they opened their branch here. The Board for City State Bank is asking for all of the City's business.

There were several residents present to discuss the new water and sewer rates that were implemented October 1, 2014. Mayor Morrow explained to the residents that there had been several open meetings at the school to discuss the increases. Every resident in the City received information about the meetings. Mayor Morrow explained that the City has not had any increases in the utility rates for some time and now the DNR has notified the City that there is an I&I problem with the sewer lagoon.

Caleb Smith from McClure Engineering was present to explain to residents what will be done with the sewer system to comply with the DNR. The City started working with McClure Engineering to see what could be done to fix the problem with the sewer. McClure completed a study and did smoke testing on the existing system. Once everything was completed, McClure reported to the city council what steps would need to be taken to be in compliance with the DNR. The sewer rate increase is mainly to repair the sewer line. The water rate increase is due to past Warren Water's increases and that the City did not pass those increases on to the residents. Therefore, the City was absorbing the cost. Caleb said he works with many communities where fees have to be increased when this kind of project needs to be done.

Dwayne Frazier said he feels everyone should have been kept more in contact with the situation. The meetings that were held were over 2 years ago and he felt the City should have kept all residents updated on the rate increases that were coming due. Mayor Morrow told him that all the city council members have to pay the same rate as the residents and that the city council tried to do the best thing for the residents and the City. It has taken 4 years for the council to make a decision that they felt was the easiest for the residents.

Caleb Smith explained how the financing for the project will work. The City will receive a SRF loan with the State of Iowa, which is the lowest interest rate financing. Martensdale is not considered a low-income community, therefore it is harder to qualify for certain grant programs. He told the resident the sewer project will cost between 1-2 million dollars by the time the project is completed.

Mayor Morrow explained that our sewer system is in need of repairs and if we don't fix it now the problem will get worse and cost more money to repair. He said the sewer lagoon system would be looked at once the other work is done. To go to a different sewer lagoon system would cost too much money for a City are size. Everything the City is doing is going through the DNR.

Residents stated there should have been more communication so people knew the increases were coming and how large the increase was going to be. Mayor Morrow told them that was his fault and he should have Sent a letter out to everyone explaining the increase before it became effective. Some residents said the original shock of the increase was very hard. They asked if further information could be placed on our web site and posted at the post office. The City does current post all ordinances and city agendas at the post office, the bank and City Hall.

Mayor Morrow thanked the residents for attending the meeting and expressing their opinions. Dwayne Frazier commented that we need to get more people living here and try to expand the area. He was afraid with the cost of the utility bill, people would not be able to afford it in Martensdale.

J. Carroll made a motion to adjourn; seconded by N. Wheeldon. Question was called for and on a voice vote Mayor Morrow declared the motion carried unanimously.

Scott Morrow, Mayor

Donna Bahun, City Clerk