

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Bird Island City Council  
March 12, 2018 at 7:00 PM**

Council members present: Sander, Seidl, Prokosch, Engelmann

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Sander.

A motion was made by Engelmann and seconded by Prokosch to authorize payment of the claims and to approve the minutes of the last regular meeting. Passed unanimously.

- 2017 Audited Financial Report** Sara Beavers, Auditor with Dennis E. Oberloh, Ltd., was present to review the 2017 audited financial report. Because the City's population is under 2500, we are allowed to report financials on a cash basis, which varies from Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAP). Management and Auditor responsibilities were identified, and no material misrepresentations were noted. No legal compliance issues were found and the usual two internal control findings (due to limited staff) were cited. A new section on Tax Abatements was added to the 2017 report. A motion was made by Engelmann and seconded by Seidl to approve the audited financial report as presented. Passed unanimously.
- Bond Rating** In preparation of selling bonds for the 2018/2019 street/utility improvements, Northland Securities analyzed the estimated interest on non-rated bonds versus AA-bonds (2014 Standard & Poors rating). According to the analysis, the City would save approximately \$85,000 in interest if the bonds are rated AA-. With hiring Standard & Poors to do another bond rating at around \$12,000, the city would still save approximately \$73,000 over the term of a 20 year bond. A motion was made by Engelmann and seconded by Prokosch to hire Standard & Poors to conduct a bond rating on the City. Passed unanimously.
- Lion's Memorial Park** Mer Athmann and Mike Nagel, representing the BOLD Baseball Association, were present to discuss possible improvements to the Lion's Memorial Park and to request that the Council designate city-owned lots west of the ball park for future projects and parking. Upgrades on the fencing, dugouts and playing surface are being planned for the little league/softball fields. The Association would also like to add maintenance free decking by the right field line, which would require moving the agri lime pit. The agri lime pit could be moved to a City lot west of the field, along with a possible batting cage building and land for future expansion and parking. Discussion has also taken place with the School regarding the addition of another ball field where the old tennis court is located. Should the splash pad project come to fruition, and the school property is no longer available, the project could be built on a city-owned lot east of 13<sup>th</sup> Street. The Association is not asking for any funds from the city, but would like land west of the ball field designated for future projects. A motion was made by Engelmann and seconded by Seidl to designate Lots 1 & 2, Block 2, of Zimmerman's 2<sup>nd</sup> Addition (2 lots south of the Ash Avenue Ball Park entrance) as Parks, and to donate the use of the land to the BOLD Baseball Association for future improvements/parking. Passed unanimously.
- Ball Park Contract** A motion was made by Engelmann and seconded by Prokosch to approve the 2018 Ball Park Complex Contract (same as 2017) with the School and the BOLD Baseball Association. Passed unanimously.

2018/2019 Street/Utility Improvements	David Palm, Bolton & Menk, Inc. presented the 99% complete plans and specifications for the 2018/2019 Street and Utility Improvement project. In order to let the ground settle under the sidewalk on Ash Avenue, the Council agreed to place granite fines in the area until the concrete is poured in 2019. The city will be responsible for removal of the six trees on the 6 <sup>th</sup> Street r.o.w. Other discussion took place on the downtown commercial concrete steps, the plans for the turn from Sunrise to Northstar Drive and construction of the boulevard to the Hagen driveway. The Council reviewed the advertisement for bids, along with the timelines for publishing the ad, opening the bids and for the various construction completion deadlines. Work on Ash Avenue will not be allowed over the Island Days celebration. A motion was made by Engelmann and seconded by Seidl to adopt Resolution 4-18, approving the plans and specifications and ordering advertisement for bids. Passed unanimously.
Financing of Watermain Loop Project	The Minnesota Public Facilities Authority (PFA) has approved a \$355,200 grant and \$189,169, 1% interest loan, for financing the 2018 watermain loop project, and have presented a Bond Purchase and Project Loan Agreement for the Council's approval. A motion was made by Engelmann and seconded by Prokosch to adopt Resolution 6-18, accepting the PFA's offer to purchase a \$189,169 G.O. Water Revenue Note and provide for its issuance, and to authorize execution of the bond purchase and loan agreement. Passed unanimously.
Resolution 5-18 Stump Removal	A motion was made by Prokosch and seconded by Seidl to approve Resolution 5-18, amending the tree stump removal policy to include City responsibility to remove stumps when the Tree Board determines tree removal due to traffic vision issues, or because the tree was hazardous, dead or diseased. Passed unanimously. This amended policy will not be retroactive.
County Fire Services Tactical Rescue Team	Mayor Sander and Lingl reported on the Renville County Fire Services Joint Implementation Committee meeting on February 22 <sup>nd</sup> . Collaboration to form a technical rescue team was identified in the Shared Services Study, and there was interest shown from many of those present at the meeting. Questions arose as to the makeup of the team, and who would oversee the team/training, and who would purchase, own & maintain equipment, and provide liability coverage. Formation of a Joint Powers Agreement or Mutual Aid agreement were discussed, as well as requesting that Renville County take charge of the team and equipment, adding any expenses to the County tax levy. As some of the cities in Renville County are not in favor at this time, the County Commissioners may not support the idea. The Fairfax Administrator is drafting a proposal for the Committee's consideration. The Bird Island Fire Department has four firefighters interested in serving on the team, and the City has available a tripod and grain rescue tube.
Data Practices Policies	As Data Practices policies and procedures are required by Minnesota Statute, Data Practices Policies for Data Subjects and for Members of the Public were present to the Council for their approval. A motion was made by Engelmann and seconded by Prokosch to approve the Policies as presented. Passed unanimously.
Nuisances/ Hazardous Building	Regarding the nuisances presented at 1060 Hwy. Avenue, the City Attorney is filing a motion for summary enforcement of the nuisance abatement order. A court date has not yet been set.

Regarding possible hazardous buildings, the City's Building Inspector was consulted as to the next steps in the process to remove/repair substandard structures. Letters will be sent to relevant property owners, giving notification that the City's Building Inspector plans to conduct an inspection of the property for probable violations of Minnesota Statute. If an inspection is not allowed, the City does have the remedy of obtaining a search warrant.

Meeting adjourned.

Deb Lingl, City Administrator