

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Bird Island City Council
January 9, 2017 at 7:30 PM**

Council members present: Sander, Seidl, Engelmann, Wolff, Prokosch

The Official Oath of Office was recited by Mayor Sander and Council Persons Seidl and Prokosch.

The regular meeting was called to order by Mayor Sander.

Following some questions regarding the claims, a motion was made by Wolff and seconded by Engelmann to authorize payment of the claims and to approve the minutes of the last regular meeting. Passed unanimously. Wolff had concerns with City staff benefitting by using their personal credit cards for city purchases, and suggested the City get its own credit card. The credit card issue will be put on next month's agenda.

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| Paur Agency
Flooding Problem | Discussion continued regarding potential improvements that would help decrease flooding on the Paur Agency property. David Palm, Bolton & Menk, Inc., provided information and cost estimates for two new options which include a 15" pipe from CB#3 in alley to existing CB on TH212 (\$104,000), and a 24" pipe from CB#3 in the alley north up to new MH on TH212 (143,000). Both options include three new CBs at TH212/4 th and Ash/4 th . It was stated that the flooding problem has gotten worse since the reconstruction of TH212, and that MnDOT should take some responsibility for the issue and participate in helping to remedy the problem. There was also concern raised that there are other areas in town that get flooded (i.e. Maple Avenue), and how this issue is treated, could set precedent for future similar situations. The Council will await a response from MnDOT before making a decision. |
| Island Market
Sidewalk | Discussion continued regarding the need to improve the sidewalk west of Island Market. It was stated that all of the sidewalk is in the County R.O.W.; however, the County does not pay to improve/maintain sidewalks or curb & gutter. Therefore, the sidewalk is the City responsibility, or the cost may be assessed according to City policy. A preliminary cost estimate to replace the sidewalk is being requested from Randy Vogt. If Island Market's south door is moved further to the east, sidewalk improvements could be made without engineering services. The Island Market Board will discuss the issue at their next meeting. |
| BIFRA Bylaws | The Fire Department is recommending that the Council approve new Bylaws for the Fire Relief Association that include an increase in annual benefits from \$950 to \$1300, to be more comparable with area departments. The City Attorney and Fire Relief Association Accountant have reviewed and approved the document. A motion was made by Engelmann and seconded by Prokosch to approve the Bylaws as presented. All voted in favor except Wolff who abstained. |
| Law Enforcement
Contract/Nuisances | Sheriff Hable was present to discuss contract hours and to answer any questions regarding law enforcement issues. Contract hours in 2016 averaged 61.5 per week. Concern was raised regarding the condition of the property at 1060 Hwy. Avenue. Notice has been sent to the residents informing them as to the illegality of unlicensed vehicles on private property, and requesting that nuisances on the property be abated, per Ordinance 185 section 4 (13). The Sheriff is recommending, and the Council agrees with, a blended approach to enforcement procedures. After winter, police will survey the City for other possible nuisances/unlicensed vehicle violations. Concern also remains regarding illegal u-turns on Main Street, and the Sheriff's Department was asked to enforce via warnings/citations. Ordinance 166 states that it is "unlawful for any person |

operating a motor vehicle on any street to cross the center of the street for the purpose of parking on the side of the street opposite of the original direction of travel.” The same holds true for backing up from a parked position.

- MPCA Phosphorus Standards A letter was received from the City of Mankato requesting that area cities join Mankato in signing a letter to the Governor and MPCA that lays out concerns regarding the new phosphorus standards, and to request a meeting to discuss the issue. A motion was made by Engelmann and seconded by Wolff to support the letter and to allow the signing of City Official’s names. Passed unanimously.
- Mayor Appointments Mayor Sander presented her Council/Staff/At Large appointments for 2017. A motion was made by Engelmann and seconded by Seidl to approve the appointments as presented, adding Dustin Lynch as City Employee under Parks & Recreation.
- Street Improvements Mayor Sander requested that the “Streets & Alleys” appointees meet to discuss and prioritize future street & utility improvements, using the 2014 Capital Improvements map as a guideline; and to present recommendations to the full Council. A meeting was scheduled for Monday, January 23rd following the Joint Meeting with the School Board.
- Entity Authorization A motion was made by Wolff and seconded by Seidl approving the Entity Resolution form, adding Sander and Engelmann, and deleting Erickson and Wolff, as signers on the Frandsen Bank Accounts. Passed unanimously.
- Safe Deposit Box A motion was made by Engelmann and seconded by Seidl to close the safe deposit box at Frandsen Bank and to purchase an Additional fire proof safe to store important documents. Passed unanimously.
- Meeting Time A motion was made by Engelmann and seconded by Prokosch to change the Council meeting start time from 7:30 PM to 7:00 PM. Passed unanimously.
- Agenda Packets Electronic delivery of Council Agenda packets was discussed. Engelmann, Sander & Prokosch would like packets emailed, Seidl will pick his up at the City Office and Wolff will continue to have a hard copy delivered.
- Generator Discussion continued on the specifications of a generator to be used at the City’s water treatment plant. The Fire Department may be interested in applying for grant funds to purchase a generator and want to make sure the product would be adequate for the treatment plant.
- Utility Bill Drop Box There was discussion on providing a drop box for utility bill payments. According to Market President, Rick Bonlender, Frandsen Bank has, and will continue to allow City customers to use the bank’s drop box to make utility payments when the City Office is closed. Customers may also sign up for AutoPay.

Meeting adjourned.
Deb Lingl, City Administrator