

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Bird Island City Council
Monday, November 10, 2025 at 7:00 PM

Members present: Sander, Schneider, Lingl, Prokosch

The regular meeting was called to order by Mayor Sander.

A motion was made by Schneider and seconded by Prokosch to approve payment of the claims and to approve the minutes from the last regular meeting and public hearing. Passed unanimously. A motion was made by Lingl and seconded by Prokosch to approve the storage shed land use permit for J. Berg Sales & Service. Passed unanimously.

- Law Enforcement** Chief Deputy Jason Mathwig reviewed the law enforcement quarterly report. Items included blight properties and nuisance violations. The Council discussed the difference between administrative citations vs. state citations.
- Splash Pad Update** The Council discussed the final financial report for the splash pad project. The reimbursement request has been submitted to the MN DNR. Splash Island Adventure Park Committee is officially closing their role in the project. The committee still owes the City for additions to the overall project not covered by the grant. They will be paid when their bank account is closed. The City is waiting for the final reimbursement amount to be approved by the DNR.
- Ditch #66** The H2O Viewers met with city Staff, two council members, and Seth Sparks from the County to inform us what their new recommendation to the County Board for the City of Bird Island after reviewing the storm water ponds. The council was in agreement with their new percentages and we will make sure that someone will be at the county board meeting in November to be sure that is what indeed is approved by the county.
- Public Works** Thompson reported on the water treatment plant electricity update, mag meter was installed, splash pad is winterized, and tree trimming will start soon.
- Utility Rate Increase** Utility rate increase were discussed to be able to cover the new debt from the 2024/2025 utility improvement project. The City Administrator presented the council with the 25 year history of utility rates along with the calculations showing the base rate would need to be raised \$9 per month to cover the water expenses if that was the only change made. An increase to the storm sewer rate was also discussed. Council members discussed increasing the bulk water rate, shut off/turn on fee, along with increasing the base rate for water and Storm sewer \$1-3 each per year for the next 3 years. A formal resolution will be brought to the council in December to approve in December.
- Resolution 6-25** The Council discussed the wording on Resolution 6-25, Resolution Adopting a Policy for Sale of Residential Lots. Administrator Ahl will make changes to the Resolution for December's meeting.
- Temporary Street Closure** A motion was made by Prokosch and seconded by Schneider to approve a temporary street closure of Ash Avenue, from Main Street to the alley just past Rumor's bar for Friday, December 5th from 3:00 – 9:00 PM for Old Fashioned Christmas. Passed unanimously.

Public Works
Personnel

A motion was made by Lingl and seconded by Prokosch to approve the Employer Acceptance Agreement Adopted by Minnesota Rural Water Association Apprentice Application for John Thompson at no cost to the City. Passed unanimously. A probation committee will meet with Thompson to discuss his performance and probationary status prior to the December meeting.

Woelfel
Retirement

Woelfel stated he would like to retire on 12/31/2025. The training/overlap period was budgeted for six months, meaning the extra 6 weeks Woelfel would like to continue to work will cost the City upwards of \$10,000. Woelfel was concerned about licensing but was reminded that Lynch has the same licensing and is able to sign off on reports. Woelfel agreed to submit a resignation letter by the end of the week.

Meeting adjourned.
Tracey Ahl, City Administrator