

The regular Beulah City Council meeting of March 20, 2017 was called to order at 7:00 pm at Beulah City Hall by Council President Clyde Schulz.

Present: Brant Keller, Kelsey Timmer, Kathy Kelsch, Ben Lenzen, Travis Frey, Eric Hoffer

Absent: Darrell Bjerke, Joel Morgan

Also Present: City Attorney Scott Solem, City Engineer Loren Daede, Charlie Hankins, City Coordinator Russell Duppong, Public Works Foreman Kenny Yeager, Economic Development Director John Phillips, Water Wastewater Foreman Gary Neuberger, Sarah Tunge, Kate Johnson, Vern Muscha

Pledge of Allegiance

Frey made a motion seconded by Timmer to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the last regular meeting on March 6 and approve as furnished to the Council by email. Roll call vote found Keller, Hoffer, Kelsch, Lenzen, Frey and Timmer in favor.

Schulz commented on the legislative bill for a 3% cap on cities for increasing taxes. This bill was passed by the House and is now before the Senate. He commented on some positive and negative testimonies on the bill. The Pool Board and JDA will meet this week. Appreciation was expressed for our assistance with DAPL from the Chairman of the Morton County Commssion. A new bus was approved by NDDOT for West River Transit.

Timmer commented the Library Board is meeting Thursday to go over bylaws.

Hoffer commented Basin Electric is offering to do tree and shrub plantings. He stated he will let them know by April 1 that we are interested and we will need to come up with some ideas. Frey questioned how close we are to becoming a Tree City. Hoffer commented he is going to find out the requirements. Phillips stated the Arbor Day program should be checked into. Hoffer stated there needs to be a proclamation recognizing Arbor Day to become a Tree City.

Lenzen commented the street repair estimates have been sent out and we are a little over budget. He stated he will bring it to the next meeting for approval after there has been time to review it. Schulz commented 22nd Street will need to be looked at for repairs. Hoffer questioned if the asphalt special projects budget amount would be available for these street repairs and Ferebee commented this budgeted amount could be used, but then won't be available if another repair were to be needed.

Kelsch commented there was a Heritage Park Market meeting which included discussion on having the shovel repainted. She stated there may be a request from the promotion fund to help with this project. She stated the Mercer County Commission has discussed safety at the intersection of Hwy. 49 and 200. They would like a study to be done by the DOT on the area. Some issues are the volume of traffic at shift change, the stopping ability of semis, and the types of material coming through such as anhydrous ammonia. The County would like the City to draft a letter if the City shares the concerns.

Keller commented Interstate Engineering is working on the ground water tank painting project. He stated the Water Plant project has some construction changes and we do have contingency funds for

that, but he would like to meet with the Water Plant committee to review the changes before they are approved. Schulz questioned if putting the Miner logo on the other water tank has been considered.

Frey commented there is a P&Z workshop in Killdeer on March 30. Duppong and some P&Z members will attend. Employee Relations will need to meet to discuss if summer help is needed and to review the Employee Handbook.

Solem presented Ordinance #423 for the Midco Franchise. Kelsch made a motion seconded by Frey to have the first reading of Ordinance #423. Roll call vote found Keller, Hoffer, Kelsch, Lenzen, Frey and Timmer in favor. Keller questioned which chapters need to be changed in the Water Ordinance to be updated for the water meters. Solem commented the Water Ordinance will be rewritten and brought up to date to include the water meter ownership. Duppong and Ferebee stated it is being reviewed in the office and then will be forwarded out with changes. Lenzen commented on some verbiage that is in MDU Ordinance but not in the Roughrider Ordinance. Solem stated that will be corrected.

Yeager stated they hauled grass to the landfill, went through flags, cleaned up SV lots, did some plowing, sanding and patching, checked drains, fixed one of the garbage roll offs, and took a load of recycle to Minot. Next week they will repair and do some maintenance on equipment, blade gravel roads, do some patching and work on signs. Lenzen commended the Public Works crew on snow removal.

Duppong commented the Wellness Center plans were reviewed at P&Z and the plans are complete. Some unsafe buildings will need to be reviewed at the next meeting. He commented on some areas damaged by snow removal. He stated he will be at the ND Building Officials meeting this week and the NDLC meeting next week.

Ferebee stated the auditors are here this week for the annual audit. Frey made a motion seconded by Keller to approve the February Financial reports. Roll call vote found Keller, Hoffer, Kelsch, Lenzen, Frey and Timmer in favor.

Schulz stated the Board of Equalization meeting will not be held on April 11. The exact date will be sent out. Lenzen questioned when the book of assessments will be complete for review. Schulz stated they are in the process of completing the property assessments and the information will then be provided. The assessors are also requesting Council to let them know what information they would like. Schulz commented he requested a monthly update in the future.

Phillips commented the apartment complex has been filling up due in part to the Urea plant. About a third of the shingles were lost in the wind last week and that is being repaired. He commented the 3% cap bill may be placed in a study. If it doesn't go to a study committee it will likely pass. Phillips commented the State Revenue forecast was not positive. He commented he will have a Homestead Credit report at the next meeting.

Timmer made a motion seconded by Lenzen to accept the Municipal Court Report as presented. Roll call vote found Keller, Hoffer, Kelsch, Lenzen, Frey and Timmer in favor. Hoffer commented the area by the Water Salesman has a semi sitting there with flat tires. Duppong stated the Police Department would be the first contact. Schulz stated he will follow up on this.

Schulz commented the 2nd reading of the MDU and Roughrider Franchise Ordinances will be on the agenda for the next Council meeting. Lenzen commented the ordinances should not be held up since a franchise fee could be added in later if that is decided. Kelsch questioned if a fee for the preparation of the ordinances should be added. Hoffer commented anything we charge the electric companies will be passed on to the consumers. Lenzen commented the legal costs should be absorbed by the City. Muscha questioned if there would be a transfer fee charged by the electric companies. Schulz stated he believes it would be a pass through fee. Discussion followed on how a fee could be collected. Lenzen commented on basing a fee on lots. Hoffer stated we should stay with the utility billing system we already have in place to keep it simple.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Clyde Schulz, Council President

Heather Ferebee, Auditor