

**KILKENNY CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
August 10, 2023**

There was a regular meeting of the Kilkenny City Council held in Council Chambers on August 10, 2023 at 6:30pm.

Council in attendance: Mayor Cameron Hankins, Council Members: Tammy Holicky, Terry Ferch, Bob Busta, Julie Balfe

Staff in attendance: Marissa Johnson-City Clerk, Shell Johnson-Water Supervisor

Persons in attendance: Lori Stoering, Jason Villwock, Sharon Balfe, Lacey DeYoung, Bill Washa, Gene Mach, Jason Holicky, Jeff Baldwin

1. **Call to Order:** Mayor Cameron Hankins called the meeting to order at 6:30pm.
2. **Pledge of Allegiance:**
3. **Approval of Minutes:** Special meeting held July 10, 2023. Motion by Terry Ferch, seconded by Bob Busta to approve the minutes as written. Unanimous vote. Motion carried.
4. **Approval of Minutes:** Regular meeting held July 13, 2023. Motion by Tammy Holicky, seconded by Terry Ferch to approve the minutes as written. Unanimous vote. Motion carried.
5. **Approval of Minutes:** Special meeting held July 31, 2023. Motion by Terry Ferch, seconded by Bob Busta to approve the minutes as written. Unanimous vote. Motion carried.
6. **Approval of agenda.** Motion by Tammy Holicky, seconded by Bob Busta to approve the agenda as written. Unanimous vote. Motion carried.
7. **Staff Announcements:** ISG sent in the Railroad Survey, but we can discuss more during council discussion.
8. **Presentations:**
 - A) **Sheriff Department:** Not Present
 - B) **PeopleService:** Shell apologized for the late reports. Shell noted the ponds have been sprayed but there are still not in good condition. Shell mentioned we need to weed them out, the ponds are getting no air. With no air there is no bugs. Trees, cattails need to be pulled out. The city was told to cut them years ago but made it worse. Shell does not want to put anything on them until she discharges and needs to ask MPCA what chemicals to use. Shell doesn't want the city to be fined with bad labs. Shell did a boat of alum, and it did not work. Shell also mentioned there is a valve open that never should have been open. She closed that off and expected the pond to come back to life. Jeff asked if MPCA gave a solution to fix this. Shell said the weeds need to be kept up right away in the year. Jeff stated we weren't on top of it. Cameron noted the city has been. Groundsmasters never showed up and lied about it. Jeff mentioned Groundsmasters should help celan this up. Another problem is our force mains in town. We have 3700 feet from south to the north lift station and north lift station to the ponds. At the ponds there's a box full of garbage from people flushing. Shell bucketed out 11 feet deep and 6 feet diameter of debris as much as she could. She can't get the bottom foot and half out without equipment. It's blocking all the force main up to the north lift station. The North lift station has two plug valves and two check valves and an air release. The south lift station was never put in and the air and gas can build up and could explode. The North lift station isn't on. Shell also needs a permit to go in the pit. Shell spoke with a company, Hydrovac; they can pump it out, dewater and throw in the garbage. Shell also printed off a list of items not to flush. Those pumps are pumping 52 gallons a minute, when they should be pumping at 100 gallons per minute. The city needs to find someone with a confined space permit. Shell noted we need three people with proper equipment. Jeff mentioned the Fire Department could do it. Tamy didn't think

their hazmat suits would work and don't have a permit. Tammy reiterated we need a valve put in and a valve open. We need to get the debris out ASAP. Hydrovac quoted 6 hours for \$2260 or 7 hours for \$2570. But will not charge for hose setup. Jeff mentioned he doesn't think anyone was taught about the new system. Jason Villwock also mentioned there were grinders supposed to be put in and never did. Shell also mentioned she came across a 4in turning ball. Shell will discharge on September 15. Motion by Tammy Holicky, seconded by Terry Ferch to go with Hydrovac out of Faribault to pump out debris at the ponds for 6 hours for \$2260 or 7 hours for \$2570. Unanimous vote. Motion carried. Tammy stated we need to find someone with a confined space permit and open and pull valves. Multiple constructions were talked about. Tammy also mentioned we need to make sure they are spraying the ponds. Cameron will check in with Chad from Groundsmasters. Jason Holicky mentioned why didn't Peopleservice in the past did not do certain things and asked Shell to make a list of things that should get done if she does leave. Jeff mentioned Shell or a council member should be present when this work is getting done to ensure it's done properly. Shell noted the wildlife could die from the garbage when they help with the ponds. Shell mentioned water usage has been up, but it's summer and Cameron mentioned there was a fire yesterday.

