

September 5, 2023

The regular meeting of the city council was called to order by Mayor David Witucki. Council members present were Tom Boeck, Gina Massop and Tiffany Sevcik. KC Reuter joined the meeting at 7:15 PM. Also present were Don Wolters, Patty Smith, Maria McCarty-SEH, and Tamara Dicks – Maple River Messenger.

Everyone stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Minutes:** A motion was made by Boeck and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Sevcik to approve the minutes of the August 7, 2023, meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

**Bills:** A motion was made by Boeck and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Massop to approve the bills.

City of Amboy                      Check 11132 – 11165 & EFT's 821E – 828E    \$39,298.66

Smith had an additional bill from Crysteel Truck for snowblade \$10,723.00. Motion carried unanimously.

**RO Update:** Electricians are on site today. Plumbers will be here September 11. RO system could be online by the completion date of October 13, but will still need to run the system for 30 days and do the demo of old system and building of lab/office area. McCarty will be here this week to monitor the progress. Change order #13 for \$5,589.73 is for an ultra-sonic level sensor for the finished water tank. This sensor will be used to turn the high service pumps on and off. This is another part that was not on the original bid package. This dollar amount may be considered for the 80/20 split on PSIG grant; the state is considering increasing our grant funds, due to the large number of missing parts needed for the RO system, that were not included in the original bid. A motion was made by Boeck and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Massop to approve Change Order 13 for \$5,589.73. Motion carried unanimously. Change Order #14 for \$2,201.09 is for plumbing connection to finish water line and replace old cast iron plumbing in east garage. A motion was made by Massop and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Reuter to approve Change Order 14 for \$2,201.09.

Witucki had questions for McCarty on the storm sewer drains connections. The drain in city shop and Linda's place are connected to the sanitary sewer; this was discovered during the smoke test in July. McCarty will look through her notes and confirm what drains we have behind the city shop and water tower. There may not be a storm sewer drain until the alley. Drains should go to the storm, not the sanitary as this increases the I & I.

**Reports:** Reports were received from fire department, police department and public works. Wolters passed his D Water test. He will be taking bio solids training Sept 12 – 14 and D wastewater training Sept 20 – 22. Boeck requested Wolters to paint the city garage door before the city celebration on Saturday. Smith sent out 17 letters for long grass; residents that received them did mow.

**Website Change:** Our current website is increasing from \$570.00 a year to \$1995.00. Smith showed council other area cities, Truman, Lafayette, and Courtland that have change from govoffice website due to the large increase. Rural Water Impact would cost \$605.00 per year. A setup fee would be \$399.00. The other sites are user friendly, allow easier navigation and has an alert system for residents to receive emails or text on notices posted to the website. This alert system is included in the annual fee. Training will be provided to Smith to convert old site to new. A motion was made by Reuter and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Boeck to approve Option 3 Rural Water Impact Website. Motion carried unanimously.

**Televising Sewer Line Bids:** Smith requested bid from MPI Farms and did not receive it. Hydro Klean bids were received for 1 year, 2 year or 4-year proposals. Discussion was held. MPCA prefers cities to do this over a 3–4-year period. It would be easier for our jetter truck and employees to do a section of the city every year for 4 years. It would also give us time to do the necessary repairs found during the televising of sewer lines. If extra help is needed, we could check with sentence to serve program. A motion was made by Reuter and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Massop to approve the 4-year contract for \$11,400.00 per year starting in 2024. Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion was held on painting the curtains at the WWTP, they do not look nice when closed. Wolters will see if painting a light gray will help. Not sure how long paint will hold up when curtains are open during the summer. Switching the curtains to hang opposite may not work as they would be too heavy to pull up to open them. Wolters will investigate partial doors and/or cost of new curtain for future budgets.

**Budget:** Current levy is at 7.65%. Smith will reduce it by December, waiting for fire department and townships to meet this month and approve fire department budget. A motion was made by Boeck and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Massop to approve Resolution 2023 - 8 Proposed Tax Levy \$352,496.00. Motion carried unanimously. A motion was made by Reuter and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Sevcik to approve Resolution 2023 – 9 Adopting 2024 Budget, General Fund \$574,821, Water Fund \$156,940, Sewer Fund \$190,530 and Garbage Fund \$50,825.00. Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion was held on new law of PERA eligibility. Any employee that earns \$425.00 in one month is eligible for PERA (even if they work part-time) and are vested after 3 years, previously was 5 years. Also, discussion was held on the new Safety/Sick policies that go into effect January 1, 2024. Our plan is better than the state plan but will need to clarify how it is used. Massop will help Smith in updating our policy and clarify if Fire Department and council members would be eligible after 80 hours.

**Open Comment:** Boeck reminded everyone of the city celebration this weekend. Reuter is working with Nielson Construction on painting the courts, he will see if we can get temporary paint on it before city celebration. Reuter will talk to the resident that is concerned about the placement of school bell closer to the school monument. Reuter requested we change our next council meeting from October 2 to October 9 at 7:15 PM. A motion was made by Massop and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Sevcik to approve the council meeting change. Motion carried unanimously. Smith will post the change. Witucki asked about the cannabis ordinance, Smith has received other cities ordinances, and this will be looked at during a future meeting.

**Miscellaneous:** City celebration is September 9, parade at 4:00 PM and dunk tank with mayor is from 12:00 – 12:30.

Fire department/township/city meeting is scheduled for September 19 at 7:00 PM

A motion was made by Boeck and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Massop 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