

Unapproved Minutes
Gettysburg, South Dakota
March 15, 2011

Pursuant to the due call and notice thereof, the City Council met in special session on March 15, 2011 at 9:30 PM at the City Finance Office. Those present Council Members Bill Wuttke , Pat Everson, Josh Bausch, Fran VanBockel ,Peggy Lehman and Dawn Nagel . Also present was Sharleen Eliason, Finance Officer, Gayle Kludt, Police Chief, Michael Larson, City Attorney, Brian Hause and Molly McRoberts.

Meeting was called to order by Council President Wuttke and the pledge of allegiance was recited. A letter of resignation effective immediately from Mayor Gerald Knox was given to the Council. Motioned by Everson, seconded by VanBockel to accept the resignation, motion carried. In the Mayor's resignation letter he quoted "hopefully this measure will dispel any further verbal or physical threats to me or my family" Council Member Lehman wanted it stated on record that there were no such threats that ever came from the council.

Michael Larson, City Attorney, was asked about a conversation he had with an attorney named Rob Carl, who said he was representing the Mayor, regarding a suggested law suit against the City and the local newspaper. Basically, Carl told Larson that if the Mayor's situation wasn't taken care of he was prepared to go ahead with a lawsuit for whatever the City's insured limit was, which Carl said he assumed was a million dollars. He also mentioned a suit regarding a recall petition and libel. Knox identified Carl as his attorney during a previous council meeting. At this time Council member Nagel asked a question to Michael Larson, City Attorney, if Mayor Knox was called regarding the conversation with Rob Carl. Michael Larson stated that he did not talk to Gerald Knox regarding this conversation, because Rob Carl stated that he was representing Gerald Knox.

Council President Bill Wuttke was asked if he would be willing to fill the remaining Mayor's term. Wuttke said" he would be willing to do whatever the Council thought best for the City and its employees."

Council discussed their options on filling the vacancy of Mayor. It was discussed that there are three options:

1. Appoint a Mayor
2. With the vacancy of Mayor the Council President can be acting Mayor and still retain his council seat for voting purposes.
3. Appoint the Council President as Mayor and thus giving up the Council seat and create a vacancy for that ward and fill that vacancy with applications from residents of that ward.

Motioned by Lehman, seconded by Nagel, motion carried to appoint Council member Wuttke as Mayor to fill the remaining term of 13 months and to announce a vacancy for Ward 2 and to advertise as such in the Potter County News. The previous applications for that ward are on file and if anyone else would like to be on the council for Ward 2 to submit a signed letter of intent to a council member or to the Finance Office.

Randy Hegstrom discussed the Airport Hay bid notice with Council member Wuttke and he stated that with the land owner having to spray the airport he didn't feel it was feasible to have the bid start at \$475.00. Council discussed the bid notice. Council member Nagel stated that it generally is the renter that is responsible for the spraying of noxious weeds and on that property the renter will be receiving the ASC payment of 237.00. It was discussed to leave the notice as it was printed as the city didn't want to assume a loss either. Don Hericks came into the Finance Office Friday and stated that the City should advertise for bids for the hayland at the Civil war site as they no longer will be utilizing it for threshing bees. This property is around 40 acres more or less and there has never been a crop base so there is no ASC payments on this property. There was some discussion to put these two pieces of property together for bids but it was stated that it would be hard because one property does receive a crop base and the other property does not. Also this week will be the second week of advertising for the airport hay bid.

Motioned by VanBockel, seconded by Lehman, motion carried to advertise the former Civil war Site for bids for hayland with the renter responsible for noxious weed control and to be aware of the evergreen trees on this site so no harm will come to the trees when spraying of this site.

In round table discussion Council member Everson stated that he will discuss moving some of the trees from the Civil War Site to the City parks and start obtaining quotes for this. Council member VanBockel discussed concerns about the sewer lift station on the East part of the City and asked if it was feasible to place an alarm system that would alert the City Maintenance crew if it was not operating correctly. Council member Bausch

will check into this with Russell Anderson as it might just need a phone line to accomplish

this. Council member Lehman stated that she had already changed her work schedule to Wednesday because that was the date this meeting was originally scheduled and she usually works nights so she would appreciate in the future to stick with the original date planned for a meeting if possible.

Motioned by Bausch, seconded by VanBockel, motion carried to adjourn at 10:05 PM.

ATTEST:

WITNESS:

Sharleen Eliason, Finance Officer

Bill Wuttke, Council President

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