

**CITY OF STARBUCK
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
DECEMBER 9, 2024
6:30 P.M.**

Mayor: Gary Swenson
Councilors: Steve Gorder
Chris Taffe
Mary Baukol
Dane Christensen

City Clerk/Treasurer: Joan Kerkvliet
Police Chief: Mitch Johnsrud

MINUTES

Approved 1/13/2025

Public Hearing: 6:35pm – Truth in Taxation

I. CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER

1. Call to Order & Pledge of Allegiance – Meeting was called to order by Mayor Swenson at 6:31 pm.
2. Roll Call - Swenson, Gorder, Taffe, Christensen, and Baukol Present. Absent - None

II. CONSENT AGENDA

3. Approve Agenda
4. Approve Claims for Payment
5. Approve Minutes from previous meeting(s)
 - a) Council Meeting – November 11, 2024
 - b) Special Council Meeting – November 18, 2024

Motion by Taffe; second by Gorder to approve the consent agenda as amended to include item #26 under new business. **Motion carried (4-0)**

Meeting was closed at 6:35pm for a public hearing.

Meeting was reopened at 6:36pm.

III. ANYONE BEFORE THE COUNCIL

6. Nick Koos – Widseth
 - a) Water Treatment Plant
Mr. Koos told the council that the city water storage tank needs to be refurbished and that piping at the water treatment plant has some corrosion and will also need to be replaced in the near future. VFD high service pumps are also a part of this project. These projects are on the PPL list to request funding from the state Drinking Water Revolving fund, but funding has not been approved at this time. If the state passes a bonding bill funding will be more likely. Widseth has estimated the cost of these two projects to be approximately \$476,000. The VFD and PCL upgrades could be alternates at a projected cost of \$43,500.
7. Brian Friedrichs – Little Sauk American Legion-Long Prairie
 - a) Request to Hold Meat Raffles at the Tavern

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Mr. Friedrichs told the council the legion would like to host meat raffles at The Tavern a couple times a month to benefit the Little Sauk boxing club. As no paperwork was presented, the council decided to table this until the December 27th year end meeting.

8. Chuck Peterson – Discuss Sale of THC Products at Minnewaska Liquor
 - a) Mr. Peterson told the council that he would like to be able to sell THC beverages at Minnewaska Liquor. He stated that Glenwood is able to do this with no license fee so Minnewaska Liquor is losing business. The council told Mr. Peterson that they are planning on holding a public hearing next month to consider changes in the current THC ordinance.

IV. PERSONNEL REPORTS

9. Mayor
 - a) Council Member Appreciation
Mayor Swenson presented outgoing council member Steve Gorder a plaque in appreciation of his dedicated public service to the City of Starbuck.
10. Police Department
 - a) Monthly Report
Chief Johnsrud told the council there had been 180 calls for service in the month of November. Council Member Christenson asked if the school incidents could be broken out separately from other incidents in future reports. Chief Johnsrud said his packet also contained information on blight citations that had been issued but no action had been taken from property owners to correct the problems. Chief Johnsrud asked the council for guidance on how they would like to proceed with this issue.
Motion by Taffe; second by Christensen to discuss this issue at either the year end meeting or a future work session. **Motion carried (4-0)**
11. Fire Department
 - a) Monthly Report
Fire Chief Doug Noyes updated the council on recent fire department elections. All officers will remain the same except for Mike Halvorson becoming the new 2nd Assistant Chief.
12. Water/Sewer Department
 - a) Quotes for Floats Needed for the New Marina Docks
Two quotes were received for the purchase of floats used in construction of the new marina docks. Glacial Lakes Recreation had the lowest bid at \$17,920.
Motion by Gorder; second by Taffe to approve the purchase of 48 dock floats from Glacial Lakes Recreation at a cost of \$17,920. **Motion carried (4-0)**

Water/Sewer Superintendent Peterson also told the council that he had contacted contractors to get information on remodeling the Hobo Park bathrooms. This project has been approved by the council in the past, but the city has had a hard time finding a contractor interested in giving the city a bid. The project would include demolition, new plumbing, carpentry work and tiling. This would be done on a time and material basis by a

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variety of contractors so Mr. Peterson could only give a project estimate of \$20k to \$30k for the project.

