

The regular Beulah City Council meeting of March 19, 2018 was called to order at 7:00 pm at Beulah City Hall by Mayor Darrell Bjerke.

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

Absent: Joel Morgan

Also Present: City Attorney Scott Solem, City Coordinator Russell Duppong, City Engineer Charles Hankins, Economic Development Director John Phillips, Police Chief Frank Senn, Jeffrey Gooss, City Assessor Ryan Oberg, Colette Schilling, Kate Johnson

Pledge of Allegiance

Frey made a motion seconded by Schulz 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 Kelsch, Hoffer, Keller, Lenzen, Frey, Schulz and Timmer in favor.

Senn introduced the new police officer Jeffrey Gooss.

Oberg presented a 2017 sales ratio report. The result of the sales ratio study is that the median is around 103%. Beulah will experience a 9% to 10% decrease in residential assessed values. Lenzen questioned the percentage. Oberg explained how the sales ratio median is determined and that it takes into consideration the value the property is assessed at and the value the property sold for. Statute states the assessed values should be between 90 – 100% and Oberg stated he likes to keep it at 92 – 93%. The Board of Equalization meeting is April 24 at 6:00 pm.

Schulz made a motion seconded by Frey to accept the Municipal Court report. Roll call vote found Kelsch, Hoffer, Keller, Lenzen, Frey, Schulz and Timmer in favor. The Pool Board hired a manager and advertisements are out for lifeguards. The Board has a recommendation to appoint Allyson Hicks for a three-year term. Bjerke appointed Allyson Hicks to the Pool Board. Schulz made a motion seconded by Timmer to approve the appointment as presented. Roll call vote found Kelsch, Hoffer, Keller, Lenzen, Frey, Schulz and Timmer in favor. Schulz commented on information Solem Law provided regarding the Home Rule Charter. He reviewed the history of how the City adopted the Home Rule Charter. Beulah's Home Rule Charter is condensed compared to other cities. The change being proposed would include language that would change our charter to a full version Home Rule Charter. It is not to increase sales tax. Frey questioned the pros and cons of staying where we're at versus having a full version. Bjerke commented the City has the ability to do the items discussed according to ND Century Code, but there are limits unless a full Home Rule Charter is in place. Solem stated the idea is to give more governing authority to local communities and to allow the community to tailor the ordinances around the city. Schulz stated it would be best to update the charter before the criminal ordinances are rewritten. Hoffer asked how it would change the way we update ordinances now. Solem explained the ordinances follow Century Code, but the details can be molded to the City. Bjerke stated a resolution will be presented and the resolution will be good for two years. We can then put it on the ballot for the June election or the November election. Solem stated even if we have the full version, ordinances will still need to be passed to invoke the authority. Lenzen commented this is relatively short notice to get it on the June ballot.

Hoffer commented he is updating the rules and regulations for the Sun Valley storage lots.

Lenzen commented the Hospitality and Lodging Tax Committee will meet next week.

Kelsch gave an update on the Multi-Use Bike Path project. There have been other issues brought up by the DOT.

Frey commented there was an Employee Relations meeting today. The Committee recommends posting for three openings for summer employment at the same rates as last year as long as it meets with the Park District rates. Frey made a motion seconded by Keller to authorize the job posting for three summer employees as presented. Roll call vote found Kelsch, Hoffer, Keller, Lenzen, Frey, Schulz and Timmer in favor. Frey commented we advertised for an Assessor Technician position but have decided not to pursue it at this time. We still plan to pursue this in the future. Schulz commented the position was for 20 hours per week with benefits and that would end up being the same amount of an expense as the contracted assessor we currently have. The City has a contract with Solem Law until this fall and the position will be reconsidered again before next spring. Frey stated it wasn't economical at this time.

Hankins commented on bids for patching, concrete and asphalt street repairs. Lenzen made a motion seconded by Hoffer to move forward with bids for 2018 street repairs. Roll call vote found Kelsch, Hoffer, Keller, Lenzen, Frey, Schulz and Timmer in favor. Hankins presented estimates for the Spier's Water Tower and the Gate Valve Replacement project for the Council to review. Hankins commented on work that may need to be done on sanitary sewer manholes.

Duppong commented on the Wellness Center landscaping and drainage. The second Comprehensive Land Use Plan open house is at the Civic Center tomorrow.

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

Phillips commented the RFQ's for the Civic Center project are due Friday. He stated a Main Street Initiative team is under development. There will also be some youth involved from the High School's Coal Country Leadership team and another leader's group headed by Mr. Dooley. Phillips stated the Governor's office has requested names of students to be recommended to a Youth Advisory team and there will be several names from Beulah submitted for that.

Senn commented he had the managers from all of the convenience stores at the Police Department today to discuss gas drive-offs. He stated he is looking at some construction and carpet replacement in the Police Department office.

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm.

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Darrell R. Bjerke, Mayor

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Heather Ferebee, Auditor