9. New Business:

- A) **Kennedy & Graven Letter of Interest:** Tammy stated we sent out two letters for civil attorneys. Kennedy and Graven sent a letter of interest. Tammy went through the fees with Jason Holicky and noted there is no monthly fee. It is just what they work. He is from the cities and counsels around this area. Tammy said we are in a tight spot without a civil attorney. She noted we hired a new criminal attorney from Le Sueur, Kim. Tammy mentioned that not a lot of lawyers do both criminal and civil and that's why we need two. Julie said it would be \$80 round trip from Minneapolis. Tammy mentioned we could get internet in the library, so he doesn't have to drive. Jeff asked how long we advertised. Tammy said as soon as Jason Moran quit, we started to send out letters. Tammy said we don't have to advertise it. Jason Holicky asked if it is binding if it doesn't work out. Tammy noted it doesn't state any contract obligation. Milage is the current IRS business rate of .65 cents a mile. Hourly rates are \$185. Lori asked if we looked down south if it would be cheaper. Jeff said maybe to look into the smaller cities. Tammy stated we don't have much wiggle room. Tammy said we can put out a few more letters and ask if this is a binding contract. Tammy stated we should have a special meeting when we get this figured out. The council will table the Kennedy and Graven interest letter. Marissa will do some more digging and asked Tammy to help as well.
- B) **Permit 2023-4:** Cameron called the County and said it's up to the city of the front yard setback even though its on a county road. Motion by Tammy Holicky, seconded by Terry Ferch to approve permit 2023-4 Sharon Balfe's 28 x 28 garage. Unanimous vote. Motion carried.
- C) **Permit 2023-5:** Cameron read of the permit. Jason and Marissa Johnson, finish and enlarge front steps that previous owners started. Marissa explained they want to enlarge the steps by the driveway and repair/fix as its blocks as steps. Jason Villwock asked if it is more than 150 square feet. Marissa mentioned in the ordinance she read it said any cemete slab. Marissa noted it was confusing reading it. Jason Villwock said for her to read it outloud and he would help her with it. Marissa nor did the council have the ordinance on hand. Tammy asked about the square footage and if there is a picture. Marissa stated she did not have the square footage and and there is a picture on the back of the form. She was unsure and was asking the council if she needs one. The council decided she did not need a permit.
- D) **Minnesota Rural Water Association Membership Renewal:** Motion by Tammy Holicky, seconded by Terry Ferch to renew our membership active for \$420 Unanimous vote. Motion carried.

10. Unfinished Business:

- A) **Street Signs:** Marissa said we are waiting to see if we need signs and poles. Cameron said he looked but didn't remember which ones we need. The county will put them in for us. Cameorn asked if she got an updated price sheet. She did not as she did not know what all was needed.
- B) **Selly Construction:** Cameron has nothing new.
- C) **Storm Drain Cleaning:** Jason Villwock mentioned the council ask the people who are pumping the ponds if they would do it. Cameron stated he would speak with them. Jason Villwock said they should start with the low ones. Cameron said he would reach out to Hydrovak. Marissa noted the estimate we received last month is from the same company that is doing the ponds. She stated last month they sent in an email with quotes. She passed down the quote. She stated they wanted to jet the lines by Julie's house

behind Cameron's. Cameron read off - 6 hours at 300 an hour, looking at \$1800. He doesn't think they will be here that long for the low ones. Cameron said he would reach out and get another quote.

