

The regular Beulah City Council meeting of July 18, 2016 was called to order at 7:00 pm at Beulah City Hall by Mayor Darrell Bjerke.

Present: Brant Keller, Kathy Kelsch, Joel Morgan, Ben Lenzen, Travis Frey, Clyde Schulz, Kelsey Timmer

Absent: Eric Hoffer

Also Present: City Attorney Scott Solem, City Engineer Loren Daede, City Coordinator Russell Duppong, Economic Development Director John Phillips, Public Works Foreman Kenny Yeager, Water/Wastewater Foreman Gary Neuberger, Police Chief Frank Senn, Rick Ahlschlager, Gloria Olheiser, Stacey McLaughlin, Sarah Tunge, Dennis & Sharon Bauer, Kate Johnson, Darcy Rueb

Pledge of Allegiance

Frey made a motion seconded by Schulz to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the last regular meeting on July 5 and approve as furnished to the Council by email. Roll call vote found Kelsch, Morgan, Timmer, Schulz and Lenzen in favor. Frey abstained. Motion carried.

Rick Ahlschlager commented on the shingling of the clubhouse building planned at Black Sands Golf Course for this fall. During the Hwy. 49 project they will pave the road up to the golf course with an estimated cost of \$60,000. He commented they will be lowering their funding request from the City for 2017 as they would like to stand on their own now that their buildings are paid for. Kelsch appreciates the board looking at it from that standpoint. Bjerke stated the golf course has come a long way. Ahlschlager stated the extra room is almost finished and will help for events. Schulz made a motion seconded by Lenzen to issue the \$20,000 budgeted amount to the Black Sands Golf Course. Roll call vote found Kelsch, Morgan, Timmer, Schulz, Frey and Lenzen in favor.

Olheiser updated Council on the Heritage Park Market events. At the Fall Festival they will have a 5K walk/run and volleyball tournament, music all day long, food sales from 11:00 am to 10:00 pm, bouncy house, face painting, car show, and the Ravens performing from 7:00-10:00 pm. The Fall Festival would be on September 17. She stated they would like to have a beer garden that would be fenced off. Solem suggested Ferebee check with NDIRF regarding liability insurance coverage. Schulz made a motion seconded by Kelsch to approve the beer garden for the Heritage Park Market contingent on working with the Police Chief, approval of the permit and other items that need to be done beforehand. Roll call vote found Kelsch, Morgan, Timmer, Schulz, Frey and Lenzen in favor.

Bjerke commented Ferebee sent out the financial statements and mentioned Council should look at the budgeted amounts now that we are halfway through the year.

Keller arrived.

Lenzen commented the Hospitality and Lodging Tax Committee met for the first time. Lenzen made a motion seconded by Kelsch to approve the request from Beulah Chamber for the Dakota Walleye Classic for \$5,000 of promotional funding. Tunge commented on the partnership of the Chamber and the CVB to promote the DWC fishing tournament. Roll call vote found Keller, Kelsch, Morgan, Timmer, Schulz, Frey and Lenzen in favor.

Lenzen made a motion seconded by Schulz to approve the payment of \$195,929.60 to Bituminous Paving, Inc. for SID #24. Roll call vote found Keller, Kelsch, Morgan, Timmer, Schulz, Frey and Lenzen in favor. Lenzen commented on drainage issues the City had with the rain storm on Saturday.

Keller commented the fire department purchased a new fire truck for \$280,000. Keller made a motion seconded by Frey to approve the \$100,000 contribution by the City to the fire department to assist with the purchase of a new fire truck. This amount was budgeted. Roll call vote found Keller, Kelsch, Morgan, Timmer, Schulz, Frey and Lenzen in favor.

Keller commented there was some sewer backup on 2nd Ave. Neuberger commented the lift station may have been inundated and caused the problem. All three major lift stations were on high level and they believe water was coming in from the manholes. Neuberger stated Daede is working on the problem and will get bids for repairs to the manholes. Bjerke stated excess water overtaxed the lift stations and the bypass kicked in. He stated we have to find out which manholes leak. Daede stated there will be a camera coming into town in a week and it will be checked out. Duppong stated a homeowner could install a back flow preventer to help.

Keller commented on the last meeting with Moore Engineering. He stated Ritterman is working on the SRF loan and it would be possible to include the cost of a water meter reading system. Keller stated \$1.50/month could be added to the monthly bill of each resident to pay for the upgrade.

Morgan had no report.

