

**City of Minneiska
Council Minutes
January 7, 2019**

Oath of Offices were completed for recently elected officials in attendance - Mayor, Mark Tibor; Council members, Suzie Ehlo and Marilyn (Mel) Heaser.

Mark Tibor submitted resignation for his Council seat. Mike Konkel motioned to accept the resignation and appoint Amy Konkel to fill the vacant seat. Mel seconded. All approved.

Mayor, Mark Tibor called the Minneiska City Council Meeting to order. Council members present included Suzie Ehlo, Marilyn (Mel) Heaser, Amy Konkel, and Mike Konkel. Treasurer, Ken Heaser and City Clerk, Rachelle (Shelly) Splittstoesser were also present.

The following guests were in attendance for discussion of the Minneiska boat launch and dredging project: Jess Althoff (DNR), Gretchen Miller (DNR), Kent Skaar (DNR), Mike Goggin (State Senator), Ken Fritz (Winona County Administrator), Steve Jacob (Winona County Commissioner), and Scott Splittstoesser.

Kent shared copies of data collected which suggests there has been no change to the original channel construction or access since inception in the 1990's. Council members strongly disagreed with the data findings as original access allowed for passage of small recreation/pleasure boats and the access today barely allows for passage of canoes/jet skis. The tubes under the highway are filled with sediment with one side being completely impassable. Kent asked what the community expectation was for the launch. Council members expressed the expectation that the access be restored to original passage with 2 ½ feet of water depth as all agreed the definition of small boat passage requires 2 plus feet of water. Kent will collect additional data when water is open but indicated digging a deeper channel is not an option. Data will need to support any improvements. Details of how the data was collected was discussed as well as implications of normal and high pool levels. City members have been involved with placing buoy markers and removing rocks in the channel, but more maintenance is needed. There have been ongoing efforts for site resolution that have all stalled out. Council members asked what if any funding is available. Kent stated there were three sources of biannual funding available through two federal fish/game programs and one through the Coast Guard. He indicated Minneiska is penciled in on the list for potential projects with existing appropriations, but there is a 2-4-year schedule, and this is not an emergency. Scott and Steve questioned if the \$60,000 that had been budgeted for a dredging project in the past was still available. Permits had been filed but the work was not done. Kent stated that there was no evidence of any permits and had there been, they were expired so the funds are no longer available. Council members expressed the economic importance of the launch. Kent suggested the city consider redevelopment of the site and adapting use to current site conditions by marketing its use for paddlers as they outnumber motorized users. The Council is not willing to compromise on expectations for the sites use or maintenance and specifically requested that the original passage be restored and maintained to 2 ½ feet. Senator Coggins and Commissioner Jacobs expressed support of the dredging project at the launch site and requested the DNR acquire needed permits. They asked DNR members if they had what they needed from Minneiska city officials to move forward. DNR members indicated they had what they needed.

Minutes from the December 3 meeting were read. Mike motioned the minutes be approved. Suzie seconded. All approved.

The treasurer's report was read, and the bills were presented. The City net worth is \$95,578.63. Mel motioned the treasurer's report be approved and all bills be paid. Mike seconded. All approved.

Old Business

Suzie contacted the city attorney regarding establishment of a local lodging tax. Additional research is needed. Mike motioned to move forward with this. Suzie seconded. All approved. Suzie will follow up on this.

A change will be made to the 2019 City Council meeting schedule as September 2nd is Labor Day, therefore the meeting will be held on September 9th.

Mark noted that in order to update checking account signature cards at the bank meeting minutes were needed documenting Mayor and City Clerk appointments. He and Shelly will present copies of these minutes to the bank for verification.

Suzie noted a recent parking concern at a local residence. She spoke to the home owner and instance was resolved.

New Business

Cities must pass a resolution each year adopting a polling place for the following year. As Minneiska uses mail voting the local polling place is the office of the County Auditor/Treasurer where the citizen resides. Suzie motioned the resolution be passed. Mike seconded. All approved.

Mike noted that he had renewed the city domain name and website hosting.

Mark is reviewing the contact list that former Mayor Scott Splittstoesser provided. He expressed his hope that volunteer work would continue as in the past. Mike requested that Mark be listed as the contact on the city website regarding snowplowing concerns.

Mike motioned that the meeting be adjourned. Mel seconded. All approved.

Rachelle G. Splittstoesser, City Clerk