

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Bird Island City Council
June 12, 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 Engelmann and seconded by Schneider to authorize payment of the claims and to approve the minutes from the last regular meeting. Passed unanimously. A motion was made by Engelmann and seconded by Prokosch to approve a land use permit for Kevin Rentz (fence). Passed unanimously.

- Open Forum** Jamie Bohlin was present to express her displeasure with a petition that was circulated within the BOLD School District. Todd Frank, Chairman, BOLD School Board was present to make a point of stating Board Member Jacobs was not representing the School Board in regards to the petition.
- Law Enforcement** Sheriff Hable was present to discuss the Law Enforcement Contract between the City and Renville County Sheriff's Department. The County Board set the law enforcement contracted services rate for 2024 at \$59.705/hour. For years 2025 and 2026, rather than trying to predict increases, the Board set the increase per year at the actual cost, up to a 3% increase over the previous year, for each year. Future costs for employing a Deputy Sheriff prior to the beginning of years 2025 and 2026 will be assessed and contract cities will be responsible to pay for any increase, up to a maximum of 3% over the prior year. Any cost increases above 3% will be absorbed by the County. A motion was made by Engelmann and seconded by Leach to approve the 2024-2026 Law Enforcement Services Agreement with Renville County with the new proposed rates. Passed unanimously.
- The remediation at 1060 Hwy. Avenue was discussed. All costs incurred will be assessed to the property taxes. Response to the blighted property letters has been positive.
- Senior Housing** Chris Knoll with Heartland Partners and Gene Wenstrom, Bird Island EDA Advisor, were present to give an update on the senior housing project. Due to costs increasing since 2019 there is still a shortage of funds in order to get the project underway. The USDA was able to help with additional funding by increasing the loan \$300,000 with an updated examined forecast. They were also able to increase the grant amount to \$700,000. An additional \$700,000 is needed to get the project started. All of the amounts discussed for this project are assuming no winter conditions for construction. This project has been in the works for over 20 years. Wenstrom also wanted to clarify that the money spent on this project so far has not been local taxpayer funds but instead other grants and loans that have been received for economic development. The Council will review again when the examined forecast is available and make a decision as to where the City can help, either through bonding or budgeting. Wenstrom also stated in all the towns he works with he has yet to see one that compares to Bird Island's community spirit and commitment to economic development.
- Public Works** Woelfel highlighted his monthly report. Items that were discussed included Sump pump issues, tree removal, purchasing a second sprayer, and road grading.
- The 2019 project contract was recently closed out with Schmidt Construction. M&R Asphalt will be coming to correct some settling errors on 6th Street along with other areas that were disturbed due to utility repairs. Woelfel would also like to improve the grade to the alley between Main and 8th Streets, to help move storm water to the catch basins on Hwy 212. Woelfel will ask for an estimate to complete this work.
- A motion was made by Prokosch and seconded by Leach to accepted a donation of a heavy-duty towing strap from Ed's Towing Service. Passed unanimously.

Discussion continued from the April 2023 meeting regarding the new connection that was made on the Neubauer/Ahl (formally Lingl) waterline to the new watermain that was put in by the City during the 2018/2019 looping project. A cost estimate was requested by the Council during April's meeting to put in a new man hole and move the RPZ valve to the southern connection. Woelfel did not have a full estimate to present to the Council but guessed that it would cost around \$8,000, based on the \$5600 estimate for the man hole he received from the engineer. Woelfel also shared that the State calls out different conditions on when backflow preventors are required. It was requested that Woelfel get a written opinion from MDH that a backflow preventor and metered pit are not required for next month's meeting. Council again requested a cost estimate to put a new man hole in at the south connection with a meter and backflow preventor if a written opinion from MDH or the engineer is not able to be obtained.

Two estimates were reviewed to re-roof a storage shed at the Maintenance Shed property. A motion was made by Prokosch and seconded by Engelmann to approve the estimate of \$1100.51 to put a tin roof on the storage shed. Passed unanimously.

- Cleaning Contract A motion was made by Schneider and seconded by Prokosch to approve renewing the cleaning contract with ACTS to clean the municipal building, maintenance office, and library (same as last year). Passed unanimously.
- Shipping Containers The Council reviewed some sample shipping container ordinances from other communities. The Administrator will work with Law Enforcement to compile the samples into an ordinance for the July meeting.
- Golf Cart Ordinance The Council reviewed some sample golf cart ordinances from other communities. There has been a lot of complaints about under age children driving golf carts in town. Four-wheel all-terrain vehicles should also be included in the new ordinance. A sample ordinance will be presented at the July meeting for Council review.
- One Day Beer License A motion was made by Engelmann and seconded by Prokosch to approve a 1 Day Beer License for the Olivia Legion Post 186 for the Island Days street dance. Passed unanimously.
- Beer/Liquor License Renewal A motion was made by Engelmann and seconded by Leach to approve renewal of the current list of annual liquor and beer licenses, contingent on proof of liquor liability insurance. Passed unanimously.
- Fire Department A motion was made by Engelmann and seconded by Schneider to approve the resignation of Dylan Schroeder and hiring Brennon Cooley, with a one-year probationary period. Passed unanimously.
- City Administrator A motion was made by Engelmann and seconded by Schneider to approve Tracey Ahl as a permanent full-time employee effective June 16th with a one-step pay increase. Passed unanimously.
- Administrator Office The Council reviewed an estimate to separate the City Administrator's office from the Council Chambers. It was decided to get an updated estimate with some changes and additional items discussed. A second bid is also required for projects over \$10,000. The Council will review this more at a future meeting.

Meeting adjourned.
Tracey Ahl, City Administrator