- 11. Approval of Disbursements.** Motion by Tammy Holicky, seconded by Terry Ferch to approve the City's disbursements and August expenditures. Unanimous vote. Motion carried.
- 12. Imprest Cash Fund:** The Imprest cash fund does not need to be paid back this month.
- 13. Citizen Time:** Mayor Cameron Hankins went around the room. Gene- wanted to stop in and see how its going. He said he hears so much. Lori asked when the city lot will be mowed. Cameron asked Bob if he will mow tomorrow. Bob said he works until 3:30pm. Cameron asked him to start with the park for the ATV run on Saturday. Cameron said Groundsmasters came into town for mosquito spraying. Jason Villwock stated they went 30 down the alley. They were supposed to do just the park but Terry said they called Gordy and they said they wouldn't do just the park. Cameron said he would speak with Chad again. Jason Villwock asked if he should put in a bill of almost \$1,000.00 if the council decided not to get paid for Halfway meetings. Tammy said they would need to speak to their attorney when the city finds one.
- 14. Council Discussion:**
 - A) Fire Hydrant Usage:** Marissa mentioned a couple residents are getting permission to use hydrants. Jason Villwock used hydrants and Jon Morarity used a hydrant to fill his pool. Marissa noted this is also Tara asking and how we should bill for the usage. Cameron stated Jon gave a donation to the Fire Department because the Fire Department filled it. Marissa stated its city water. Tammy asked if we are filling pools? Cameron said very limited. Tammy mentioned to let residents know its co-cola water and the city needs to have a base pay. Jason Holicky mentioned they had a pool and used their hose. Jason Villwock said the city should have meters, so people don't have to go to Waseca to get one. Council decided the city should call around and get prices for the next meeting. Le Center and Montgomery stopped allowing residents to use hydrants. Joe Baldwin mentioned someone from the city should be the one using the hydrants and meter. Tammy said the council can discuss if they want to meter the water or not use hydrants. Cameron asked Marissa to look into prices. Marissa said she will call other cities.
 - B)** Tammy asked if the snowplow bids made it to the internet. Marissa confirmed. Tammy also asked if we are set on the next Kilkenny Kids Fun Day and Marissa confirmed. Tammy said we should setup an ISG meeting. She stated we need to get on the same page and look into more loan/grants. Tammy said they told us we could get another loan on top of the big loan and now they are saying no. Tammy noted we already paid them. ISG did a survey and Tammy feels they surveyed more than they needed and that we are not on the same page. Jason Villwock and Cameron said ISG should have been at this meeting. Gene stated we use 12 to 16,000 a day. Tank holds 100,00 gallons. He noted we don't have the capacity. Gene asked about the chemicals being dropped off. The vendor gives the city more than needed so they don't have to drive to us as often. Gene mentioned these chemicals will go bad overtime. Cameron said as a city and council and people in town and ISG to get on the same page and pull their reins back. Stated ISG is so far fetch out there. Jason Villwock stated all we need is a wellhouse. Gene mentioned every engineering firm has also taking this city for all they got. Jeff Baldwin forgot to bring up during citizen time; he has a club member who is a state inspector and is interested in being the city inspector. Tammy will call Rural Water back to see if they can give us a better grant for the Wellhouse. Tammy asked if we already paid ISG? Marissa said yes. Jason Villwock said the survey cost he saw at the budget meeting; he suggests we ask what they surveyed. Marissa noted that cost was for the preliminary report not the survey. Tammy asked how many pins went in? Jason Villwock said none. Tammy said there's one at her house. Cameron and Jason Villwock said ISG was surveying Steve Stanglers lot, the Township lot, Storage units, Buds Standard, by the ponds, and at Knish Court. Terry Ferch mentioned someone had been leaving the Fire Department door unlocked. Grant said on Wednesday the door wasn't even shut tight. She said if this keeps happening we will need to change the lock. Jeff asked if anything is missing? Terry said hers, Camerons, Tammys and Ryans gloves are missing. Cameron noted the library lights were left on. Marissa asked when. Monday, Tuesday and maybe Wednesday. Jason Villwock said Janice was in here sorting books. Cameron said shut the lights off when you leave. Gene asked who has the key. Marissa said a lot of people do. Gene noted if he sees lights on at the Fire Hall he just goes in and shuts them off.
- 15. Adjourn.** Motion by Tammy Holicky, seconded by Bob Busta to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 pm. Unanimous vote. Motion carried.

Mayor, Cameron Hankins

Marissa Johnson, City Clerk