

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Bird Island City Council**  
**April 10, 2017 at 7:00 PM**

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

The regular 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 and land use permit for Dave Woelfel (fence). Passed unanimously.

**Law Enforcement Contract/Nuisances** Deputy Best was present to discuss any law enforcement issues and to update the Council on the progress to abate nuisances, and to identify unlicensed vehicles. Nuisances still remain at 1060 Hwy. 212, and the residents have been given more than 30 days to comply with the order to abate. Therefore, a motion was made by Prokosch and seconded by Wolff to proceed with having the City Attorney file a motion with the District Court, for summary enforcement of the abatement order. Passed unanimously. Deputy Swyter is working on the identification of nuisances present on other properties in town. Concerns were raised regarding the condition of the properties at 350 Hwy. 212 East and 151 South 5<sup>th</sup> Street. Apparently, the fence has been reinstalled at the 5<sup>th</sup> Street property. Regarding unlicensed vehicles, 13 violation notices were sent out. Following a revisit after one month, 7 property owners complied, 1 hit the vehicle behind a fence and 5 remain non-compliant. Citations will be issued to those properties that still have unlicensed vehicles present. There remains concern with vehicles on Main Street turning/backing against the lane of traffic, which is in violation of Ordinance 166. The Sheriff's Department has ordered a sign that states the illegality of the practice and that the Ordinance will be enforced. Notice will continue to be posted on available City media.

**Public Works Issues** Discussion continued regarding the flooding problem at 4<sup>th</sup> Street and Highway 212. Another solution presented to the Council involves modification of the one catch basin (CB) on 212 and installing 124 linear feet of storm sewer pipe from the existing 212 CB south along the west 4<sup>th</sup> Street boulevard, and installing a new CB on 4<sup>th</sup> Street, 85' south of 212 (instead of installing a CB 10' west of existing CB on 212). It appears that the math works for this option and would eliminate the need to replace concrete on 212. Both options would allow for one more cubic feet per second of water taken by the system. A motion was made by Engelmann and seconded by Prokosch to submit a MnDOT permit application, and obtain bids, for both options. Passed unanimously.

Woelfel requested the City Engineer research options for lowering the storm water in the City's equalization basin, which involves allowing water to free-flow into the ditch. It was suggested to utilize the storm water pump that was purchased in 2016, and to track electrical costs, prior to authorizing more engineering fees. The issue can be revisited if pumping is inefficient or too costly.

Regarding possible inflow of storm water into the sanitary sewer system, the possible cross connection problem near the Lutheran Church is scheduled to be smoke tested on April 11<sup>th</sup>. MRWA wants their smoke testing equipment back by the end of April.

Staff is awaiting formal bids from Clarke on mosquito spraying equipment. Briquets have been purchased and placed in pond areas.

#### Summer Help

Eight applications were received for the summer help position. Because one of the applicants is related to Mayor Sander and Woelfel, it was suggested that one Council person and Lynch meet with the Administrator to review applications and hire someone for the position. Prokosch and Engelmann were both willing to participate in the process. To avoid PERA benefits, the individual cannot earn more than \$5100 annually. The Administrator suggested a pay of \$11.00 if 18 or older and \$9.50 to \$10.00 if the person is under 18. Woelfel stated that High School kids need more supervision, and is upset that he has not been allowed to hire additional on-call persons to help complete tasks that are overdue. Woelfel has yet to compile a list of jobs where on-call help would be utilized, as requested by the Council in November 2016. A motion was made by Prokosch and seconded by Engelmann to advertise for on-call, as-needed help following submittal of a job description/duties for the position. Passed unanimously.

#### Splash Pad

As community involvement is necessary for a successful DNR Outdoor Recreational Grant to construct a splash pad, the Council reviewed a draft survey to send to residents for their input. Suggested changes to the survey will be made. The outcome of the survey may determine whether or not to continue with the process.

#### Resolution 2-17

The LMC is recommending that cities adopt a resolution supporting local decision-making authority and opposing legislation that removes the ability for local elected officials to respond to the needs of their businesses and constituents. A motion was made by Prokosch and seconded by Engelmann to adopt Resolution 2-17, supporting local decision-making authority. Passed unanimously.

#### Light Beam Internet

Light Beam Internet by Keltgen Technologies is interested in expanding their wireless internet service into Bird Island. They provided the City with high-speed broadband internet packages and pricing. There was concern raised regarding competition with a local wireless internet provider. At this time, the company is only looking to do testing from the City's water tower, and possible other areas in town. A motion was made by Sander and seconded by Seidl to allow the company to access City property to perform tests. Sander, Seidl and Prokosch voted in favor; Wolff and Engelmann were opposed. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned.

Deb Lingl, City Administrator