Regular City Council Meeting

**5-3-21**

Mayor Opdahl called the meeting to order at 7pm

Present: Lyle Kovar, Drew Madler, Tom Gorek, Breann Krebs, Chris Fitterer

Excused: None

Motion by Breann, seconded by Drew to approve the April 2021 minutes as presented. Motion carried.

The county policing report was presented by Sheriff Warner. In March there was a harassment, theft of service, probation search, domestic and suspicious activity. Motion by Breann, seconded by Drew to approve the county policing report. Motion carried.

Mayors Report

Nothing to report

Water & Sewer

The drainage South of Chris Fitterer’s and the location of property pins need to be added to the punch list items for BEK. If the pins were pulled out when the alley was tore up, the pins need to be replaced.

The engineers are working with Rural Development to use the final grant money. A list has been provided with the items that the city would like to submit for approval from Rural Development to use the remaining grant funds. Motion by Drew, seconded by Breann to approve change order #5 up to $85,000. Motion carried.

Buildings & Grounds

Breann is planting flowers at the Memorial Hall and she will ask Toni Jung to help with the planting and maintenance of the flowers at City Hall.

Equipment Committee

Nothing to report

Ordinance Committee

In our ordinances, if an ordinance is listed as an infraction without a penalty it would have to go to court. We would have to change two ordinances to tie an amount to the infraction, then it would not have to go to court. One ordinance deals with accumulation of junk on private property and the other is under garbage and refuse – accumulation of junk (essentially cars). We need to establish a committee for the administration of fines. There will be a special meeting held for the 1st reading of the two ordinances with the addition of an amount for infractions.

Auditors Report

Motion by Breann, seconded by Lyle to approve the following bills for payment. Motion carried.

5/3/2021 14066 NE Library April Taxes -63.78

5/3/2021 14067 NE Cemetery April Taxes -7.53

5/3/2021 14068 Special Assessment Deficiency Specials 2-35 -284.64

5/3/2021 14069 Special Assessment Deficiency City Share -67.36

5/3/2021 14070 Special Assessment Deficiency Specials 2-35 -3,903.51

5/3/2021 14071 Special Assessment Deficiency Specials Water & Sewer -7,092.88

5/3/2021 14072 Keane Hanson Measuring -50.00

5/3/2021 14073 John Plaggemeyer Measuring -50.00

5/3/2021 14074 Virtuoso Leidholm Consulting Website Maintenance – 2 months -250.00

5/3/2021 14075 Southwest Water Authority Monthly Water -8,286.88

5/3/2021 14076 Blue Cross Blue Shield Health Insurance -2,059.47

5/3/2021 14084 MDU Utilities -3,670.14

5/19/2021 14085 Centennial Insurance Yearly Insurance -12,806.00

5/19/2021 14086 Breann Krebs Reimburse Flowers Memorial Hall -107.77

5/19/2021 14087 AFLAC Insurance -523.82

5/19/2021 14088 Consolidated Ambulance Phone -54.70

5/19/2021 14089 Consolidated City Hall Phone -374.64

5/19/2021 14090 Aramark Rug cleaning -122.90

5/19/2021 14091 City Of Dickinson Landfill Charges -1,579.20

5/19/2021 14092 Hettinger County Auditor 2021 assessor Fees -300.00

5/19/2021 14093 Visa 1864 Postage, Office Supplies -392.83

5/19/2021 14094 VISA 8078 Oil & Filter -11.38

5/19/2021 14095 One Call Concepts Call Tickets -4.80

5/19/2021 14096 Quality Quick Print Receipt Books & Address Stamps -258.90

5/19/2021 14097 Smart Computers & Consulting Annual Antivirus subscription -47.87

5/19/2021 14098 Tri County LLC Supplies -431.15

5/19/2021 14099 Fitterer Oil 2 tire repairs -48.56

5/19/2021 14100 The Hub Convenience Stores Fuel -568.66

5/19/2021 14101 NE Community Grocery Store Supplies -17.46

Old Business

The City Auditor ordered a new radar speed sign. This one is similar to the last one we had where it is solar powered and can be moved. Clarence will put it up as soon as it arrives.

New Business

The City of New England received 2 sales tax applications. One for the After Prom Party and one for the New England Lion’s Club. Motion by Breann, seconded by Drew to approve the application for the After Prom Party for $2,000. Motion carried.

Motion by Drew, seconded by Breann to deny the application from the New England Lion’s Club. Motion carried.

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

Kristen Stecher was present to give the 2020 Library report. The library was closed for 3 weeks due to Covid 19, annual reports were completed and sent to the State Library and the New England Legion supported the book leasing program. In addition, story hour was held through the winter and the book club met 6 times. The summer reading program had 20 participants, a taco fundraiser was held in September and the board has been working on new policies for the Library.

There is an 80/20 grant program with a maximum amount of $250,000 from North Dakota Parks and Rec for a walking path. The application is due at the end of May. The council agreed to have a map drawn and our engineer’s will submit an application for the City of New England. There could be a Phase 1 that is at the city park on the South end of town and a Phase 2 that is located on the North end of town. Motion by Breann, seconded by Chris to approve applying for the 80/20 grant program through North Dakota Parks and Rec and to have Moore Engineering assist with the application. Motion carried.

The City Council brought a list of properties that are in violation of our ordinances regarding accumulation of trash, refuse, junk and automobiles. The City Council’s intention is to clean up the town and make New England a more appealing place for people to move to. The Mayor had composed a letter to send to the properties. The City Council agreed on the letter template we will use. The council members discussed their lists and the City Auditor and the Mayor were given direction to get the letters sent out right away so we can get the town cleaned up sooner than later. Some properties it is minimal that needs to be cleaned up, and some properties are in very bad condition.

Council Comments

None

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

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Mayor City Auditor