

The regular Beulah City Council meeting of April 17, 2017 was called to order at 7:00 pm at Beulah City Hall by Mayor Darrell Bjerke.

Present: Brant Keller, Eric Hoffer, Kathy Kelsch, Joel Morgan, Kelsey Timmer, Travis Frey, Clyde Schulz

Absent: Ben Lenzen

Also Present: City Attorney Scott Solem, Assistant Attorney Allyson Hicks, City Engineer Loren Daede, Charles Hankins, City Coordinator Russell Duppong, Economic Development Director John Phillips, Public Works Foreman Kenny Yeager, Police Chief Frank Senn, Water/Wastewater Foreman Gary Neuberger, Darrold Bertsch, Kate Johnson

#### Pledge of Allegiance

Frey made a motion seconded by Kelsch to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the last regular meeting on April 3 and approve as furnished to the Council by email. Roll call vote found Keller, Kelsch, Morgan, Timmer, Frey, Schulz in favor. Hoffer abstained. Motion passed.

Darrold Bertsch with Sakakawea Medical Center presented an update on the new hospital. They moved in the week of April 3 and the move went well. They have a lot of new technology. There will be an auction sale after the asbestos abatement of the old building. \$28.5 million was borrowed for this project and they are hoping the entire project will be complete by the end of August. The Killdeer clinic will be moving into a new building in June. They are looking at extending the east side of the clinic in Beulah. The hospital patient rooms are private and handicap accessible. Keller questioned the Hazen Clinic. Bertsch stated that clinic is now located inside the hospital.

Bjerke stated April 25 is the Board of Equalization meeting. There were 39 properties that increased in value by 10% and \$3000.

Hoffer commented he would like an Arbor Day Proclamation approved for May 5. Bjerke commented on a tree ordinance that specifies types of trees for boulevards that won't damage sidewalks. Hoffer stated he and Lenzen are looking into that and also at more diversity for the trees of Beulah. Hoffer made a motion seconded by Frey to approve the Arbor Day Proclamation setting May 5 as Arbor Day for 2017. Roll call vote found Keller, Hoffer, Kelsch, Morgan, Timmer, Frey and Schulz in favor.

Kelsch questioned the status of the bike path. Daede commented they are having a tough time getting answers from FEMA on the flood plain. He stated we will need to wait for clearance. Because of this, the bids would be out this fall for the project to begin in 2018. Kelsch stated we have ordered banners in a couple different designs to replace old ones.

Keller presented an invoice from Dakota Pump & Control for \$27,258 for repairs to Lift Station #1. Keller made a motion seconded by Timmer to pay the invoice as presented. Roll call vote found Keller, Hoffer, Kelsch, Morgan, Timmer, Frey and Schulz in favor. Keller stated Kent Ritterman with Moore Engineering will be at the next meeting to discuss some changes and to give an update on the construction progress at the water plant. Keller stated the first round of postcards for the water meters have gone out. Bjerke commented when the motion was made to move ahead with the monthly increase to pay for remote meter readers, that money would be kept in an account for replacement

meters to be paid for by the City and will no longer be the responsibility of the homeowner. Along with the motion it was understood that as of the date January 1, 2017, the City of Beulah became the owner of those meters and there would not be any refunds. If we start paying out refunds, we would need more money for this project to work. Bjerke commented on the Water Plant Committee needing a replacement member since Al Kok left. The committee doesn't need to review the change orders.

Frey commented on the Employee Relations meeting. The Summer Temporary Employee wage schedule was discussed. The starting rate would remain, but each additional year worked would increase by \$.50. Frey made a motion seconded by Hoffer to accept the Summer Temporary Employee wage schedule as recommended. Roll call vote found Keller, Hoffer, Kelsch, Morgan, Timmer, Frey and Schulz in favor. Frey stated we are advertising for two Public Works summer employees and one Water Plant summer employee, which is fewer than last year. We are in the process of changing the employee handbook and will send out a summary of changes to Council when it's ready to be presented.

Schulz commented West River Transit had a quarterly meeting. The new bus will be coming to Beulah this fall and we would need to match 20%. The waterpark had two meetings and they are doing well for employees. They will be open on July 4<sup>th</sup> for at least part of the day. Early bird passes are now available. He commented on the Park District summer programs and parks. The Wellness Center will have a pre-construction meeting when a start date is set for construction. Schulz commented the police department is looking at prices for a new vehicle.

Timmer commented the Library Board met on April 5 and the Library Foundation gave them an update. Kate Johnson will be working as a liaison between the two boards.

Daede commented the street repair bids are due on the 28<sup>th</sup>. The south lagoon needs some finishing work done this spring. Timmer questioned the boulevards on 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave. Daede commented the contractor is going to fix the street and Duppong stated Public Works is going to try to clean up the boulevard. Daede stated the City will keep track of time for that cleaning.

Solem commented a request was received from Leonard Tesky for an extension of 30 days to tear down a building. He stated it was supposed to be May 1. Hoffer made a motion seconded by Keller to grant the 30 day extension. Roll call vote found Keller, Hoffer, Kelsch, Morgan, Timmer, Frey and Schulz in favor.

Solem commented Allyson Hicks has been working on the water ordinance and they are hoping to have a rough draft to Council by the next meeting. Solem commented on the letters that went out from the assessor. Bjerke questioned if we have heard back from Southwest Water and Solem stated we have not.

Yeager commented summer maintenance is finished on equipment, streets are swept south of 7<sup>th</sup>, including Lorraines and Gateway. They put new signs in by the Elementary School on 7<sup>th</sup> for No Parking and they put up a sign at the Transfer Station stating that all vehicles must stop at the office before dumping. In the last three weeks, revenue is up at the Transfer Station averaging \$450 to \$500 per week. It will be open this Saturday. The metal crusher was there. Sun Valley RV Park is full.

Hoffer commented on the Sun Valley storage area and stated semi-trailers should be restricted because that is not the intended use. He stated he will review the policy and bring in changes for Council to approve.

Ferebee presented a site authorization for Garrison Area Improvement at Fanatics Bar & Grill for July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018. Schulz commented he would like each organization to come in to give an update. Schulz would like this tabled until the next meeting. Senn requested a list of profits.

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

Phillips commented the property tax relief will be decreased and this should be considered when the City goes through the budget. He stated 18 of 24 of the New Energy apartments are rented and they receive applicants daily. Phillips stated they have furnished units that are considered corporate units for individuals such as traveling nurses.

Senn commented on traffic issues at the baseball field. He is considering closing parking on one side of the road to allow for emergency vehicles and to make it safer for motorists and pedestrians.

Schulz stated Daede and Solem are working on one area by the Wellness Center where an easement was missed. He commented both MDU and Roughrider Electric Co. are now increasing rates.

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm.

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Darrell R. Bjerke, Mayor

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Heather Ferebee, Auditor