Motion by Gorder; second by Taffe to approve the Hobo Park bathroom/shower remodel project on a time and material basis with the estimated cost of \$20k to \$30k. **Motion carried (4-0)**

13. City Clerk/Treasurer
 - a) Schedule Year End Special Meeting to Approve Final 2024 Bills.
A year end Special Meeting will be scheduled for Friday December 27th at noon.
 - b) 2024 Audit is Scheduled for the Week of January 27, 2025.

V. COMMITTEE REPORTS

14. Planning & Zoning
 - a) Approve Michelle Knutson as Chair and Brett Bowser as Vice-Chair for 2025.
 - b) Approve Tom Asmus as a P&Z Commissioner for a Three-Year Term Ending in January 2027.
Motion by Gorder; second by Baukol to approve Michelle Knutson as Chair, Brett Bowser as Vice-Chair for 2025 and Tom Asmus as P&Z Commissioner for a three-year term ending in January of 2027. **Motion carried (4-0)**
 - c) Recommendation to Approve a Public Hearing to Revise the THC Ordinance.
15. Airport Committee – Tom Beuckens
 - a) Mr. Beuckens told the council that the airport commission met to determine language of a ground lease that would allow for a new hanger to be built at the airport. The proposal will be reviewed by legal counsel.
16. Streets & Parks
17. Community Center

VI. OLD BUSINESS

VII. NEW BUSINESS

18. Approve Resolution #2024-32 - Approve Donation from Villard Fire Dept. for Safety Camp.
Motion by Taffe; second by Christensen to approve Resolution 2024-32 for the \$200 donation from the Villard Fire Dept. for safety camp. **Motion carried (4-0)**
19. Approve Resolution #2024-33 - Approve Final 2024 Tax Levy Payable in 2025.
Motion by Taffe; second by Baukol to approve Resolution #2024-33 for a 8.75% tax levy payable in 2025. **Motion carried (4-0)**
20. Approve Resolution #2024-34 - Designating Precinct & Polling Place for 2025.
Motion by Christenson; second by Taffe to approve Resolution 2024-34 designating the Starbuck Community Center at 307 E. 5th St. as the designated precinct & polling place for 2025. **Motion carried (4-0)**

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21. Approve Liquor Licenses for 2025. Blair’s Pub & Grub, Waters Edge, Minnewaska Liquor, VFW, Old Firehall Brewery, The Tavern & Casey’s 3.2
Motion by Gorder; second by Christenson approve the liquor licenses for 2025 for Blair’s Pub & Grub, Water’s Edge, Minnewaska Liquor, VFW, Old Firehall Brewery, The Tavern & Casey’s 3.2.
Motion carried (4-0)
22. Approve the 2025 Budget.
Motion by Gorder; second by Taffe to approve the 2025 budget as presented. **Motion carried**
23. Approve Minnewaska Area School’s Request to Hold an Election in the Starbuck Community Center on November 4, 2025.
Motion by Christenson; second by Baukol to approve the Minnewaska School District holding an election at the Starbuck Community Center on November 4, 2025. **Motion carried (4-0)**
24. Approve Public Hearing for Revision of THC Ordinance.
Motion by Gorder; second by Christenson to approve holding a public hearing on revisions to the THC ordinance. **Motion carried (4-0)**
25. Discuss and Approve Resolution #2024-35 – Fee Schedule for 2025.
Motion by Gorder; second by Taffe to approve Resolution #2024-35 approving the 2025 Fee Schedule with one change; removing the THC license fee. **Motion carried (4-0)**
26. Approve a Meat Raffle at the Starbuck VFW on Dec. 14, 2024, and Jan. 4, 2025, to benefit the Starbuck Chamber.
Motion by Christenson; second by Taffe to approve a meat raffle at the Starbuck VFW on Dec. 14, 2024, and Jan 4, 2025, to benefit the Starbuck Chamber. **Motion carried (4-0)**

VIII. CLOSED MEETING – Possible closed meeting to discuss AFSCME Union Contract.

Meeting was closed at 7:40pm to discuss a union contract.

Meeting was reopened at 7:50pm – No decisions made.

IX. ADJOURNMENT - Motion by Gorder to adjourn the meeting at 7:51pm. Motion carried (4-0)

Submitted by,
Joan Kerkvliet
City Clerk/Treasurer

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