

The Special Beulah City Council meeting of October 24, 2016 was called to order at 6:00 pm at Beulah City Hall by Mayor Darrell Bjerke.

Present: Brant Keller, Kathy Kelsch, Eric Hoffer, Joel Morgan, Ben Lenzen, Clyde Schulz, Kelsey Timmer

Absent: Travis Frey

Also Present: City Coordinator Russell Duppong, Economic Development Director John Phillips, City Engineer Loren Daede, Kate Johnson, Ron Frei, Mitch Unterseher

Topic: Knife River Walking Bridge

Pledge of Allegiance

Bjerke commented the old walking bridge is being replaced and it is available again if the City decides to purchase it. The area proposed to locate it would be near the new Wellness Center to be connected to a walking path. It's a 200 foot bridge and the offer was \$50,000 plus \$25,000 to place it.

Schulz commented the location would be by the dead end going across the coulee south of the Pool. It would be self supported with cement on each end. Pilings would not be needed. To straddle the coulee would be 80-100 feet. There is a possibility to buy half of the bridge for \$25,000.

Bjerke stated it needs to be decided whether we want the bridge. Donations to set the bridge could be handled later. Lenzen commented it may be premature to put it in now. Keller questioned who owned the bridge. Bjerke stated the DOT received the bridge and gave it to the bidder of the project. Hoffer commented we are proposing to buy something we definitely don't need after we told residents we needed to raise property taxes. Lenzen made a motion seconded by Keller to purchase half of the bridge for no more than \$20,000. Kelsch stated Hoffer has a valid point. She commented the funds would come from Sales Tax. She stated the functionality would be to tie into the sidewalk and have a safe place for kids to cross over to the Pool, School and Wellness Center. More important, it would preserve the landmark that has been in Beulah. Timmer questioned if there was push back when we turned the bridge down and Bjerke stated there was some. Hoffer questioned what the scrap value would be. Unterseher commented the whole bridge is 70,000 pounds. Keller stated it is preserving the history and it's hard to put a price on that. Lenzen questioned what it would cost to put in a couple culverts and finish the sidewalk between the Pool and Wellness Center. Daede estimated \$20,000. Hoffer questioned if the bridge would be moved to the area with that price. Kelsch questioned if we can designate which portions of the bridge we would like. Discussion followed. Kelsch commented on the end result being similar to how it looks now by having the two end pieces. Roll call vote found Timmer, Schulz, Lenzen, Keller, Kelsch, Morgan in favor. Hoffer opposed. Motion passed. Bjerke commented we will make a proposal for the two end sections for no more than \$20,000 and if it is not accepted the issue is done. Discussion followed on possible placement of the bridge. Duppong stated an engineer will need to look at it and there is infrastructure running through the coulee. Daede stated it can be placed with one span.

Meeting adjourned at 6:50 pm.

Darrell Bjerke, Mayor

Heather Ferebee, Auditor

10/24/2016