**Minutes
Silver Lake City Council
Regular Meeting
October 3, 2011**

Mayor Bruce Bebo called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

Members present: Mayor Bruce Bebo, Councilors Carol Roquette and Eric Nelson

Members absent: Councilors Willie Krohn and Nolan Johnson

Others present: Kerry Venier, Clerk; Alyssa Schauer, Silver Lake Leader; Lori Line

*A motion was made by Councilor Roquette seconded by Councilor Nelson to approve the agenda.
Vote for: Unanimous
Absent: Councilors Johnson and Krohn
Motion carried.*

Consent Agenda:

1. Approve minutes of the September 19, 2011 regular meeting.
2. Approve payroll #19 & Quarterly
3. Claims to be paid: $5,060.26 (9/22/11)

*A motion was made by Councilor Roquette seconded by Councilor Nelson to approve the Consent Agenda.
Vote for: Unanimous
Absent: Councilors Johnson and Krohn
Motion carried.*

* Mrs. Lori Line addressed the Council to serve a notice of a hearing regarding an application of Willard and Lorraine Trnka, her parents for the vacation of 4th Ave N in Silver Lake MN. Mrs. Trnka explained that she had been working with Clerk Venier, the County and an attorney to clear the title to a piece of property owned by her mother and father; she explained that in the original plat there was a public right of way labeled as 4th Ave N. Clerk Venier explained that the City had never developed or utilized the right of way. Mrs. Line explained that they have to petition the Court to vacate the street as the City only has statutory authority to vacate alleys.
Mayor Bebo suggested that although the Council can’t act on it they may want to consider passing an act of supporting the Trinka’s application to vacate the street.
*A motion was made by Councilor Roquette seconded by Councilor Nelson to approve Resolution 11-25: Supporting the vacation of 4th Ave North.
Vote for: Mayor Bebo and Councilor Roquette
Abstain: Councilor Nelson
Absent: Councilors Krohn and Johnson*

Old Business:

1. Councilors resumed discussion of water and sewer rates. Mayor Bebo reminded Councilors that at the last meeting they had discussed setting water rates at $3.05/1000 gals, and a monthly base fee of $8.00. Clerk Venier presented proposals for the sewer rates one based on having the usage fee cover the operating costs and reported that if that is the way the Council would like to approach it the usage fee would need to be $5.48/1000 gals and the base fee would need to be $10.00 per month to cover the debt payment for the sewer fund.
Councilors discussed a desire to not put too heavy a burden on the residents all at once. Councilors looked at changing the rates as follow:
Water Usage fee: from $2.55/1000gls to $3.05/1000 gls
Water Base fee: from $7.00 to $8.00 per month
Sewer Usage fee: from $3.50/1000gls to $5.00/1000 gls
Sewer base fee would remain unchanged at $7.75 per month
Clerk Venier estimated that the average monthly bill would increase by approximately $11.00 based on 5000 gls of usage which would mean approximately a $22.00 increase on average on bimonthly billings.
Councilors directed Clerk Venier to make the rates effective on the Nov/Dec billing so that it will be based on actual readings and not estimates. Councilors also discussed implementing monthly billing for the utilities, Clerk Venier asked Councilors to wait until after the beginning of 2012 to implement monthly billing if that is their desire, he cited the fact that they will need to reconfigure their billing system for such a change.

*A motion was made by Councilor Nelson seconded by Councilor Roquette to approve Resolution 11-26: A resolution approving changes in utility rates.
Vote for: Unanimous
Absent: Councilors Johnson and Krohn
Motion carried.*
2. Councilors reviewed a counter offer from AT&T to leave equipment on the water tower and the City assumes ownership. The offer included a $5,000 payment from AT&T for the transfer of ownership of the equipment to the City.
*A motion was made by Councilor Roquette seconded by Councilor Nelson to offer to take ownership of the equipment on the water tower from AT&T if they agree to pay the City $7,000.
Vote for: Unanimous
Absent: Councilors Johnson and Krohn
Motion carried.*

New Business:

1. Councilors reviewed an application for a One Day Liquor License for the Silver Lake Lions on 10/28/11 (Turtle Soup Feed).
*A motion was made by Councilor Roquette seconded by Councilor Nelson to approve the application for a One Day Liquor License on 10/28/11 for the Silver Lake Lions.
Vote for: Unanimous
Absent: Councilors Johnson and Krohn*
2. Councilors reviewed a resolution assessing delinquent utilities to a property located at 311 Summit Ave. Councilors asked how companies become aware of assessments so that the assessment doesn’t become the problem of a new owner. Clerk Venier explained that during the closing process the title company is required to conduct an assessment search to find what assessments and pending assessments, as well as outstanding utilities, are against the property. When the City is contacted, according to Venier, the City will give them a report of what has been certified to the County and also what is pending in regards to assessments.
*A motion was made by Councilor Nelson seconded by Councilor Roquette to approve Resolution 11-24 assessing delinquent utilities to property taxes.
Vote for: Unanimous
Absent: Councilors Johnson and Krohn
Motion carried.*
3. Employee reviews for Clerk Venier and Public Works Supervisor Dale Kosek were postponed.
4. Councilors reviewed the year to date expenses and revenues. Clerk Venier reported that expenses and revenues are going along as budgeted, he noted some items that are above what had been budgeted. Venier also told Councilors that he expects, barring any unusual expenses, that the General Fund balance will see an increase of approximately $20,000. The surplus was budgeted to be approximately$16,000. Mayor Bebo suggested that the Liaisons work more closely to get the department heads involved in understanding and explaining their department budgets.
5. Councilors discussed the sale of the 2005 squad car.
*A motion was made by Councilor Nelson seconded by Councilor Roquette to advertise the 2005 squad car for sale using the sealed bid process. Sealed bids are to be sent to City Hall by 4 pm on October 17th, 2011. Bids will be opened at 6:30 pm at the October 17th regular City Council meeting and the City reserves the right to refuse all bids.
Vote for: Unanimous
Absent: Councilors Johnson and Krohn
Motion carried.*

Open Discussion:

1. Clerk Venier reported that he has been in contact with the bank that is taking care of marketing the Marathon Station and they have requested if the City would be willing to show the station to potential buyers. Venier explained that he would not be involved in trying to sell the property he would only open the door and show the property, he said this would be a good opportunity for the City to be able to work with any potential buyers from the start. Councilors agreed and directed Clerk Venier to continue to work with the bank.
2. Mayor Bebo asked Clerk Venier to look into making the needed repairs to entrance at City Hall.
3. Councilors asked Clerk Venier to get price quotes for remodeling the women’s rest room in the Auditorium.
4. Councilor Nelson volunteered to help organize the effort to repaint the Auditorium.

*A motion was made by Councilor Roquette seconded by Councilor Nelson to adjourn this regular meeting of the Silver Lake City Council.
Vote for: Unanimous
Absent: Councilors Johnson and Krohn
Motion carried; meeting adjourned at 8:30pm.*

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Bruce Bebo, Mayor

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Kerry Venier, Clerk/Treasurer