Official Minutes of the Ceylon City Council

 May 8, 2018

 Ceylon, Minnesota

The Ceylon City Council held their regular meeting on May 8, 2018 in the council room. Members present: Mayor Lon Oelke, Councilmen Thomas Plumhoff, Chad Dunlop, Amanda Diers & John Gibeau. The meeting was called to order at 6pm by Acting-Mayor Gibeau. Also attending were Connie & Steve Saggau, Chris Griffin, Armin, Barb & AJ Kronback, Wayne Walter, Judith Perkins, Gary Helmers, Tim McConnell, Sara Odegaard & Larry Howell.

Councilmen Plumhoff and Diers made a first and second motion to approve the Agenda. Motion carried.

Council moved to the Public Comment. Council heard from Chris Griffin inquiring about what happened to the Rental Ordinance. Councilmen Gibeau discussed it with council and it was decided to follow through with the ordinance at the next meeting. Gibeau instructed the Clerk to e-mail a copy of the ordinance to all members of the Council. Chris also asked Council about the unlicensed cars and the properties that our eyesores in town. Gibeau asked Clerk who was appointed ordinance officers. Gibeau asked them to get a list to the Clerk so she can send out letters to the violators. Gibeau stated we have to make these people accountable. Chris Griffin also inquired about the emergency siren in Ceylon. She wanted to know if we were connected to Martin County EMS in the event of a tornado. The City is not connected and it relies on the volunteer spotters to alert the citizens of potential danger. City Clerk will call Erin Morales and look into the expense and options for the City to update the siren. Council heard from Gary Helmers regarding the Community Day Sale. He stated they have caught so much hell about the sale.

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Gary said they try very hard to keep mud off the roads though some people cannot follow directions. He also inquired about the 1% charge he read about. Gibeau addressed that issue stating the article written by Sharon Rosen in the Sentinel was false and the editorial by Joyce Schultz was poorly written. He said the council recognized the suggestion but it never went any further than that. He said Mayor Oelke was asked to get together with the auctioneers to discuss some concerns and ways to work together with the city. Gary and Council discussed many solutions to improving the day(s) of the sale. Gary also said he will not be mowing the old football field every six inches. Mayor Oelke said this is not acceptable because it’s unfair to the residents that live in the area. Gary said he will try to keep it up. Mayor Oelke said we all need to work together. There was also discussion of controlling all the 4-wheelers in town during the sale.

It was motioned by Dunlop and seconded by Diers to approve the minutes from April 10, 2018. Motion carried. It was moved by Plumhoff and seconded by Dunlop to approve the April Financial Report submitted by the Clerk. Motion carried. It was motioned by Diers and seconded by Plumhoff to approve payment of the submitted bills. Motion carried.

Steve Saggau addressed Council in regards to his 8 acres that he requested to be in the Rural Service District. The 8 acres have been deemed into conservation reserve for 15 years. He is asking Council to change the taxation from urban rate to rural rate for the next 15 years.

Tim McConnell was present to request forgiveness of an assessment placed on the property that he purchased at the forfeited property auction. The assessment was a mowing assessment from the City of Ceylon. After much discussion it was moved by Diers and seconded by Dunlop to lower the assessment by half. Motion carried with a nay vote by Gibeau.

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City Works employee Jim Plumhoff reported on problems with the sewer pumps. The city is still having problems with flushable rags. They are ruining the city’s pump. Jim is also having problems with I & I. The city is getting excessive storm water running through to the ponds. Jim is having Beemer’s come to camera the sewer system.

Councilmen Gibeau inquired about the asphalt at the Fire Station. He wants to see this repaired. He asked if the council would commit to payment of the repair. Council would like to wait until a proposal was submitted. Gibeau told council he is adding non-profit organizations and churches to the City website. Gibeau brought up the condition of Center Street stating it is an embarrassment to Ceylon. He stated he means no disrespect to the people who live on that street but there are places that look terrible. Gibeau would like to move the playground equipment that was donated to the city to the old rest home property. He feels it will help beautify that street. He asked if the committee that donated the piece of playground equipment would have any objections to the move.

The committee objected that idea and stated if it was to be moved they have a place for it. There was discussion with Sara Odegaard about neighbor’s garbage blowing in her yard.

Clerk has already sent a letter informing them they have ten days to clean up mess or receive a citation.

Councilmen Gibeau brought up Steve & Connie Saggau property again. He wants Clerk to ask lawyer about the conservation program. He wants to know if he will qualify for RSD if he has utility service going through those 8 acres.

Councilmen Plumhoff reported on the Lake Belt Cemetery meeting. He asked if councilmember(s) could attend on Thursday May 17th at 6pm. The committee will be cleaning the cemetery after the meeting.

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City Works Employee Jim Plumhoff brought up the gravel at the cemetery. Councilmen Plumhoff will bring that issue to the meeting.

Mayor Oelke gave the Fire Relief Association report.

There being no more business it was motioned by Diers and seconded by Dunlop to adjourn. Motion carried. Next regular council meeting will be held on June 12, 2018 at 6pm in the council room.

Mary M Muller

Clerk~Treasurer