

The regular Beulah City Council meeting of June 19, 2017 was called to order at 7:00 pm at Beulah City Hall by Mayor Darrell Bjerke.

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

Absent: Eric Hoffer, Brant Keller

Also Present: City Attorney Scott Solem, City Engineer Charles Hankins, City Coordinator Russell Duppong, Water/Wastewater Foreman Gary Neuberger, Public Works Foreman Kenny Yeager, Police Chief Frank Senn, Larry Beck, Kate Johnson

Pledge of Allegiance

Lenzen made a motion seconded by Timmer to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the last regular meeting on June 5 and the special meeting on June 16 and approve as furnished to the Council by email. Roll call vote found Morgan, Kelsch, Lenzen, Schulz and Timmer in favor.

Bjerke commented on fireworks within the City. He stated Carmen Reed at Mercer County polled fire chiefs and police officers in Mercer County and the consensus was to ban fireworks this Fourth of July holiday. Kelsch questioned the current fire index and if the decision could be made closer to the 4<sup>th</sup> of July. The fire index and dry conditions were discussed. Lenzen made a motion seconded by Morgan to ban fireworks within the City of Beulah. Lenzen commented the timing is not good this year unless we go with the fire index. He stated there isn't a fire ban at this time. Families have made plans and vendors have ordered fireworks. Schulz stated we want to let people know but it is hard to know if it will rain. He commented the best thing to do would be to ban it now. Roll call vote found Morgan, Kelsch, Schulz and Timmer in favor. Lenzen opposed. Motion passed. Schulz clarified fireworks can still be sold, but they cannot be fired within Beulah.

Duppong commented the current water plant schedule is working with the water restrictions. They could still use an extra employee. Towers are back to a workable condition. He stated we should keep up with what we're doing. Bjerke commented Southwest Water would be willing to provide water if needed as long as we provide the necessary hookups. That would be an emergency plan. Duppong stated the line coming into Beulah isn't big enough to provide us with the water we need so there would be more water restrictions. The Water Plant project is on schedule. The RO units are here and they are waiting for pipes to arrive.

Bjerke commented on budgets and the need to spend less than what is budgeted for.

Schulz commented the Waterpark is having trouble with chemical controllers right now. There is more manual work at the moment. The Wellness Center pre-construction meeting is planned to take place the last week of June. The footings are 95% done and the steel will be set up the first week of July. They will start assembling the building from the northeast corner. He commented on receiving the invoice from West River Transit for 20% of the cost of a new bus. The Bridge Committee meeting was not attended by the community. He commented the next step is to get Council approval to move ahead with structural engineering to provide a design for bids. He stated an open house was held at the apartment complex on New Energy Drive.

Senn commented on the crosswalk on Hwy. 49 south of the railroad tracks. Yeager checked with the DOT and they encouraged the City to send a letter to the DOT requesting a traffic study and possibility of blinking lights in that area. This would provide safety to children crossing to the

softball complex. Frey arrived. Lenzen made a motion seconded by Schulz to direct the Chief of Police to send a letter to the DOT requesting a traffic study. Duppong stated the City must provide the lights if the study deems the light necessary. Lenzen commented it is a safety issue. Roll call vote found Morgan, Kelsch, Lenzen, Schulz, Timmer and Frey in favor.

Senn commented on the parking on 7<sup>th</sup> Street as previously discussed. Lenzen made a motion seconded by Timmer to close parking on the north side of 7<sup>th</sup> Street from the east side of the Civic Center to the west side of Family Dollar. Roll call vote found Morgan, Kelsch, Lenzen, Schulz, Timmer and Frey in favor. Lenzen questioned if the center line in the street could be moved. Hankins stated it could be considered. Bjerke stated there is not a painted line now. Duppong commented on the handicap area.

Timmer commented the Library had a board meeting on June 7. The kickoff for summer reading was attended by 134 kids. Seven new families have signed up and the Library is still delivering books to Knife River Care Center. They are also reviewing the budget for next year.

