Official Minutes of the Ceylon City Council

 January 9, 2018

 Ceylon, Minnesota

The Ceylon City Council held their first regular scheduled meeting of 2018. The meeting was called to order at 6:00pm by the Mayor Lon Oelke. Members present: Councilmen Thomas Plumhoff, Amanda Diers, Chad Dunlop & John Gibeau. Also attending were City Attorney Jim Wilson, Sharon Rosen of the Sentinel Newspaper, Wayne Walter, Steve & Connie Saggau, Barb & Armin Kronback, Judith Perkins, John Dukarski & Emily Perkins.

No comments were made during the Public Comments.

Council moved to the approval of the December minutes as written. It was motioned by Plumhoff and seconded by Dunlop to approve minutes from December 12, 2017. Motion carried. It was moved by Diers and seconded by Gibeau to approve the December Financial Report as submitted by City Clerk. Motion carried. It was approved by Plumhoff and seconded by Diers to approve payment of January submitted bills. Motion carried.

Steve Saggau was attending the council meeting to be included in the Rural Service District Ordinance for two of his properties. Steve stated he has a 240% increase in valuation of his properties. Steve asked council to let Dan Whitman know these parcels belong in the rural rate and wanted it done now. He said Dan Whitman told him to have the council submit a letter to change to the rate. Jim Wilson let Steve know this process takes place in June. Jim also explained the qualifications required to be in the Rural Service as far as platted for development. Steve stated the city has already classified properties that are urban and the city is not following the guideline hard & fast. He is asking for equality. Mr. Wilson explained that the Rural Service District Ordinance is not something the city is required to have. The city council can set the rate at any percentage they choose. The two properties will be considered in June.

The council moved to the 2018 appointments. Appointments are as followed: Acting Mayor – John Gibeau, Cemetery Association – Tom Plumhoff, Fire Association – Lon Oelke,

Street Department – Amanda Diers, Utility Department – Chad Dunlop & John Gibeau, Park Department – Amanda Diers & John Gibeau, Ordinance Officers – Chad Dunlop & John Gibeau, City Clerk ~ Treasurer – Mary Muller

Official Newspaper – Photo Press, City Attorney – Jim Wilson Official Depository – State Bank of Ceylon. It was Motioned by Diers and seconded by Gibeau to approve all appointments. Motion carried.

Council discussed an increased in wage for council meetings in 2019. Councilmen Gibeau would like to increase the wages of mayor & councilmen by $5.00. Lack of a second, wages will remain at $50.00 for Mayor and $45.00 for council.

Council moved to change the March meeting from the second Tuesday to Thursday March 15, 2018.

Employee report: Clerk explained the problems the city is still having with the pumps because of the flushable wipes plugging up. Letters will be sent to citizens asking for discontinuation of these products. Clerk would like approval to move ahead with a survey on the city’s water rates. MRWA will be available in February to look through the cost & expense of the city’s rates.

Council Report: Councilmen Gibeau reported he spoke with LTD Broadband. They will be installing free internet in all city buildings on Friday. He also stated he received a letter from Frontier Communication saying they will be here in the spring to bury and take care of their problems. He asked if he could promote LTD Broadband on the city’s website and it was decided not to. Gibeau also spoke of the book program he started last January. He now has a non-profit organization to move forward with this project. Children newborn to 5yrs of age can be eligible to receive a free book each month. He is also working on a grant to purchase playground equipment for the park. He asked the council to commit to a $25,000.00 donation. He would raise another $25,000.00 and the grant would give another $25,000.00. After a very long discussion, council was not willing to commit. Gibeau then asked for a $5,000.00 commitment this year and another $5,000.00 in 2019. Council was not able to be in agreement upon a decision so the issue was tabled until next meeting.

Mayor Oelke reported on the fire association meeting. There were 3 EMS Calls and 2 Fire Calls for December. The Dodge Tanker is in need of replacement or major repair, there is also a need for 17 turn out gear at the cost of $25,500.00. Chief Larry Kling is looking into grants. Mayor thanked Armin Kronback for delivering the mower to the city. There being no more business it was motioned by Dunlop and seconded by Diers to adjourn. Motion carried. Next regular scheduled meeting will be held on February 13, 2018 at 6pm in the council room.

Mary M Muller

Clerk~Treasurer