

July 10, 2023

The regular meeting of the city council was called to order by Mayor Dave Witucki. Council members present were Tom Boeck, KC Reuter, Tiffany Sevcik and Gina Massop. Also present were Don Wolters, Bruce Ward, Patty Smith, Tamara Dicks-Maple River Messenger, Maria McCarty-SEH, Ben Pongratz and Cody Pongratz.

Everyone stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Minutes:** A motion was made by Boeck and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Massop to approve the minutes of the June 5, 2023, meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

**Bills:** Witucki questioned check 11057, Smith confirmed it to be a 60% payment. A motion was made by Reuter and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Boeck to approve the bills.

City of Amboy                      Check 11028 – 11065 & EFT's 805E – 812E    \$69,285.51

Smith had additional bills, SEH \$1,637.10, Rubin \$9,100.00, Frundt \$2,318.70 and City of Mapleton (2ndQ) \$19,136.00. Motion carried unanimously.

Regular meeting was closed, and Public Hearing was opened.

**Public Hearing:** Cody and Ben Pongratz asked what was in violation on the property at 340 E Maine Street. Council asked for the wood to be stacked up, to not park on front lawn, should use the driveway or park on the street. Also is the metal/equipment being used or just sitting. Wood stove is going into the garage and pile of metal will be going to the scrap yard. Pongratz has been doing some cleaning of property. Council can see the improvement, try to stay ahead of the clutter and do not bring anymore on the property until it is cleaned up. At this time, since there has been improvement the council will not declare the property a nuisance. Property at 412 W North Street has signed a Notice of Abatement of Public Nuisance with the City of Amboy. Permission has been given for the city to come onto the property and clean it up and cost of clean up will be billed to the homeowners' taxes. No other action is needed from the council currently. Public hearing was closed and regular meeting reopened.

**RO Update:** Work should continue, since the VFD's have been ordered and are expected here this month. Maria McCarty - SEH presented council with a **pay request 22-830-00015 for \$20,900.00** for electrical work that was done in May and June. Council questioned the request as they saw no electricians here in May or June. SEH said they had invoices that confirmed this work. City council requested to see the invoices for this pay request and for future pay requests. The work done was for the high service pumps; council thought it was paid for in April. Reuter made a motion to approve the pay request. No second was made and pay application was not approved. **Change order #10 for \$76,319.64** for the additional electrical work that is needed to install the VFD's that were not on the original bid documents. SEH disagrees with this change order request but supports the city in wanting the work to be done.

SEH says this is included in the original bid and the contractors say it was not in the original blueprints and could not be included with the original bid. Council is frustrated at SEH and Joseph's Company in their inability to try and move this project forward without asking for additional funds. A motion was made by Reuter and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Boeck to approve Change Order #10 for \$76,319.64. Motion carried unanimously. **Change order #11 is a deduction in price of \$15,629.58** as we are not doing the top filling connection and did not install vents and traps in the garage floor. A motion was made by Boeck and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Massop to approve Change Order #11 for a credit of \$15,629.58. **Change order #12 for \$19,478.92** to make the connection to the distribution. Another bid was received from Beemer Company for \$45,420.00. A motion was made by Boeck and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Massop to approve Change Order #12 for \$19,478.92 from Joseph's Company to complete the required work. Motion carried unanimously.

**Zoning Permits:** Steve Urban is our new planning commission member, he was approved by commission at their June 26, 2023, meeting. Gina Massop, 221 Pleasant Street submitted a zoning permit application for a back yard fence. Motion was made by Reuter and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Boeck to approve the zoning permit application if all setbacks are met. Massop abstained and motion was approved. Philip Klammer 120 S Truwe, submitted a zoning permit application for a deck. Motion was made by Reuter and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Massop to approve the deck if all setbacks are met. Motion approved unanimously. Jean Simonton, 312 W Maine Street submitted an application for a chain link fence. Motion was made by Massop and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Reuter to approve the fence if all setbacks are met. Motion approved unanimously.

**2024 Budget:** Overlays on Pleasant St from 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave to 4<sup>th</sup> Ave, South St W and Stevens St, can not do all in one year, will budget for Pleasant Street. WWTP will need more work done to keep operational. Sidewalk from 200 W Maine Street to the new recreational area. A bike rack in 2024 and a parking area in a future budget. Signs should be made this year for recreational area "No bikes, skateboards or roller blades on asphalt." Pavement for Reed Court and Prairie St E will not be in the 2024 budget. Potholes and weed control were discussed. They should be taken care of this year.

**Ash Trees:** Pfeffer Tree Service proposed a treatment of the ash trees in the city park that should save them from being infested with Emerald Ash Bore. Cost is \$1800.00 and should be done every other year for approximately 6 years. Discussion was held on receiving grant money to cover this cost, Smith will check into the DMR and see what is available. A motion was made by Massop and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Boeck to accept the Pfeffer Tree Service at \$1800.00 a treatment, done every other year.

**Reports:** Received reports from Fire department, police and public works. EQ basin was cleaned out about 15 cubic yards of debris. Having this clean will help with any maintenance that needs to be done at the WWTP if you need to bypass to do repairs. Lead and copper water samples were sent into the Dept of Health. Smoke testing will be done on July 25 or Aug 1 if weather is not good on first day. MN rural water will do the testing, letters will be sent to residents. Will be done on the 200 E Maine St block to the 100 W Maine St block. Wolters is scheduled to take his D class water, biosolids and D class WWTP tests over the next couple of

months. A motion was made by Boeck and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Reuter to approve a police car in the Amboy parade and extra time for officers for the Nite to Unite. Motion carried unanimously.

**Open Comment:** Pongratz asked about water rate increase with the extra expenses of the RO system. Most of the RO system was covered by grant money and rate increases may be every 2-3 years, next one in 2024. Boeck had questions on boats, campers sitting on streets, as long camper is occupied a couple of hours every few days it is okay. Massop asked about the painting on sports court. It will be done on July 12, it will be blue and green. Nets will be put up after painting is completed. May have to lock the gates while paint is drying. A golf cam was set up by Dean Walters and ran for 3 days through community ed. Smith asked for Lions about the bench that was donated by Glaubitz family, they would like it to face the recreational area and be in the shade. Bench may have to wait until we decide where to put the sidewalk. Portable/adjustable nets were discussed; Reuter said school had them and were broken in 3 months and kids were hurt, cut heads on lower rim, so not a good idea. River's Edge Church would like 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave closed off during city celebration for activities, council is okay with it.

**Miscellaneous:** Nite to unite is August 1 from 5:00 PM – 7:00 PM. Will be at city park or snowbirds club if weather issues. August 7, 2023, at 7:00 PM is next city council meeting.

A motion was made by Massop and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Boeck to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously.

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David Witucki, Mayor

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Council

ATTEST:

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Patty Smith, Administrator, Clerk-Treasurer