Lenzen made a motion seconded by Kelsch to approve the payment of \$2,640.55 to Giovanni Construction for concrete repairs. Hankins stated there is a change order included for some extra repairs done. Roll call vote found Morgan, Kelsch, Lenzen, Schulz, Timmer and Frey in favor.

Frey commented on a leave of absence request by an employee who has used all of his FMLA leave. The employee does have restrictions in returning to work, but with his position, he would not be capable to perform the duties as required. Frey made a motion seconded by Lenzen to approve granting the leave of absence for the employee until the Council meeting on August 7 and a doctor recommendation will be required prior to proceeding. Frey stated that based on our policy, a leave of absence like this needs to have Council approval. Schulz commented accumulated leave of over 40 hours should be used before a leave of absence takes effect. This will be looked at in the future. Frey commented the employee would be required to pay for the full amount of any benefits during the leave of absence, which is not the case with FMLA. Roll call vote found Morgan, Kelsch, Lenzen, Schulz, Timmer and Frey in favor.

Hankins commented Unlimited Excavating would like to work on New Energy Drive next week, the Miners logo information was forwarded out, and the Keller Drive chip seal was completed.

Schulz made a motion seconded by Frey to have a second reading of Ordinance #426 for alcohol licenses. Schulz commented the special event permit should be looked at in the future. Roll call vote found Morgan, Kelsch, Lenzen, Schulz, Timmer and Frey in favor.

Yeager commented they have been testing new paint for crosswalks that would hold better. He commented they left some longer grass on Hwy. 49 and some drainage ditches so it doesn't wash out if we do get rain. They took the garbage truck #408 to Bismarck for brake problems and a fuel pump. He stated they found a new recycling center in Minot.

Duppong stated he sent out tall grass and weed letters last week and commented on permit items. Knutson will be training Monday, June 26 on the water meter system.

Schulz made a motion seconded by Frey to approve the May financial reports. Roll call vote found Morgan, Kelsch, Lenzen, Schulz, Timmer and Frey in favor.

Ferebee presented a 50/50 raffle permit for Beulah Little People Preschool at the Mercer County Fairgrounds on July 14, 2017. Lenzen made a motion seconded by Frey to approve the raffle permit as presented. Roll call vote found Morgan, Kelsch, Lenzen, Schulz, Timmer and Frey in favor.

Ferebee presented a Special Event permit for the Main Bar to serve alcohol at the Heritage Park on September 16, 2017. Schulz made a motion seconded by Kelsch to approve the Special Event permit as presented. Roll call vote found Morgan, Kelsch, Lenzen, Schulz, Timmer and Frey in favor.

Ferebee commented on a wedding reception on July 29 on 1<sup>st</sup> Ave SW and stated she spoke with Senn. Senn stated it would be similar to a block party and would not block a roadway. He stated a policy has not been established for block parties, but this would be a good time to set up criteria. Schulz made a motion seconded by Lenzen to approve the block party event on July 29, 2017. Roll call vote found Morgan, Kelsch, Lenzen, Schulz, Timmer and Frey in favor.

Schulz made a motion seconded by Lenzen to approve Resolution 2017-09 to set the Auditor's Bond. Roll call vote found Morgan, Kelsch, Lenzen, Schulz, Timmer and Frey in favor.

Bjerke commented on divers needed to remove sludge from clear wells at the water plant. The low bid received was by Inland Potable Services, Inc. of \$9,575. Schulz made a motion seconded by Timmer to approve the bid as presented. Roll call vote found Morgan, Kelsch, Lenzen, Schulz, Timmer and Frey in favor.

Duppong stated the new firetruck will soon be on its way to Beulah.

Schulz questioned attendance at the July 3 meeting. Bjerke stated the next Council meeting will be moved to July 5.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.

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Darrell R. Bjerke, Mayor

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Heather Ferebee, Auditor