

City of Martensdale
Regular Session Minutes
July 11, 2016

Meeting called to order by Mayor Ralls.

Members present: Scott Henson, Ryan Baker, Nathan Wheeldon, and Rob Wetzler.

Members absent: Adam Vandekamp.

The consent agenda (June 2016 minutes and July disbursement and revenue) were presented. R. Wetzler said he would like the minutes to be more detailed since residents are reading them when they are posted. N. Wheeldon had some changes to the minutes (R. Baker was not present at the June meeting and the wording of other parts of the minutes. S. Henson made a motion to approve the consent agenda with the minute changes; seconded by N. Wheeldon. Question was called for and on a voice vote Mayor Ralls declared the motion carried unanimously.

The city clerk discussed irrigation meters and had a sample of the City of Norwalk's ordinance and meter requirements for irrigation meters. The cost for residents to install an irrigation meter in Norwalk is \$350.00. R. Wetzler felt this was not a good deal for current residents. S. Henson said he felt this would be used for future development. S. Henson asked if we were going to pursue the irrigation meters. The council decided to have the attorney prepare an irrigation ordinance. The city clerk will contact the city attorney.

The city clerk has talked with the auditor's office about minutes being published instead of posted. The auditor's office said the minutes should be published in the City's paper. R. Wetzler said he would still like to see them posted at the post office and city hall.

The city clerk is checking with on an investment policy for the City, which was recommended by the auditor.

R. Wetzler had some questions on the audit report for the fire department. He asked the fire department what the charges for Okoboji Grill and candy was for that was purchased by the fire department. S. Henson said the candy was for Santa Claus and the Okoboji Grill was a thank you dinner for the fire fighters. S. Henson said if they do a thank you dinner again, the funds would come out of their Association and not the actual fire dept. funds.

The city clerk said at the August meeting we need to approve a petty cash fund for the City so it is in our minutes. R. Wetzler asked if we needed to put an emergency fund also for Robert Seymour. The city clerk said normally Bob can use charge accounts to purchase items or have a check wrote. R. Wetzler said there was an emergency; Bob may need to have access to funds. This will be discussed at the August meeting along with credit cards.

Robert Seymour had a contract with Maguire Iron for the water tower tank to be cleaned every 3 years. The city council would like to see the contract run for 3 years. N. Wheeldon made a motion to sign the contract; seconded by R. Wetzler. Question was called for and on a voice vote Mayor Ralls declared the motion carried unanimously. R. Wetzler made a motion to rescind the previous vote; seconded by R. Baker. Question was called for and on a voice vote Mayor Ralls declared the motion carried unanimously.

R. Wetzler made a motion to accept the Maguire Iron contract with the water tower tank to be serviced every 3 years and the contract to run for 9 years; N. Wheeldon seconded. Question was called for and on a voice vote Mayor Ralls declared the motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Ralls asked for the fire department report. Fire Chief Scott Henson said there were 13 calls in June and 1 storm watch. There have been 104 calls since Jan. 1st. Chief Henson said they receive calls at all times of the day.

Mayor Ralls asked if there were any public comments; there were none.

Tamera Orta sent a letter to the City about an obstruction at Burlington and Franklin Heights, stating a large bush/tree on Mr. Larry Henson's property was obstructing the corner. Mr. Henson was at the meeting and said he wished she had let him know first but had no problem trimming the bush.

DOT Update – Mayor Ralls had a proposal from the DOT for South St. when they do the work on Hwy. 92. There is a tree that will need to be trimmed. N. Wheeldon thought the DOT should trim the tree. S. Henson said if the tree needs to be removed it would have to be replaced. Mayor Ralls said it should only need to be trimmed. Mayor Ralls asked if we wanted lines on the road painted or leave the lines. N. Wheeldon made a motion to leave the lines; seconded by S. Henson. Question was called for and on a voice vote Mayor Ralls declared the motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Ralls gave a ditch update and had a letter from Mitch Dillavon, the director of DOT stating they will take care of ditch at their expense. Mayor Ralls said he spoke with Curt from McClure and with the ditch being repaired, the I&I situation should be much better with the water run off.