Frey commented on the budget structure. He stated he is considering sheets for certain budget items to keep track of what needs to be done for the next ten years. It would be something for new Council members to use when taking over a portfolio. Water/Wastewater Operator interviews are ongoing. The City Assessor position is being looked into, whether to outsource the position or hire for the position. If it is outsourced it would be an independent third party involved in homeowner assessments. They would be the expert on the outside looking in with no vested interest in what the numbers turn out to be. The sanitation letter was sent out to residents for the new garbage truck. We will not be picking up garbage outside of the tipping carts from this moment on. Bjerke stated the truck is not equipped to have bags hand-picked and tossed into the truck. Frey stated we are looking at another option for a few customers. Frey questioned where we sit with the new codes and Duppong stated they are just about complete. Frey made a motion seconded by Timmer to transfer \$100,000 from the General fund to the Equipment fund. Roll call vote found Keller, Kelsch, Morgan, Timmer, Schulz, Frey and Lenzen in favor. Frey commented he would like current rate sheets from The City Engineer and the City Attorney for budgeting purposes. Frey questioned if we can get a list of ongoing projects from them as well. Duppong stated he will get that from legal and engineering.

Schulz commented on the jail agreement with Mercer County and stated it is the same agreement as we've had in the past. Schulz made a motion seconded by Morgan to approve the jail agreement with the Mercer County Sheriff's Department. Roll call vote found Keller, Kelsch, Morgan, Timmer, Schulz, Frey and Lenzen in favor. The West River Transit quarterly meeting will be Thursday, a Pool Board meeting will be held tomorrow night, and there is a meeting this week with JDA. The Wellness Center is also moving forward.

Timmer commented they had a Library Board meeting last week. The new Library Director will be coming to the next meeting and they have been working on the budget.

Daede commented on Keller Drive; Kollman will start work tomorrow. There is a seal coat still needed to apply on 3rd Ave. He commented on the low bidder for the water tower project and that he called others who have had work done by them with positive results. Keller made a motion seconded by Schulz to approve awarding the bid for the water tower to Tri-State Coating for a total of \$139,500 including the additive alternate of the logo. Roll call vote found Keller, Kelsch, Morgan, Timmer, Schulz, Frey and Lenzen in favor. Discussion followed on refurbishing the ground tower next year.

Yeager commented they have been weed eating, sweeping, cleaned the shop after the fair and cleaning drains. Derrick, Andy and Jeremy have trained on the garbage truck. A load of recycling was taken to Minot. In the next weeks they will be mowing, weed eating, hauling furniture to the landfill, cleaning drains, painting curbs and painting the walking bridge. Frey questioned if we wanted to keep the slope mower. Duppong stated Larry Buchmann has been using it and has good things to say about it.

Duppong commented P&Z meeting will be Thursday at 5:00 pm. SRF is making final changes to the district codes after being reviewed by legal and they are finalizing formatting. He gave a dilapidated building update regarding the 17 structures currently being worked on. He commented on a house that needs to be demolished which involves a hardship case. Solem explained the process of the City taking over the property. It would save in legal expenses not to go through the condemnation process. Kelsch made a motion seconded by Keller to approve legal counsel to move forward with transfer of the property at 301 1st Ave SW from the owner to the City after we have sufficient information that the title is clear. Roll call vote found Keller, Kelsch, Morgan, Timmer, Schulz, Frey and Lenzen in favor. Duppong will check into the walking bridge to see if it is reset and usable. Duppong commented the water topped the sidewalk on 3rd Ave. when we had heavy rain. That needs to be looked into if there will be a house in that lot. Lenzen stated there is an issue by the bus barn also. Schulz questioned grass letters. Duppong stated there have been letters sent out and we have had to act on two of them.

Ferebee stated she will forward Council information on the budget.

Phillips commented on the closing of the Great River Energy plant in Stanton. He stated Conversion tax is paid on capacity rating of the plant and Severance tax is calculated on per ton of coal. He commented Beulah's portion of the conversion tax is about \$8,000/year. That will reduce year by year. The closing will affect 65 jobs. Phillips stated the bond sale will be moving forward for SID #24. The lighting estimate is \$33,000 to \$35,000 and the lot assessment will be approximately \$28,200.

Senn commented an officer attended the funerals in Texas on his own. He stated they have been looking at NRG for tech support and were provided some quotes that he will review for the budget.

The League of Cities annual meeting is September 15-17 in Bismarck. The National League of Cities is in Pittsburgh.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Darrell Bjerke, Mayor

Heather Ferebee, Auditor

7/18/2016