Regular City Council Meeting

**4-4-22**

Mayor Opdahl called the meeting to order at 7pm

Present: Lyle Kovar, Chris Fitterer, Breann Krebs

Excused: Tom Gorek & Mike Grote

Motion by Breann, seconded by Lyle to approve the March 2022 minutes as presented. Motion carried.

The county policing report was presented by Sheriff Warner. There were 32 calls for service in March. There was a simple assault, false information to a police officer, exhibition driving and disorderly conduct. Motion by Lyle, seconded by Breann to approve the county policing report. Motion carried.

There was a presentation regarding a K-9 program for Hettinger County. Josh Bullinger informed the council that North Dakota is a destination state for narcotics. They are here to make money. There is a huge markup in narcotics when they come to North Dakota. There have been drugs that have been found in New England as well. There were 200 fentanyl pills recovered in New England 2 years ago, which is one example of what has been and could be in New England. No town is immune to the drug problem. The opioid crisis is getting worse and that is the main target right now because of the overdoses associated with these drugs. Fentanyl is the most dangerous. Pill presses are becoming popular. Dickinson is the hub in this area. The canine dog would be semi trained. There would be a 6 week dog training program with the deputy who would be in charge of the K-9. Having a K-9 drug dog would be a deterrent for people bringing drugs into Hettinger County. There is an 8-10 year span for the dog. The dogs are Belgian malamute shepherds. We want to keep Hettinger County safe. Highway 22 is a major highway for drug trafficking. It will cost $30,000 to startup and $10,000 per year after that. Mayor Opdahl said it is very important for the city to be a participant. We owe it our youth and the residents of New England. By the next meeting we need to have a financial commitment toward the program. We will put this on the agenda for next month.

Mayors Report

The Mayor talked with Jerod from Moore Engineering and they are filling out the standard report for the State Water Commission. April 11th is the deadline to turn in applications to run for City Council or Mayor. The Mayor announced that he will not be running for Mayor. He has been Mayor for 12 years and he believes in term limits so it is time to step aside.

Water & Sewer

Nothing to report

Street & Lights

Nothing to report

Buildings & Grounds

Breann will plant flowers soon.

Equipment Committee

Nothing to report

Ordinance Committee

Motion by Chris, seconded by Breann to approve the 2nd reading of the dog ordinance. Motion carried.

Motion by Lyle, seconded by Breann to approve the 2nd reading of the Backflow and Cross-Connection ordinance. Motion carried.

Zoning Committee

Nothing to report

Auditors Report

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

4/3/2022 14520 Postmaster Postage -178.00

4/3/2022 14521 Virtuoso Leidholm Consulting LLC Website Maintenance -125.00

4/4/2022 14522 Southwestern Dist. Health Unit Water Samples -120.00

4/4/2022 14523 GS Publishing Minutes -73.96

4/13/2022 14525 Keane Hanson Plumbing Repair Toilet Memorial Hall -99.30

4/13/2022 14526 Tri County LLC Filter Hose Clamp -16.25

4/13/2022 14527 Southwest Water Authority Monthly Water -7,341.92

4/13/2022 14528 The Hub Convenience Stores Fuel -832.59

4/13/2022 14529 Workforce Safety & Insurance Workmen’s Compensation -250.00

4/13/2022 14530 Consolidated Ambulance Phone -50.19

4/13/2022 14531 Consolidated City Hall Phone -374.37

4/13/2022 14532 Runnings Painters Tape led bulbs -38.46

4/13/2022 14533 One Call Concepts Call Tickets -9.10

4/18/2022 14534 Newby’s Ace Hardware Wood cultivator -30.98

4/18/2022 14535 New England Drug Diffuser & Oil for Bugs/Memorial Hall -43.85

4/18/2022 14536 City Of Dickinson Landfill Charges -1,598.50

Zoning Commission

Discussed an area of land that borders the highway and a resident’s property. They would like to put up a fence. Will have to get the highway set back measured and may also have to do a title search. The Zoning Commission would approve a fence on their property within city limits.

Two building permits were presented to the Zoning Commission.

Alex Weinberger – Addition

Larry Shinaberry – Quonset Hut – 20 x 40

Old Business

The council discussed a building inspector. It may take a committee to see what the cutoff would be to divide the building permits. The Zoning Board members are pretty much on board with hiring a Building Inspector. The biggest concern is where the cutoff are with building permits. Motion by Chris, seconded by Lyle to hire Forsgren with the stipulation to have rules of what the Zoning Commission and the Building Inspector would do. Motion carried.

New Business

Kristen Stecher was at the meeting to give a library report for 2021. The annual reports were completed and sent to the state library. The NE Legion supported the book leasing program. Story hour was held for 7 months. The book club met 8 times. The summer reading program had 40 participants and McDonalds provided picnic prizes and burgers. The taco fundraiser was held in September and the bake sale was held in December. The library was awarded the 2021 ND Start Library Award.

Council Comments

None

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

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Mayor City Auditor