

Michigan City Council Regular Monthly Meeting

Monday February 10, 2020 @ 5:00 pm

Mayor Rysavy called the meeting to order.

Members Present – Diane Schock and David Daws

Member Phone in – Jay Vasichek

Members Absent – Chris O’Brien

Others Present – Steve Forde, Paul Ringdahl, Auditor Lori Lucke, Superintendent Scott Gilbertson

Call for additions to agenda. Agenda approved with additions

Steve Forde attended the meeting to discuss the Nelson County 2020 Housing Study. Nelson county will be conducting a housing study within each community and for the county overall to assess the current housing stock and make recommendation for action. The study has been endorsed by the Nelson County Commission and fully funded by the Nelson County Job Development Authority and the ND Housing Financed Agency. The County and all cities will receive a copy of the final report. Study duration will be 120 days.

Paul Ringdahl was at the meeting to find out what the City Council decided on reimbursing the cost of damages to his basement due to the City sewer event that resulted in some residential flooding. The Council decide to table the final decision until all council members are present. The Council discussed the importance of the residents of Michigan having ample insurance to cover their personal property. Mayor Rysavy restated that the final decision by the North Dakota Insurance was that the City of Michigan acted in a timely manner to correct the problem when notified and the sewer event was rectified.

Minutes from previous Council meeting were presented.

Schock made motion to approve with correction, Daws second. Motion carried.

Monthly bills were presented as follows:

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|-----------------------|------------|-----------------------|-----------|
| AGCOM | \$ 1857.72 | Polar Communications | \$ 277.10 |
| Bragger Disposal | \$ 2000.25 | United Laboratories | \$ 787.88 |
| Cardmember Services | \$ 152.99 | Verizon | \$ 46.35 |
| Grand Forks Utility | \$ 26.00 | North Dakota One Call | \$ 7.20 |
| Hamster Oil | \$ 645.84 | | |
| Nelson County Sheriff | \$ 1014.30 | | |
| Nodak Electric | \$ 210.65 | | |
| Ottertail Power | \$ 1672.62 | | |

Schock moved to pay bills presented. Daws second. Motion carried.

Superintendent Report

Monthly water loss was 3.7% for the month with water loss for year to date at 3.7%. Fourth quarter and Annual water report completed. The City of Michigan sold just under six million gallons of water in 2019. The process to change water sample site to a new location has been started. The old location does not have the volume of water to produce an accurate report. The Superintendent cell phone had to be replaced as the old one quit working. Superintendent will be attending class in Park River on 2/18/2020 to maintain certification. City truck is having oil pressure issues

Auditor Report

Past due water bills discussed, which will result in three shut off notices to be mailed. The shut off date is February 20, 2020. The Auditor will be on vacation from 2/18/2020 to 2/27/2020. The Auditor has resigned from full time employment in Nelson County and will be able to work regular hours for the City. The office hours will be discussed at the Council Meeting on March 9, 2020.

Old Business

Orwick Elevator was discussed. The City has contacted the City Attorney and is in discussion of how to proceed.

New Business.

City Truck - The truck is a 2004 Ford F150 with 133,000 miles on it. The truck has been in service with the City since 2012. The truck needs a major repair. There was a similar issue previously and the cost to repair was around \$3,000. The Council discussed past cost of repairs and future costs. The Council discussed purchasing a newer truck that would require less maintenance costs and down time. It was also discussed how the City would pay for a newer pickup. The Council and Superintendent will do some research on what the budget will be for a newer pickup and discuss options at the next meeting. The Superintendent is using his personal vehicle whenever he must travel to Grand Forks for water sample and any other significant distances.

Sewer contracts were reviewed. The City Council will renew the annual service contract with ND Sewage Pump and Lift Station Service Company for a fee of \$500.

2020 City Elections will be held in June 9. There are 2 council positions up for election. Those seats are currently held by Chris O'Brien and David Dawes. The Park Board has 2 positions up for election that are currently held by Shaun Watkins and Shannah Lentz.

Candidates can pick up petitions at the Michigan City Office. These must be filled out and handed in to the City Auditor by April 6, 2020 by 4 pm. The nominating petitions must be signed by 10 percent of the number of qualified voters in the last election. Petitions will require 15 signatures. On April 7, drawing for ballot position and notification to the County Auditor must be completed.

Removal of old vehicles on residents' properties was discussed. There are vehicles that were supposed to be moved last year and were not. Once the weather is better the City will be checking on residents that have unregistered vehicles parked in the yard. The City ordinance #144 states:

Abatement Required, Penalty for Failure.

If said owners allow said nuisance to exist or fail to abate said nuisance they, and each of them, upon conviction thereof shall be fined a minimum of five hundred (\$500.00) dollars for each offense and a separate offense shall be deemed committed on each day during or on which such nuisance is permitted to exist.

Post Office update. Mayor Rysavy contacted Wayne Ralph of Operations with the USPS. She wanted to communicate to Mr. Ralph all the repairs and measures that have been taken to address the environmental complaints by USPS employees. Air quality was tested, plumbing and ventilation were inspected, and any possible issues were addressed. The Michigan Community is frustrated not having access to their local Post Office and want answers, which are not being supplied by USPS. Mayor Rysavy brought up that there has been little cooperation by the Post Office with the Mall owners, the City and the Michigan Community to get any resolution to this ongoing problem. Mr. Ralph said he would have the Safety Officer of USPS, Erin Foss contact the Mayor.

Next Council meeting will be held March 09, 2020 @ 5pm

Schock made motion to dismiss the meeting. Daws second. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Lori A. Lucke, Auditor