

March 11, 2024

The regular meeting of the city council was called to order by Mayor Dave Witucki. Council members present were Tom Boeck, Tiffany Sevcik, Gina Massop, and KC Reuter. Also present were Don Wolters, Patty Smith, Kevin Larson, Manuel Sanders, Ryan Sohre, Maria McCarty, Tamara Dicks, Bruce Ward, Aaron Lane, and Patrick Pfeffer.

Everyone stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes: A motion was made by Boeck and 2nd by Reuter to approve the minutes from the February 5, 2024, meetings. Motion carried unanimously.

Bills: A motion was made by Reuter and 2nd by Massop to approve the bills.

City of Amboy	11428 – 11469 & EFT's 871E – 877E	\$42,880.59
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Smith had no additional bills. Motion carried unanimously.

Audit – Abdo: A recorded presentation was given by Abby Schmidt and shared on the TV screen, so everyone could see the graphs. The city's financials are clean and there are no instances of non-compliance. Revenues are covering expenses. Our enterprise funds include water, sewer, storm water and refuse. The water fund revenues are no longer meeting the expenses. The other funds are self-supporting. The council had no questions for Schmidt after the recording.

Fire Department: Manuel Sanders and Kevin Larson presented to the council a timeline for vehicle replacement over the next 15 years. They also gave information on the needed rescue van. Purchase a new chassis for \$109,820.00 and have it refurbished with wiring, lights, paint, window, hinges, and seals for an additional \$70,000.00. Total cost would be \$179,820.00. This expense would be shared with townships; City \$60,000, Shelby \$60,000, Pleasant Mound \$30,000, and Sterling \$30,000.00 Townships have requested to pay their portion over a 3-year period (2025, 2026, 2027). While the rescue van is being built, the fire department would need to rent a van for 6 – 8 weeks for rescue calls. The city has the funds to purchase the vehicle and would be able to take payments from the townships. A motion was made by Massop and 2nd by Boeck to approve the fire department to purchase the chassis and do the refurbishment for approximately \$179,820.00. Motion carried unanimously. A motion was made by Reuter and 2nd by Boeck to approve a 3-year payment plan with the townships with no interest, beginning in 2025. Motion carried unanimously. The fire department will be meeting with the townships next week. Sanders also talked about the turnout gear that is needed; they will use the \$23,280.00 received from the state for public safety and any additional money needed will come from the fire relief association through their fund raisers of pancake breakfasts, pull tabs, etc.

RO Update: Maria McCarty with SEH updated council; the CIP is ready; RO is running, and the lab area is almost completed. Witucki requested the punch list be done on March 22, McCarty will coordinate it with Joseph's Company and confirm date/time with Smith. Change order 16 that was tabled last month was discussed; if the council would be requesting liquidated damages, then it should not be approved. The dates SEH had for final payment was April 14 and the dates we had on change order was March 29 this was tabled again. SEH did receive a request from Joseph's company for an additional \$40,000 for the work done to make the water connection outside the

building. On change order 12, the city already approved \$19,478.92. SEH is not recommending we pay any additional money and have told Joseph's Company the extra fund requested duplicates items in the original change order. SEH wanted the council to be aware of this request with no action needed at this time. A payment request 22-830-00019 for \$150,837.35 was submitted; this would leave a balance of \$104,263.19. A motion was made by Reuter and 2nd by Boeck to approve payment request 22-830-00019 for \$150,837.35. Motion carried unanimously. Patrick Pfeffer with the Snowbirds Club had a question for McCarty. The asphalt that was replaced last year was cut down to low. They are having issues with the sand in the parking lot washing under the door. McCarty will look at it and find a solution. Witucki asked about the sewer/storm water hookups in the parking lot. During the punch list walk through, dye will be put down storm manhole to determine if the lines were reconnected correctly. Boeck asked about the strawbales behind the water plant. Wolters explained that he put them there, footings should be 4' deep, since this footing is only 1' deep the bales of hay were put to protect the water pipe from a heavy frost.

