

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Bird Island City Council
December 11, 2023 at 7:00 PM**

Members present: Sander, Prokosch, Lingl

The Budget/Levy Public Hearing was called to order by Mayor Sander.

The 2024 Proposed Budget is 1,956,983 (utilities included), with a total levy of 651,743; a 6.76% increase from 2023.

Mike Daugharty was present to ask about an increase in his 2024 proposed property tax statement. The Council explained how property is assessed for improvements and how there is no way to forecast future assessment amounts. Mike also inquired about fluoride content in the City's water supply. Woelfel stated the City has not injected fluoride into the water system for approximately 7 years. The current level is at .6% due to naturally occurring fluoride within the water supply. Being no further questions, the hearing was closed.

The regular meeting was called to order by Mayor Sander.

A motion was made by Lingl and seconded by Prokosch to authorize payment of the claims and to approve the minutes from the last regular meeting. Passed unanimously.

Resolution 10-23 A motion was made by Lingl and seconded by Prokosch to approve Resolution 10-23 adopting the \$1,956,983 Budget and \$651,743 Final Levy. Passed unanimously.

Cannabis Ordinance A motion was made by Prokosch and seconded by Lingl to adopt Ordinance 226, an Ordinance regulating the use of cannabis and cannabis derived products in public places. Passed unanimously.

Public Works Woelfel reviewed his monthly maintenance report to the Council. Discharging of sanitary sewer ponds is completed for the year. Sewer on Ranchwood Drive will be flushed out again. There is a possible water leak on Birch Avenue on the 300 block area with no report of loss of pressure to the residents. City parks have been winterized and electric lines were installed in main park. Ice rink flooding will begin as weather allows. Sanitary sewer line to the splash pad site has been completed and filling the building foundation to grade is in progress. Woelfel expressed concern about the splash pad not being able to operate on the existing supply line which is only a 1.5" line instead of being the 2" line that was represented on the design. He noted the designed future line called out in the plans needs to be done ASAP. The proposed water main looping project needs to be approved by council, designed and submitted to the PFA and MDH for approval so construction can happen this spring instead of the current timeline.

A motion was made by Lingl and seconded by Prokosch to approve plans and specs for the water main looping project on Birch Avenue and amended to include the Ranchwood Drive project. Passed unanimously. A long-term sustainability plan needs to be developed for removal of compost and ash from the burn site. Woelfel will do some research and report back to the Council. Christmas decorations will be put up during the warm weather this week.

2024 Farm Contract The Council discussed the 2024 Farm Contract with Dick Eiler. It was decided to table a decision until the January meeting when more council members are present.

Engineering Services Proposal Request The Council discussed sending area engineering firms a request for proposals with a deadline of February 12, 2024.

BOLD School Easement Request The Council discussed an access easement for BOLD School for the ingress and egress purposes over the northerly twenty-four feet of the City property located at 320 South 11th Street. A motion was made by Lingl and seconded by Prokosch to grant the easement to BOLD School. Passed unanimously.

BOLD School
Combined Polling
Place Resolution

A motion was made by Prokosch and seconded by Lingl to approve sending a letter to the BOLD School District Board asking them to reconsider their recent passing of a Resolution Establishing Combined Polling Places for Multiple Precincts and Designating Hours During Which the Polling Places Will Remain Open for Voting for School District Elections Not Held on the Day of a Statewide Election. Passed unanimously.

Earned Sick & Safe
Leave

A motion was made by Lingl and seconded by Prokosch to approve the new Earned Sick and Safe Time Leave (Section 1) in the City Employee Policy Handbook. Passed unanimously. The Council will table the rest of the proposed changes to the Leaves of Absence section at the January 2024 Council meeting.

Meeting adjourned.
Tracey Ahl, City Administrator