Regular City Council Meeting

**5-04-20**

Mayor Opdahl called the meeting to order at 7pm

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

Excused: None

Motion by Tom, seconded by Renee to approve the April 2020 minutes as presented. Motion carried.

The county policing report was emailed by Sheriff Warner and presented by Mayor Opdahl. There were 41 calls for service in March including animal cruelty, juvenile, child welfare, criminal mischief and a DUI. There were 44 calls for service in April including a domestic and vandalism. Discussed a resident with junk cars on the street and boulevard. The County Police Department served a letter to the resident giving him 10 days to remove the vehicles or they will be towed. Tom will check into the fines and enforcement if the vehicles are not moved. We will have to work with our City Attorney if we cannot resolve the issue. Motion by Josh, seconded by Lyle to approve the county policing report. Motion carried.

Mayors Report

The Mayor has appointed a Special Assessment Committee. The committee consists of Joe Bohlman, Dean Volk and Jon Fielding. Our engineers will help assist us through the special assessment process.

The scope of the Air Force Base is changing in Rapid City and area towns including New England can provide input on the changes made. This does not affect our city and no input will be given from the City of New England.

Street & Lights

Elevator Road and East of town by Larry Lechler’s, the roads do not have much gravel on them. It was discussed if we should try and find some gravel for these roads. We may be able to get gravel from the Highway 22 project or our own city project. A council member will talk with Moore Engineering to measure these roads and get a cost. The City of New England, Hettinger County and a township would all be involved with the graveling of the roads.

Nothing to report

Water & Sewer

Phase 3

The warranty inspection for the water tower will be in June.

Phase 4 & Street Improvement District

The pre-construction meeting was held and the preliminary schedule is for BEK to start in June. They will be televising in June and will be starting after the televising is done. The goal is to be done by the end of September. The paving will be done in late September. Contracts will be reviewed by our City Attorney and signed by all parties involved.

Motion by Josh seconded by Chris to approve Invoice 23524 for $10,400 and Invoice 23526 for $8,350 to Moore Engineering. Motion carried.

The City of New England was awarded $348,650 from an Energy Infrastructure and Impact Grant that Moore Engineering had completed for us. The grant could go towards the loan or towards the project. The grant would change the tax assessment very little if we applied it to the loan. It was the consensus of the City Council to use the funds on our infrastructure in New England.

Buildings & Grounds

Clarence put up a fence in the Alley behind Memorial Hall to prevent people from driving on the underground sprinklers. Clarence did a nice job with the fence.

Zoning Committee

Nothing to report

Equipment 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.

 5/4/2020 13613 Newbys Ace Hardware Shovel and Chain -71.77

 5/4/2020 13614 Ameripride Rug Cleaning -121.36

 5/4/2020 13615 Edward H Schwartz Construction crushed concrete -180.00

 5/4/2020 13616 Menard's Fence Post Sleeves -84.20

 5/4/2020 13617 Runnings Fence Posts -80.36

 5/4/2020 13618 Southwest Water Authority Monthly Water -9,851.60

 5/4/2020 13619 Smart Computers & Consulting Antivirus Subscription -47.87

 5/4/2020 13620 Butch Frank Print Copies Zoning Ordinance -57.03

 5/12/2020 13621 Sanford Healthcare Repair Elevator At memorial Hall -3,471.49

 5/12/2020 13622 Consolidated City Hall Phone -372.37

 5/12/2020 13623 Consolidated Ambulance Phone -53.02

 5/12/2020 13624 City Of Dickinson Landfill Charges -1,614.45

 5/12/2020 13630 The Hub Convenience Stores Fuel -541.62

 5/28/2020 13634 AFLAC Insurance -523.82

 5/28/2020 13635 Menard's Grass Seed -31.99

 5/28/2020 13636 Blue Cross Blue Shield Health Insurance -1,997.76

 5/28/2020 13637 Hanson Plumbing & Excavating Blading Services -500.00

 5/28/2020 13638 GS Publishing Minutes Published -131.24

 5/28/2020 13646 Hanson Plumbing & Excavating Fix Urinal -135.10

 5/28/2020 13647 Ameripride Rug Cleaning -121.36

 5/28/2020 13648 VISA 8078 Credit Card -316.47

 5/28/2020 13649 Visa 8052 Credit Card -4.99

There will be no polling place in New England for the election in June. There will be election workers in Mott that will be counting ballots throughout the day. This year it is all mail in ballots due to Covid 19. There will be a ballot box in the lobby of City Hall to drop off your ballots and a Deputy will pick them up each day and take them to Mott.

Discussed the use of Memorial Hall. Throughout the discussion it was determined to talk to the League of Cities to receive guidance or follow the governor’s rules. We also should be relaying information to those using the Memorial Hall on the guidelines concerning social distancing and prevention of Covid 19.

Zoning Commission

There were 9 permits and 6 measurements in New England. It has been a busy start to the year for projects in New England. Zoning books are being printed.

Butch Frank informed the council that there is a Covid 19 application for businesses in town through the Hettinger County JDA. A business owner can receive $800 or $800 for 2 employees. Two applications have already been approved.

Old Business

None

New Business

Motion by Josh, seconded by Breann to table the request of the door to door sales people coming to New England. Motion carried.

Council Comments

The Highway 21 rummage sales can happen in July. All guidelines will have to be followed concerning Covid 19.

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

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Mayor City Auditor