General Liability and Workman's Compensation Insurance: Ryan Sohre presented the annual review of our insurance. Rates did increase by 5% on general liability. We have the RO system added at a value of \$1,664,442. We also have insurance on the new city pickup. Workman's comp is determined on payroll. Boeck asked about the city plow; that would be covered under unscheduled items (less than \$250,000 in value). The total premiums for general and workman's comp insurance this year is \$35,763. A motion was made by Boeck and 2nd by Sevcik to approve the insurance with the League of MN Cities for 2024. Motion carried unanimously.

Reports: Recreational area is locked until it will be painted in May. Sevcik asked when sewer drains will be done; Wolters will be working on it this week. Witucki requested we have the streets swept before we flush hydrants this year. Wolters will make the arrangements.

All Pets: All Pets will no longer be accepting stray dogs and cats per their agreement with the City of Amboy. The Mapleton police department has negotiated a contract that will allow stray dogs to be picked up by the police department and taken to All Pets. A motion was made by Reuter and 2nd by Sevcik to approve the agreement with the Mapleton Police and All Pets. Motion carried unanimously.

Scales: The scales previously approved at last month's meeting were for chlorine use and will not work on the other chemical tanks. Witucki is working with Steve Carson and no further discussion is needed as Witucki and Carson will take care of what is needed for the Amboy water department.

Water Rate Increase: Last increase was 2021. Two options were presented. Base Rate of \$21.00 per month/\$63.00 per quarter for 750 gallons with additional at \$7.89 per 1000 gallons or Base Rate of \$19.00 per month/\$57.00 per quarter for 750 gallons with additional \$8.54 per 1000 gallons. Both options will increase water billing by \$20.00 - \$55.00 per quarter; the larger increase is more water usage. The rates would go into effect with the next billing cycle, residents would see it on their June 2024 billing. Rates should be looked at every year during the audit and increased as needed. A motion was made by Boeck and 2nd by Massop to approve option 1 of \$63.00 per quarter. Motion carried unanimously. A motion was made by Reuter and 2nd by Massop to approve Resolution 2024 – 1 Raising Water Charges. Motion carried unanimously.

Midco Franchise: This was tabled from December 2023. Our attorney said the agreement was acceptable. This would give residents other options for internet, video, and phone services. Midco plans on construction this year. A motion was made by Sevcik and 2nd by Massop to approve the Midco Franchise agreement. Motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Cottage Café Setup License: A motion was made by Reuter and 2nd by Massop to approve the Consumption and Display Permit for the Amboy Cottage Café. Motion carried unanimously.

Reduced Sewer/Garbage: Four applications were received with proof within the income guidelines. A motion was made by Reuter and 2nd by Massop to approve the applications. Motion carried unanimously.

Open Comment: Tamara Dicks – Midco is great, you will like it in Amboy. Reuter said dogs are running loose, should advise residents to call the Mapleton police. Massop asked about grants for community club – Witucki said Lisa and Carol have information/applications for grants already. Massop asked about leaf vacuum. Wolters will check prices and see if it would work in the budget. Boeck wanted to thank the Amboy fire department and surrounding fire departments that helped with Euro Guard fire in Mapleton on Sunday. Witucki asked the council to think about dispensaries in Amboy. There are no rules from the state currently. You might be able to restrict where they are located but could not prevent them from being opened. Witucki told the council that Don, Patty, Steve, and himself have a punch list started for the RO project. Also, would like to have an open house this July for the water department. Smith had a request from Lions Club on the donated bench from Norman Glaubitz family. The parks committee (Reuter/Sevcik) will meet with Joan and see where they would like it placed.

A motion was made by Reuter and 2nd by Boeck to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously.

Dave Witucki, Mayor

Council

ATTEST:

Patty Smith, Administrator – Clerk, Treasurer