

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Bird Island City Council
May 8, 2023 at 7:00 PM**

Council members present: Sander, Prokosch, Engelmann, Schneider, Leach

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Sander.

A motion was made by Prokosch and seconded by Schneider to authorize payment of the claims and to approve the minutes from the last regular meeting with the adjustments written on the administrators copy of the minutes to the section regarding the Neubauer/Lingl Private Water Line. Passed unanimously.

Land Use Permits A motion was made by Engelmann and seconded by Prokosch to approve the land use permit for Eugene Workman (fence) and the land use permit for the City of Bird Island (cement pad for pergola) provided it is located within the library property line. Passed unanimously.

Open Forum Theresa Jacobs, representative of the community as an elected BOLD School Board member, was present to update the Council on the results of the last phone survey conducted to gauge the community's feelings on the best use of the School's buildings. 65% of 400 randomly selected participants would like to see the Bird Island campus used in some form. At the last facilities meeting, an \$8.3 million plan to demolish and rebuild parts of the Olivia campus to hold grades K-12. Another option to demolish a large portion of the Bird Island campus leaving part of the south and east portion along with the gyms would cost tax payers an additional \$1.7 million. Theresa is asking for direction from the public as to what their wishes are for the School's future. Mayor Sander voiced her support for consolidation, stating it's time for the communities to become more proactive if they feel the same. There has been no recent dialog with our neighboring districts about consolidation. A petition will be circulating in the BOLD District to encourage the School Board to reconsider using the Bird Island campus for elementary student classrooms again.

2024-2025 Capital Improvement Plan Matt Miller and David Palm, Bolton & Menk, Inc., were present to give an update on the Preliminary Engineering Report (PER) for the 2024-2025 Infrastructure Improvement project. Five proposed improvements were reviewed. Removing and replacing the filter media at the water treatment plant has been added to the project. Construction is planned to begin in 2024. Funding for the project will be awarded at the end of this year. The City's assessment policy was reviewed, breaking down what can be assessed to property owners and what portion is the City's responsibility.

Law Enforcement Deputy Andrew Hussman reviewed the recent nuisance abatement at 1060 Hwy. Avenue. Any fees acquired during the clean-up process will be assessed to the property. There has been a rash of vehicle break ins within the city and the suspects have been identified and submitted for charging. Residents are encouraged to secure their property by locking doors and use security cameras. The City's curfew ordinance will be strongly enforced to help discourage nefarious behavior. An updated blight list will be completed soon as many residents took advantage of the City's Spring Clean Up. Demolition Derby cars were discussed and it was decided to allow them on properties to be worked on for the time leading up the Renville County Fair in August but will be addressed once the fair is over. Shipping containers used as private storage is still being researched. Ordinance 189 Regulating the use of golf carts on city streets will be updated and brought to a future meeting for Council approval.

Splash Pad Update Kory Eiler was present to update the Council on Splash Island Adventure Park. The equipment will be delivered sometime around the end of July or first part of August. The project will be completed (cement and installation of features) by the end of August. The Committee continues to plan fundraisers, including a raffle, fun run, and street dance during Island Days. City Maintenance crew will rip out the old tennis court at the site prior to construction of the pickleball courts.

Public Works The following items were discussed:

- Woelfel reviewed the recent Spring flooding issues. Sump pump discharging into the sanitary sewer

continues to be an issue. Streets were cleaned in a timely manner to avoid all the rubbish washing into the storm sewer system. A partial obstruction in the sanitary sewer on Cherry Ave. is being worked on.

- Hazardous trees were taken down and hanging branches were removed this past week. A motion was made by Engelmann and seconded by Leach for City Staff to act according to Ordinance 191 concerning a hazardous tree located on private property at 1060 Highway Avenue. Passed unanimously.
- Maintenance has a dumpster for scrap metal items they will be using while cleaning up excess piles on City property.
- The new backhoe has arrived early and will be picked up once financing is in order.
- Staff is currently working on updating the City's Phosphorus Management plan.
- The MN Dept. of Health has issued an order stating that all cities shall provide a listing by October 16, 2024 as to what the private water service propositions are. Staff will be using the Silversmith software to collect and record this data.
- Woelfel and Ahl will be applying for a Wastewater Pond Capital Equipment grant to fund up to \$25,000 of rip rap to be placed to help reduce erosion. A motion was made by Schneider and seconded by Engelmann to submit the grant on behalf of the City of Bird Island. Passed unanimously.

Street Closures A motion was made by Engelmann and seconded by Leach to approve the temporary street closures for Island Days events. Passed unanimously.

Peddler Permit Because the Minnesota Peacetime Emergency ends on May 11, 2023, the Council agreed that the City's Peddler Permit will be reinstated.

Beer License A motion was made by Engelmann and seconded by Schneider to approve a 1-day On Sale Beer license for the Renville Legion Post 180 to sell beer at the Renville County Fairgrounds on June 17 in conjunction with Southern Minnesota Sugar Beet Cooperative's 50th Anniversary Celebration. Passed unanimously.

Personnel Policy A motion was made by Engelmann and seconded by Leach to approve the addition of Juneteenth (June 19th) to the City's Personnel Policy as an employee paid holiday to be effective on August 1, 2023 unless passed by the State prior to the August 1st date. Passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned.
Tracey Ahl, City Administrator