

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Bird Island City Council**  
**Monday, May 12, 2025 at 7:00 PM**

Members present: Sander, Lingl, Leach, Prokosch, Schneider

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Sander.

A motion was made by Prokosch and seconded by Leach to authorize payment of the claims and to approve the minutes from the last regular meeting. Passed unanimously. A motion was made by Prokosch and seconded by Leach to approve a land use permit for Tom Neubauer (fence). Passed unanimously. A motion was made by Prokosch and seconded by Leach to approve a land use permit for Tiana Oliver (fence). Passed unanimously. A motion was made by Lingl and seconded by Prokosch to approve a land use permit for Kevin Dahl (Modular House and garage). Passed unanimously.

**Open Forum** Paul Setzepfandt expressed his concern about not spraying the cemetery and parks in the fall of the year for dandelions. He also felt it might be in the City's best interest to hire a part-time seasonal person to maintain the parks.

**Law Enforcement** Deputy Tom Swyter reviewed the quarterly report. The blight/nuisance ordinance violations were discussed. All commercial properties were mailed Ordinance 227, Amendment to Nuisance Ordinance 217, Section 4A.

**Zoning Ordinance Violations** Steve Dobmeier and Joyce Melson (105 & 115 South Main Street) were present to discuss a letter they received addressing the Zoning Ordinance violation at their properties. Their intention is to live there temporarily while they are getting their businesses established, possibly 2 years. Council members shared ideas on changes that could be made to the current ordinance through a conditional use permit with the idea of a store front being preserved. A motion was made by Lingl and seconded by Prokosch to send a letter to those in violation of the current ordinance extending an extension to the owners until the Council can decide on potentially amending the current ordinance. Passed unanimously.

**Bollig Engineering** Scott Kuhlman and Barbra Marks, Bollig Engineering, gave an update on task orders. A motion was made by Lingl and seconded by Leach to accept a quote from Schmidt Construction for \$71,388 and to enter into contract for construction of the Cherry Avenue Storm Sewer Project. Passed unanimously. The Council received information on the 5<sup>th</sup> Street Watermain Replacement Project, MDH Drinking Water Revolving Fund Project Priority List, MPFA Intended Use Plan request, and Preliminary Engineering Report.

**Transfer Funds** A motion was made by Lingl and seconded by Leach to approve the transfer of \$73,900 from the Sewer Fund to the Water Fund for engineering services by Bollig Engineering for Task Order #3, 5<sup>th</sup> Street Watermain Project. Passed unanimously.

**Public Works** Woelfel gave his monthly report to the Council including discussion on sanitary sewer pond discharging, storm sewer pond pump electrical issues, tree trimming, splash pad, mowing schedule for the cemetery, and dust control.

**BigIron Mobile Office** The Council discussed the unapproved mobile office placed by BigIron Auctions on their property. The recommendation from the City's Building Inspector is to have the trailer removed immediately due to the fact it's not compliant to the Minnesota Building Code. A motion was made by Prokosch and seconded by Leach to give BigIron Auctions until October 1, 2025 to

have the mobile office trailer removed and to have a hold harmless agreement drafted by our attorney at BigIron Auctions expense. Passed unanimously.

Splash Pad Playground A motion was made by Lingl and seconded by Schneider to approve the donation of playground equipment on city property with the poured in place surfacing from the Splash Island Adventure Park. Passed unanimously. The current financials of the project were discussed. The Council would like to see more fundraising be done by Splash Island if the City is going to end up having to put more funds into the project than originally approved because of them purchasing the playground equipment.

Temporary Street Closures A motion was made by Lingl and seconded by Leach to approve the temporary street closures for Island Days events. Passed unanimously. A motion was made by Prokosch and seconded by Leach to approve the temporary street closure of Ash Avenue from Main Street to just past the alley for Rumors Bar on June 14<sup>th</sup> from Noon to Midnight for a bag tournament and street dance. Passed unanimously.

Fire Relief Donation A motion was made by Schneider and seconded by Leach to approve a donation of \$3681.99 from the Bird Island Fire Relief Association for a 4-gas meter detector. Passed unanimously.

Maintenance Supervisor A motion was made by Lingl and seconded by Leach to approve hiring John Thompson for the Maintenance Supervisor position at Step I on the pay scale, with the understanding that he obtains the proper water and sewer licenses within 6 months of eligibility, with a start date of May 16, 2025, provided it is maximum of six month training period. Passed unanimously. The Council requested Woelfel to submit a resignation letter with his intended retirement plan.

Tax Forfeit Property The Council was made aware of a tax forfeiture property at 615 South 8<sup>th</sup> Street, Parcel 28-01295-00 in Bird Island.

Tax-Exempt Municipal Bonds A motion was made by Lingl and seconded by Leach to approve sending a letter to Congresswoman Fischbach to preserve the tax-exempt status of municipal bonds. Passed unanimously.

Ball Park Building The Council continued discussion on the building the BOLD Baseball Association would like to move to the City's ballpark complex. The building will serve as storage for the Bird Island Lions Club and for the BOLD Baseball Association. It will also be used as a museum for baseball memorabilia open to the public during limited hours. A motion was made by Prokosch and seconded by Leach to approve the land use permit, moving the building to the ballpark complex, the City will pay for the utility hook ups, regular utility expenses along with insuring the building. The motion passed with a 4-1 vote with Lingl opposing. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned.

Tracey Ahl, City Administrator