Regular City Council Meeting

Mayor Opdahl called the meeting to order at 7pm

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

Excused: Chris Fitterer

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

The county policing report was presented by Sheriff Warner. There were 38 calls for service which included child abuse, a child custody dispute, 3 domestics and a firearms complaint at the Golf Course. A deputy has resigned and now the department is down 2 deputies.

Mayors Report

Nothing to report

Zoning Commission

Building permits were presented as follows:

Ehlis Farms – Storage Bins

We need to send letters to two residents that need to finish their garages.

For informational purposes, 4th Street by the Wehner property was vacated and closed.

Motion by Josh, seconded by Renee to approve the 1st reading of the Zoning Ordinances. Motion carried.

The Zoning Board would like a colored printer, 3 ring binder and a 3 hole punch.

Water & Sewer

Engineers Report

Phase 3

Maguire Iron is behind schedule for completion dates. The water tower will go online Thursday. There are 2 leaks right now related to a gasket. We need a change order to add a pressure transducer. Motion by Tom, seconded by Josh to approve change order #3. Motion carried.

Motion by Josh, seconded by Lyle to approve payment #6 to Quam Construction for $2,711.10. Motion carried.

Punch list items will need to be taken care of before retainage of $25,000 will be paid. Motion by Josh, seconded by Breann to approve invoice 21552 to Moore Engineering. Motion carried.

The remaining budget is over $150,000.

Phase 4

Received the letter of conditions for Phase 4. We received a 45% grant. Motion by Josh, seconded by Lyle to approve the letter of condition for Phase 4. Motion carried.

Street Improvement Project

The City of New England did get approved for 2.5 million for mill/overlay or total reconstruction of our remaining city streets. There is a process to go through for a street improvement project which is outlined by the state. We could bid Phase 4 and the Street Improvement Project together in either November or December. We can back out of the loan if we do decide not to move forward with the street improvement project. Motion by Josh, seconded by Breann to proceed with the initial requirement with loan processing and special assessment process. Motion carried.

Motion by Josh, seconded by Breann to create a resolution declaring work necessary for street replacement district No. 2020-1 and resolution directing engineer to prepare report. Motion carried.

September 18th is the public information meeting for the street improvement project.

Street & Lights

Parking is an issue by the pool. Could we possibly do some striping for parking spots? The swimming pool will be closed soon so we will address this at a different time. There will be no striping for parking spots on Main Street.

Discussed vacating streets. Should we vacate certain streets so the city does not have to maintain them any longer? Especially if it is a dead end road. Landowners would have to come into effect as well. We can discuss this at a different time.

Equipment

The garbage truck will be coming in soon. We will be using Kinetic Leasing for our financing of the garbage truck. It will cost $6,000 to fix the blade and $2,000 for tires. A resident has some old tires for the blade.

Buildings & Grounds

The faucet at the Memorial Hall needs to be fixed.

Zoning Committee

Nothing to report

Ordinance Committee

Nothing to report

Auditors Report

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

Share Corp Dynasty -571.00

Tri County LLC Supplies -30.71

Fitterer Oil Gas/Fuel -550.34

Consolidated Ambulance Phone -53.61

Consolidated City Hall Phone -369.26

Helena Chemical Spray -282.00

Dakota General Supplies -44.44

ND Dept. Of Environmental Quality Waste Transport Fee-25.00

Blue Cross Blue Shield Health Insurance -2,402.34

AFLAC Insurance -523.82

Ameripride Rug Cleaning -115.07

ND League of Cities Dues -878.00

Southwest Water Authority Monthly Water -12,752.83

Dakota Pump & Control Fix Float Lift Station -280.50

MDU Utilities -3,032.77

Country Media Ads/Minutes -179.52

City Of Dickinson Landfill Charges -2,018.65

One Call Concepts Call Tickets -8.40

Ameripride Rug Cleaning -115.05

The meeting date in September will be changed to Tuesday, September 3rd at 7 pm.

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

Old Business

There are no new sales tax committee members.

Motion by Josh, seconded by Tom to pull back parking to the alley on both sides of 12th Street by the school.

New Business

Father Gary addressed the City Council regarding the cat, racoon and skunk problem. There is feces all over the church property and there is worry that any of these animals could have rabies. There is a concern for the safety of the parishioners and the day care kids. Discussed different options to address the problem. Motion by Lyle, seconded by Tom to live trap animals within the city limits. Motion carried.

Kelly Koppinger representing the New England Public School discussed the land North of the school. It was discussed a year ago about purchasing some of the land. The building project is moving forward and the school is looking at a combination of a land purchase and a joint powers agreement. The Park Board would like access to the baseball field in the summer and the Park Board would maintain the area during the summer. The council discussed the parking issue at the school. There will be 3 different settings for parking. The council asked Mr. Koppinger to come back with a price for the land that the school could afford and with a list of the responsibilities that the school will take over with a joint powers agreement. The school has a good relationship with the Park Board and will continue to work with them.

Judy Kirschman representing Job Development Authority discussed the upcoming census. The last census was off 3%. Each person missed is worth $2,000 a year. 846 kids were missed in North Dakota in the last count. The census count determines the funding from the federal government. Hettinger County gave $1,000 for the census and Judy is looking for another $1,000 split between each of the cities in Hettinger County. There would be ads in the paper and we would like to get a good accurate count for Hettinger County. Motion by Tom, seconded by Josh to give 1/3 of the $1,000 for census advertising. Motion carried.

We have 1,979 cubic yards of concrete and 1,269 yards of Asphalt. A person from Carson would charge a certain price per crushed ton or he would receive a portion of the crushed asphalt and concrete. We will table this now until Phase 4. We should try to get an idea on prices. Motion by Josh, seconded by Lyle to accept bids for crushing asphalt or concrete. Motion carried.

Motion by Lyle, seconded by Josh to approve closing a portion of Railway Street to 1st Ave West and closing a portion of Main Street for the Wheat Harvest Jamboree. Motion carried. The street dance will be held in the city shop.

Discussed clean-up of a property in New England. Should we address this issue now or wait. The council would like our City Attorney to send a letter to get the communication started. There are serious concerns over wildlife, oil and other environmental issues.

Cleaning at the Memorial Hall and City Hall bathrooms needs to be done weekly.

Motion by Josh, seconded by Renee to approve the preliminary budget. Motion carried.

Council Comments

None

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

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Mayor City Auditor