R. Wetzler has contacted Brendon Dunphy from Iowa State on the mosquito spraying but he was not able to attend the meeting. R. Wetzler also has not been able to get quotes on spraying for mosquitos. He has contacted our insurance agent; Jim Lane and he didn't have a problem with spraying mosquitos. R. Wetzler said it's hard to find someone to spray the City. He also said Des Moines is going to be selling their equipment for \$3,000-\$4,000.00 to purchase new. R. Wetzler thought we could purchase it and share it with other small cities (St. Mary's, Bevington, St. Charles). It was discussed that you need a Class 8 license to spray.

N. Wheeldon asked if the school was doing anything with the pond west of the track and said that would help with the mosquito problem. Mayor Ralls will ask the school.

Golf carts in the City were discussed. N. Wheeldon wants to adopt the use of golf carts with the State of Iowa code and add insurance and tail lights to an ordinance. S. Henson had a sample ordinance from the City of Milo and they charge a \$25.00 fee to operate golf carts. R. Wetzler has talked to police officers and if there is no current ordinance you cannot legally operate a golf cart. R. Wetzler asked what would we do with the fee of \$25.00. N. Wheeldon said you don't have to charge that amount and if we did collect it we could place it in the street funds. Mayor Ralls asked who would do the inspections and Robert Seymour was discussed as looking at the golf carts. R. Wetzler said our insurance company was not too happy with allowing golf carts in the City and that it does increase our liability.

N. Wheeldon made a motion to prepare a golf cart ordinance like Milo's and to add lights to the ordinance; seconded by S. Henson. Question was called for and on a voice vote: Wheeldon, Aye; Henson, Aye; Baker, Aye; Wetzler Nye. Mayor Ralls declared the motion carried unanimously.

Corissa Aundt was present and told the city council she has applied for a grant to get cats spayed and neutered. The idea is to give them back to their owners once that has been done. It has been brought to her attention that if someone has more than 3 cats they are sent a letter from the City. The city ordinance states that a resident can only have 3 animals. Corissa wants the owner to pay for one-half of the fee for the animal to be spayed or neutered.

N. Wheeldon asked if she had a total for removing the cats from Mr. Harless residence. She said it was around \$200-250.00 that she paid out of her pocket. N. Wheeldon said it was brought up last month in open forum about the amount of cats at Mr. Harless home and no action should have been taken on the cats being removed. S. Henson told Mayor Ralls he couldn't hire someone without city council approval. N. Wheeldon said Corissa Aundt provided a service because Mayor Ralls talked to her. N. Wheeldon said he feels the City should pay her. R. Wetzler said Mayor Ralls did not enter into a contract with her and she did want to remove the cats. N. Wetzler said he disagreed with R. Wetzler and Mayor Ralls had no right to ask her to remove the cats knowing it was going to cost someone to have them removed.

N. Wheeldon made a motion to pay Corissa Arndt for her services for the cats being removed from William Harless residence; seconded by S. Henson. Question was called for and on a voice vote Mayor Ralls declared the motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Ralls had information on library services for the City. The fees were very high however, the City of Norwalk charges \$30.00/yr. per person for their library and if paid, those people who pay the fee can also go to the Indianola or Norwalk library.

Fire Chief Scott Henson said the water fights this year will be August 27 so Iowa Ave. will be shut down from 3:00 pm to 9:00 pm. Mayor Ralls said he would like to bring back the Wick picnic and would like to know the date of the fire fights for next year. S. Henson said they don't usually know that date until the first of the year (2017). The council said they tried to get residents involved with the City's 100-year anniversary and had no one interested, so they weren't sure how the Wick picnic would go with residents.

R. Wetzler said that the Lutheran Church and the church on highway 28 wanted to do something for the 100-year anniversary but couldn't get in touch with anyone.

S. Henson asked for the City's fee of \$2,400.00 to Martensdale ambulance for protection. The city clerk will prepare the check for the ambulance protection.

R. Wetzler asked what happen to the LED lights with Mid American. N. Wheeldon said they are being replaced with LED lights, as they are needed.

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

John Ralls, Mayor

Donna Bahun, City Clerk