Minutes
Silver Lake City Council
Regular Meeting
March 16th, 2015

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

Members present: Mayor Bruce Bebo, Councilors Nolan Johnson, Ken Merrill, Joshua Mason

Absent: Greg Gillett

Others present: Kerry Venier, clerk; Kristi Mesenbrink, deputy clerk; Dale Kosek, public works; Bob Scheidt, Glencoe Fire Marshall; Jim Blazinski; Karin Ramige Cornwell, Chronicle.

*A motion was made by Councilor Mason seconded by Councilor Johnson to approve the agenda.
Vote for: Unanimous
Motion carried.*

Consent Agenda:

1. Approve minutes of the February 17, 2015 Annual Meeting.
2. Approve payroll #4, 5 and Jan Amb.
3. Claims to be paid: $ 5,762.76 (2/17/15)
 $ 7,916.91 (2/19/15)

$ 8,937.61 (2/26/15)

$12,867.97 (3/5/15)

$ 882.68 (3/5/15)

*A motion was made by Councilor Merrill seconded by Councilor Johnson to approve the Consent Agenda.
Vote for: Unanimous
Motion carried.*

Old Business:

1. Councilors discussed the proposed rental ordinance. Fire Chief Kosek reported to the council that the Villager Apartments have multiple violations that need to be addressed. Glencoe Fire Marshall, Bob Sheidt was present and discussed how Glencoe addresses these issues. He stated that he would act as the mediator between the tenant and landlords on issues and depending upon the contract established, he would perform an agreed upon number of rental inspections per unit. Clerk Venier informed the council that Glencoe is very satisfied with the work that Bob does and would be willing to work out a mutual aid agreement for the inspections through Bob. Fire Chief Kosek stated that without formal education, he did not feel he could properly do the inspections. Mayor Bebo and Councilor Merrill requested that Clerk Venier develop an Occupancy code that would bridge the gap between the Building and Fire Code allowing the City to address rental issues and concerns. Bob stated that having a rental inspector could save the City some liability as well.
2. Councilors discussed the many issues present at the Villager. Mayor Bebo stated that he has received multiple complaints about the garbage piled high. Clerk Venier stated that the blight notice was mailed and if it is not removed, the City can pay the garbage bill and have it assessed to the taxes.
	1. Mayor Bebo expressed his frustrations in that the more we dig into these issues at the Villager, the more we realize that we do currently have the authority to address many of these issues already.
3. Councilors reviewed two quotes for the auditorium flag pole. The first quote was $3,559 and was for a new flagpole and involved relocating it since new footings would have to be poured. The second quote was $373 and was for a new top on the existing pole. Councilor Nolan Johnson questioned why we do not fly a MN state flag and Clerk Venier said that it was certainly an option we can look at, we just never have. The repairs to the flagpole were not budgeted for because it was an unforeseen issue.
*A motion was made by Councilor Merrill and seconded by Councilor Johnson to approve the repairs for $373 and then budget for a new one in 2016.
Vote for: Unanimous
Motion carried.*

New Business:

1. Councilors reviewed a resolution to approve paying Workers’ Compensation Insurance Premiums. Councilor Johnson questioned if we have any control over what the premiums are and Clerk Venier stated that we could go to a deductible plan but he advised against that. Clerk Venier said that our risk modifier is 1.25 which is at the high end and will be there for another couple of years. Clerk Venier also mentioned that we do get audited every year so we may get some of that money back.

*A motion was made by Councilor Merrill seconded by Councilor Johnson to approve Resolution 15-02 to approve Workers’ Compensation Insurance Premiums in the amount of $29,966.
Vote for: Unanimous
Motion carried.*

Department Business:

