

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Bird Island City Council
Monday, September 8, 2025 at 7:00 PM**

Members present: Sander, Lingl, Leach, Schneider

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Sander.

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

- Open Forum** Carmen Kienholz, Bird Island Lions Club, was present to update the Council on the changes to the permanent bathroom/storm shelter to be placed in the Lion's way side rest park on Hwy 212. The structure will be larger than initially planned due to ADA compliance regulations. The City will need to order the shelter and will be reimbursed by the Lions Club for all expenses associated with the project.
- Bolton & Menk** Matt Miller, Bolton & Menk, Inc., gave an update on the 2024 Infrastructure Project and discussed the next steps for assessments. A motion was made by Lingl and seconded by Schneider to approve Resolution 1-25, Declaring Cost to be Assessed, and Ordering Preparation of Proposed Assessments, payable over a period of 20 Years at 2.5% Interest. Passed unanimously. A motion was made by Lingl and seconded by Leach to approve Resolution 2-25, Calling a Hearing on Proposed Assessments for October 13, 2025 at 6:00 PM at City Hall. Passed unanimously.
- Public Works** Thompson reviewed the monthly maintenance report with the Council. Highlights include water treatment plant, tree trimming & stump removal, splash pad season closure, and pond discharging. A motion was made by Lingl and seconded by Leach to approve the low bid from Calibrations & Control for a magnetic flow meter with the cellular package in the amount of \$34,506.56. Passed unanimously.
- Splash Pad Update** The first DNR Grant payment request was submitted. Unfortunately, the actual splash pad equipment invoice was rejected because it was purchased and received prior to the grant opening date at a cost of \$90,000. The Administrator will review all expenses to make sure everything is included in the final pay request.
- Resolution 3-25** The Council reviewed the Proposed 2026 Budget and Levy. Items discussed were employee wages, MN paid leave premiums, Township fire contracts, and Abatement Bond debt for Island Living. The Council agreed that the city would pay 100% of the MN Paid leave premiums for all city employees. Along with a 3% COLA increase plus the following increases for each position; Deputy Clerk \$4,000, Maintenance worker \$3400, Maintenance Supervisor \$3600, and City Administrator \$2400. The Proposed Budget is \$2,060,494 with a total levy of \$766,732; a 11.89% increase from 2025. A motion was made by Lingl and seconded by Leach to approve Resolution 3-25, Adopting Proposed 2026 Budget and Levy, with the 2024A Abatement Levy Principle of \$18,000 to be paid for using General Fund Reserves. Passed Unanimously
- 860 Highway Avenue** The Council is not interested in acquiring the tax forfeited property located at 860 Highway Avenue.

Ditch 66

The Council agreed to ask Paul Setzepfandt to speak on behalf of the City of Bird Island during the meeting with the Viewers on September 9, 2025 and the Redetermination of Benefits meeting on November 25, 2025.

Fire Relief
Donation

A motion was made by Lingl and seconded by Leach to approve a donation from the Bird Island Fire Relief Association in the amount of \$2858.19 to purchase equipment. Passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned.

Tracey Ahl, City Administrator