

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Council of the City of Winger
March 13, 2017**

Council Members present:

The Honorable Mayor Darrell Olson
Steve Massmann, Nick Geray, Dan Kindall, Lori Lucken

Council Members absent:

none

Guests present:

Scott Revier and Gary Sonsteli, City of Winger Fire Dept.
Brian Hiles, Ulteig
John Hillstad

Maintenance Personnel present:

Ron Locken

City Clerk/Treasurer present:

Jennifer Frohrip

The meeting was called to order by the Honorable Mayor Olson at 7:02 p.m.
The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Additions to the Agenda:

Mary Gieseke, new driveway

Scott, Fire Chief, presented the Relief Assoc. Retirement Fund Report to the council.
Gary is treasurer.

After a fire fighter has been active for 10 years, they are 60% vested.

After 20 years, they are 100% vested.

This helps to recruit as well as retain fire fighters.

Money is also used to buy things for the fire dept.

At the end of the 2015 audit the association had \$10,969.00 in the general or spendable fund.

At the end of the 2015 audit the association had \$123,508.00 in the retirement fund. By law this fund is invested in funds as well as CDs.

The 2016 audit is now being conducted by a CPA in Fosston.

At this time the fire dept. has 14 fire fighters and 1 responder.

Scott presented the clerk with a copy of the 03/13/2017 minutes of the Relief Association meeting as well as a copy of the Office of the State Auditor 2015 Defined Contribution Allocation Table.

Fire Dept Report:

2 false alarms

1 car wreck at the bank

1 Amish shop fire

1 medical call

At the April 17th fire dept. meeting, they will go around town to work on the hydrants to make sure they can easily be opened and will also run water. Then they will know that everything is in working order.

General consensus by council was to go ahead as long as notice is posted so the public is aware of what is going on.

John Hillstad let council know that because of winning a wedding package at the casino in Mahanomen, he will be cancelling using the hall in August.

Brian discussed the water system improvement project with council.

The Preliminary Engineering Report has been submitted to Rural Development and is in the process of being reviewed. On Wednesday, March 15th, Brian will meet with Laura Pettit from USDA Rural Development at the clerk's office in Winger to submit the application for financial assistance. The new system would remove iron and magnesium so there would no longer be any rust or scaling issues. The overall system would be better and would decrease the city flushing needs.

Brian submitted 3 spreadsheets. One showed the water costs for the Winger accounts in 2016, one with the 2017 increase and a third spreadsheet using the affordability rates. Jennifer showed an average usage invoice to go with each of these spreadsheets.

The affordability rate was arrived at by looking at:

- 1) Existing debt
- 2) Projected operation and maintenance costs
- 3) Short lived assets and
- 4) Amounts available for future debt projects.

The city may go to monthly billing.

Discussion on the cost of 2 new wells. Stages are:

- 1) Drill test well and take samples
- 2) Screen is designed & built
- 3) Final well is built in that spot
- 4) Develop the well (pull water out)
- 5) Stabilize.

The numbers will change when the bids come in.

Discussion of gravity filtration vs. a pressure system.

The gravity filtration is easier to operate and the equipment lasts longer. Initially the pressure system costs less but it would take more chemicals to remove the iron so it would be a higher cost in the long term.

When the bids come in, the average of the bids is used to determine the engineering fees.

At a future point Brian will sit down with the city council to go through the project line by line to determine exactly what the city wants to do. There will be another public hearing and an information sheet can be put together to send out with the water/sewer invoices.

Minutes of the February 13, 2017 meeting:

Steve motioned to approve the minutes of the February 13, 2017 meeting, Dan seconds, motion passes.

Maintenance Report:

Will be reading meters.

Todd wants a nitrate sample

Lori motioned to approve Ron going to the LMC training in Mahanomen on March 29th at a cost of \$20.00,

Nick seconds, motion passes.

The hydrant that was damaged in the car accident has been repaired.

Financial Report:

On February 15 the clerk met with Gordon Dale to start the 2016 audit. Gordon is planning on coming to the April council meeting to present the audit.

On March 8th the clerk met with Theresa Voxland (Lindfors Agency) for the annual insurance meeting.

On March 15th there will be a meeting with Laura Pettit (USDA) and Brian Hiles (Ulteig) to start the Rural Development application for financial assistance.

25 shut off letters went out at the beginning of the month. There is currently a list of 5 properties that have not paid and should be shut off.

Every 3 years the city submits a pay equity report to the state and the city has received the notice of compliance.

Claims:

Lori motioned to approve claims, Dan seconds, motion passes.

Old Business:

New Business:

Jennifer will call Bacon's Dray about spring clean up day in May and see what days they would have available.

Jennifer will call Cornerstone Veterinary Service to see if they are interested in doing a pet clinic again this year.

Dan motioned to approve hiring Mary Gieseke to be the summer park worker this year, Steve seconds, motion passes.

Steve motioned to approve that if Mary should accept the summer park worker position, her wage would be \$12.00 per hour, Nick seconds, motion passes

Discussion of a new driveway that may be installed on the south side of Mary Gieseke's property.

Adjourn:

Mayor Olson adjourned the meeting at 8:29 p.m.

Approved

Attest

Mayor

City Clerk