1. Liquor Store: Councilor Johnson reported the following:
	1. Reported January Sales of $37,533.11, Gross Profit of $16,798.62 and Net Profit of $10,396.68
	2. Reported February Sales of $35,220.68, Gross Profit of $16,457.13 and Net Profit of $3,031.71
	3. Reported that Ice golf was significantly down compared to the event last year.
	4. Councilor Johnson reported that Store Manager Jon Jerabek was interested in creating an outdoor drinking area. Some options discussed included an elevated deck area, a couple tables alongside the sidewalk on Main Street, or pushing back some parking spots to create the room. Clerk Venier mentioned that we are planning on replacing the sidewalk so now would be a good time to do it.
2. Public Safety: Councilor Gillett and Chief Henriksen were absent but a report was submitted:
	1. The Councilors discussed some questions regarding the Bike Rodeo and blight notices.
	2. Councilor Merrill wanted to make sure that Forrest was involved in the situation at the Villager.
	3. Fire Chief Kosek mentioned that there will be a Street Dance for the 125th anniversary on June 27th that will need police presence.
3. Public Works: Councilor Mason and Public Works Supervisor Kosek reported the following:
	1. At the residence of Sue Keiser, 91 feet of storm sewer has not been televised yet because we cannot get a camera to it. SEH is currently reviewing the video of the collapse to see if “pipe bursting” would be an option. Supervisor Kosek will bring pricing from SEH for this at next meeting. Kosek has also been in contact with the resident’s contractor and they are in the process of working on the backflow preventer. The City insurance has agreed to cover the additional expenses because of the grease buildup that was found during the televising of it. Mayor Bebo wanted to make sure that the homeowners are taking steps of their own to prevent this and Kosek confirmed that they are working on issues from their end as well. He also mentioned that doing annual high pressure jetting in that area could help to prevent a recurrence.
	2. Kosek informed Councilors that the recent fire at the property at 120 Main St E revealed that there is a drain tile on that property that runs along the north side of properties along Main St E and ends near 220 Main St E. The tile was found due to the large amount of water used to extinguish the fire. Clerk Venier reported that the tile is a private tile but the City is working to propose options for the residents to disconnect the tile since it diverts water from one property to other properties. The cost for the project will be the residents and not the City’s with the exception of locating the tile at the intersection of the alley and Grove Ave.
	3. Mayor Bebo asked about street sweeping and Kosek confirmed that he had already started.
4. Community Development:
	1. Councilor Merrill reported that the Planning Commission did not have a meeting this month.
	2. Dale Kosek reported that the Pool Committee did meet and the township committed $4000 toward the pool project. This project is on schedule and will hopefully be completed before opening.
	3. Summer Rec and Swimming lesson sign up will be held on Wednesday 3/18/15.
5. Administration: Clerk Venier reported the following:
	1. Expenses and Revenues for 2014 were reviewed.
		1. Balances were as expected, and it was confirmed that the bank does have sufficient pledged assets.
		2. Clerk Venier stated that the City did spend down some money in 2014 but got a lot in return for the dollars that were spent. This included the Auditorium repairs that were done in part because of many donations received. A Loader was also purchased for the Public Works department through borrowed City funds. This will be paid back over 5 years through raising the transfer to that fund.
		3. It was stressed that the Ambulance service could not sustain itself without the township & City contributions.
		4. When reviewing expenses Councilors asked Clerk Venier to remind Department heads about the $1000 spending policy.
	2. Truth and taxation meeting will be held on April 7th at 6:00 pm
	3. The Lease of City owned farm land is up for Bids this year. Clerk Venier recommended that the Council approve the awarding of the bid to the highest bidder through the authority of the Mayor and Public Works Supervisor.

*A motion was made by Councilor Merrill and Seconded by Councilor Johnson to approve publishing request for bids for a three year lease of 37.65 acres of City Land and grant authority to the Mayor and Public Works Supervisor to award the lease to the highest bidder*

*Vote for: Unanimous*

*Motion Carried.*

Open Discussion:

1. Councilor Johnson expressed concern as a citizen about the blight issues at the Villager. He noted that there was a considerable amount of dog feces in his yard. He would like to speak with an officer about this and would also like follow up with this issue.
2. Mayor Bebo asked if Hutchinson Co-op had requested the funds that the City pledged for contaminated soils. Clerk Venier sad they had not as of yet; however, they have submitted their request to the state.
3. Councilors noted that they have had several complaints on blight issues in the City.
4. Mayor Bebo asked for confirmation that all banners were back up.
5. It was clarified that the EDA have only met once but this can be changed on an as needed bases.
6. Councilor Merrill requested that the sidewalk replacement policy be reviewed at an upcoming meeting.
7. Councilor Merrill suggested that we look into adding additional handicap parking spots to the Auditorium and also creating better signage for the lift at the auditorium or even hosting an open house of some sort.
8. It was requested that we include mosquito spraying on the utility bills to notify residents well ahead of time.

*A motion was made by Councilor Johnson seconded by Councilor Mason to adjourn this regular meeting of the Silver Lake City Council.
Vote for: Unanimous
Motion carried; meeting adjourned at 10:06 pm.*

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Kerry Venier, Clerk/Treasurer