

## Regular City Council Meeting

5-6-19

Mayor Opdahl called the meeting to order at 7pm

Present: Tom Gorek, Lyle Kovar, Josh Smith, Renee Rettinger, Breann Krebs, Chris Fitterer

Excused: None

Motion by Josh, seconded by Tom to approve the April 2019 minutes as presented. Motion carried.

The county policing report was presented by Sheriff Warner. There were 35 calls for service last month. Theft of property, child abuse, drug violation, identity theft, suspicious person and a scam were all incidents that occurred in New England. The council and Sheriff Warner discussed burning in New England. When the burn ban is off, people can burn twigs or wood in a controlled setting. No one can burn garbage, shingles, leaves, etc. The City of New England has a burning ordinance and it even states if smoke from burning bothers a person's breathing or it becomes a nuisance, the burning would have to end.

### Mayors Report

The Prairie Dog Bill has passed and New England will receive approximately \$100,000 per biennium. The City of New England can use this for infrastructure which includes road repair or replacement. The amount we would receive would make the payment on our Phase 4 project. The council will have to decide at a later time how to use these funds.

### Zoning Commission

There were 2 building permits that were approved by the Zoning Commission.

Ruth and Todd Fitterer – Fence

Lions Club – Awning

### Water & Sewer

#### Phase 3

The tentative start date for Maguire Iron to start the coating and site work on the Water Tower is May 27<sup>th</sup>. This date could be moved up depending on Maguire Iron's schedule.

The punch list items of crack sealing, seal coat, curb painting and striping is not scheduled at this time. A date will be set in the near future.

Motion by Tom, seconded by Josh to approve Change Order #5 which includes additional work of adding a water main extending south on Main Street, additional crack sealing and replacement of 22 meters by Keane Hanson. Motion carried.

Remaining contingencies are approximately \$100,000 - \$130,000.

Motion by Josh, seconded by Tom to approve the amendment to the engineering agreement. Motion carried.

Motion by Tom, seconded by Josh to approve Invoice #20869 to Moore Engineering for \$26,263.62.

Motion carried.

Motion by Josh, seconded by Breann to approve Invoice #20868 for \$32,215.00. Motion carried.

Motion by Tom, seconded by Breann to give Moore Engineering approval to submit an application for an Energy and Impact Grant. Motion carried.

#### Phase 4

Timing is still unknown on the project as we are waiting on the Letter of Conditions. The plans for Phase 4 are drafted and Jerod will be coming to New England to review the plans with any council members that can be present.

Street Improvement Project is on hold as of now but the council does want to proceed to finish the remaining streets in the future.

#### Street & Lights

Josh is still waiting on an answer as to why the flag pole holders were not included on the new street lights.

The lights are staying on all day on the South end of Main Street. The Photo Cell is bad and we need to get a replacement part to solve the issue. The Auditor will order a new photo cell.

We did purchase 2 blinking stop signs that will be placed on 12<sup>th</sup> Street by the school. The council discussed parking issues at the school and we will talk to Moore Engineering to get their recommendation on how far back we should be painting the curb yellow to allow better flow of traffic and more safety by the school.

#### Equipment

The garbage truck should be here in June.

#### Buildings & Grounds

Discussed whether we should require a deposit when someone uses the Memorial Hall. If items are not cleaned up within 24 hours or if the key is not returned within 24 hours we would cash the deposit check. Motion by Josh, seconded by Tom to approve a \$50 deposit for using the Memorial Hall including clean up. Motion carried.

Discussed whether we should change locks or get a FOB system or a keyless entry system for the Memorial Hall. We will do some research on this matter and will discuss it in the future.

Breann talked with members of the Women's Club. The Women's Club will donate \$20 for flowers at the Memorial Hall. Breann will be taking over watering and overall care of the flowers.

#### Zoning Committee

Nothing to report

#### Ordinance Committee

Nothing to report

#### Auditors Report

Motion by Tom, seconded by Josh to approve the following bills for payment. Motion carried.

Dickinson Supply Inc.	Filters	-21.67
Tri County	Cartridges, antifreeze, HT Fluid	-295.81
AFLAC	Insurance	-369.42
Southwest Water Authority	Monthly Water	-5,683.45
Runnings	Cold Mix	-75.92
Ameripride	Rug Cleaning	-103.51
Express Stop	Fuel	-537.49
Fitterer Oil	Gas/Fuel	-479.68
Smart Computers & Consulting	Antivirus renewal	-47.87

Dakota General	Supplies	-80.94
One Call Concepts	Call Tickets	-10.80
Consolidated	Ambulance Phone	-52.93
Consolidated	City Hall Phone	-369.84
City Of Dickinson	Landfill Charges	-1,932.17
Virtuoso Leidholm Consulting LLC	Website Fee	-125.00
Hanson Plumbing & Excavating	Clean Sewer at Memorial Hall	-100.75

Motion by Tom, seconded by Josh to approve the Pledge of Securities from American Bank Center.  
Motion carried.

#### New Business

Received a bid from MDU for replacement of the rest of the street lights on Main Street. This would be bulb replacement. MDU would not have the same style of lights that we have on the South end of Main Street and MDU labor would be extra. We could order the lights through Border States Electric for approximately \$6,800 which would be a cost savings for the city. Slope Electric will donate the truck and labor to install the new bulbs. The consensus was to order through Border States Electric.

Discussed the agreement we have with the Emergency Services Center. The City of New England pays half of the MDU each year and half of the maintenance and repairs. We have never received a bill for anything else other than MDU until the new Emergency Services Center was built. The city received a bill for \$7,450.81 for maintenance and repairs during 2018. None of these costs were brought to the City Council nor was the Auditor made aware that the costs would be this high. The consensus is that this is well beyond reasonable maintenance and repairs. There are several major issues with the Emergency Services Building and repairs are currently going on as we speak. What is the bill going to be next year? The city needs to be able to budget for general maintenance and repairs and cannot be blind sided with a huge maintenance and repair bill. The council decided that the Emergency Services Center must exhaust all remedies for who is responsible for the costs before we consider paying. The contract or architect should be who they contact first to see if there is something they can do to get some financial relief for the repairs. Motion by Chris, seconded by Tom to approve paying the utility portion of the bill.  
Motion carried.

Helena Chemical asked about paving a portion of McKenzie St. where the trucks drive. With trucks fully loaded how long will the street last? The council talked about putting concrete there as a better solution. We will have to talk to Moore Engineering if we can do a special assessment for one block or if there are other means of paying for the pavement up front and then have Helena Chemical pay later.

Motion by Tom, seconded by Renee to approve the Homestead Credit Application for Eleanor Kilwein.  
Motion carried.

The council was asked if we can move the piles of dirt and sand at the Cemetery to a new location so the adjacent landowner can build a road to the West of the trees and to the South of the water tower. The council has no plans for the current water tower when the new water tower becomes operational. Motion by Lyle, seconded by Tom to approve moving the dirt piles and allowing the adjacent property owner to put in a small road. Motion carried.

The sales tax committee needs two new members. The committee has not met for some time as they are short of members. There are some applications that need to be voted on. The council will only vote on 1 application at this time. Motion by Tom, seconded by Lyle to approve the sales tax application for The Amidon/Slope County Community Cupboard for ½ of the cost of the freezer. Motion carried. Of the 43 families that were served through the food pantry, 18 of those families were from New England.

Council Comments

None

Motion by Tom, seconded by Breann to adjourn. Motion carried.

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Mayor

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City Auditor