

**Rutland City Council**  
**July 8, 2024**

The monthly City Council meeting was called to order at 5p.m. by Mayor Mahrer. Council members Anderson, Lysne and McLaen present; Erickson absent. City Auditor also present. Others present: Kim Liebold.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

McLaen/Lysne moved approval of the agenda as submitted. Motion carried unanimously.

McLaen/Anderson moved approval of the June 3, 2024 minutes. Motion carried.

Public Comments: Resident Kim Liebold asked that the Council reduce the charge for her items for the city clean-up day. She was charged \$200.00 for items that were hauled to the City Shop. Two loads she took before to the Gwinner dump was only a \$46 charge.

The Mayor noted that white goods, tires and electronics are accepted at no charge and there is a \$20 minimum charge for cleanup day disposal; it is not a per item charge. The City rents a roll-off for cleanup as the landfill is not an inert landfill due to the location close to the WPA drainage. Only trees, compost, scrap iron and white goods can be dropped at the City's municipal waste site.

Scott Haan, Public Works, stated that the first trailer load included a couch and chairs plus other items; the boys were informed that the first load would be \$100.00 and that any other items would cost an additional amount. There were three trips of items for Ms. Liebold.

Ms. Liebold said she is unable to pay the \$200 at once. Lysne informed Ms. Liebold that the Council will not change the fee that was charged. Ms. Liebold left the meeting.

The Council agreed that the \$200 fee incurred by Ms. Liebold will not be subject to any late fees on the utility bill as long as she makes an attempt to pay the bill. Her water billing will continue to be subject to late fees in accordance with current rules.

Public Works: Scott Haan stated that the City's fire hydrants all need to be replaced and he suggested including replacement of the two along Main Street as part of the sidewalk project in 2025. According to ND Rural Water Association, the cost of each of the fire hydrants is approximately \$12,000.

He informed the Council that the sump pump/lift has been running 18 hours a day and a normal day is 5-6 hours. There may be some residents who drain their sump pump into the sewer. The City could install switch valves and locks and owners install a ball valve to drain pumps outside in the summer. Some cities have a \$350.00 fine if someone does a run-around the lock pipe.

Anderson suggested that Scott determine what the cost would be for the valves and locks in order to install them on each house in town. The Mayor stated that the cost will be different based on the 1.5 pipe or 2 inch pipe sizes.

Scott informed the Council that the old cistern behind the Hall has been drained. Water is flowing from behind the Hall and the RV Park into the sewer system. He is still working with Rural Water to try to find a leak. Rural Water can check every curb stop in town to determine if there is a leak; the cost for the use of their camera is \$150. The Council asked Scott to continue attempts to identify the leak location.

Scott informed the Council that the meter at 121 N. 2<sup>nd</sup> St. is no longer readable. The owner needs to replace corroded pipes in the basement but the curb stop cannot be turned off. It is near the neighbor’s LP tank so it may be difficult to access. He will work with Jacobson PHE to get the curb stop off.

Scott suggested that the City have one key for the Municipal Waste Site (MWS) and that the gate open only by appointment. There has been a second key at the Elevator and people have used it and dumped branches still with Christmas lights and also piled pressboard on the wood burn pile. The Council agreed that access to the MWS needs to change so the City has control over what is dumped.

Scott asked for approval to purchase a backpack sprayer for the Lagoon to spray weeds there and in other places; a 4 gallon unit costs around \$300.00.

Lysne/Anderson moved approval to purchase a 4-gallon backpack sprayer for weeds at the Lagoon at an estimated cost of \$350.00. Motion carried.

McLaen/Anderson moved approval of the June financials as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Anderson/McLaen moved approval of the payment of bills:

ACH	Waste Management	\$ 1,735.87	13782	Lori McLaen	230.88
ACH	Waste Management	\$98.34	13782	Michael Mahrer	253.96
ACH	DRN	149.11	13782	ND League of Cities	366.00
ACH	Quill	93.98	13782	ND Rural Water	265.00
13815	Scott Haan	1,199.44	13782	Rodney Erickson	277.05
13816	Otter Tail Power	1,201.77	13782	Rutland Oil	485.85
13817	US Post Office	386.00	13782	Sargent County Teller	93.98
13818	Scott Haan	1,491.13	13782	SE Water Users	1,033.50
13819	Advantage Pest Control	160.00	13782	US Treasury	2,608.45
13779	Bill Anderson	277.05	13782	Van Diest Supply	612.75
13780	Deborah Banish	2,123.22	13783	Walock-Johnson	2,153.00
13781	Joe's Ag Supply	120.00	13785	Waste Management	628.95

Motion carried.

The City Auditor reported there is one delinquent at this time.

The City Auditor reported that the 2025 preliminary budget will need to be approved at the August meeting; the City is at its maximum mill levy so there will be few changes.

The meeting adjourned at 6:15 p.m. The next meeting will be Monday, August 5, 2024.

ATTEST:

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Deborah Banish, City Auditor

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Michael Mahrer, Mayor