

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Bird Island City Council
April 11, 2016 at 7:30 PM**

Council members present: Erickson, Hansen, Wolff, Sander, Engelmann

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Erickson.

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

- Active Living Plan
Community Garden Leah Schueler, SHIP, was present to request that the City enter an agreement with SHIP to participate in preparing and Active Living Transportation Plan that would encourage walking or biking instead of taking a car. SHIP funds would pay for MMDC to prepare the plan. The City would provide a meeting space and a committee/staff to help with preparing the plan. A motion was made by Engelmann and seconded by Sander to approve the agreement. Passed unanimously.
- Leah also gave an update on the Community Garden project. A site plan for the garden has been established and Deanna Beckler is the Garden Coordinator. The City is being asked to supply water at no cost and to act as “banker” for the project, depositing lease payments and issuing checks from a designated Community Garden Fund. The City’s Foundation Fund could be used for that purpose. A motion was made by Engelmann and seconded by Sander to approve the donation of water and designation of “banker” for the project. Passed unanimously. Should the project become a financial drain on the City or is not being property maintained, the City can return the property to its prior condition. A “Help Get the Garden Ready” meeting will be held at the site west of the Ballroom from 5-7 PM on April 20th.
- 13th Street
Improvements Only one bid, from Duininck Inc., of \$766,005.00 was received for the 13th Street Improvement project. This is \$233,520.50, or 44%, over the Engineer’s estimate of \$532,484.50. In order to receive the \$434,900 in LRIP grant funds, the project needs to be awarded by June 6, 2016; therefore, rebidding the project will likely not be advantageous. Because much of the bid overages occurred with the utilities, the Council discussed reducing the amount of stub-outs and possibly hiring local contractors to help with this work. The downside is that Duininck Inc. will not warranty the road work above any utility work completed by another party. Duininck, Inc. is agreeable to a change order that would eliminate all utilities, fabric, top soil and seed. A motion was made by Engelmann and seconded by Hansen to award the contract to Duininck, Inc., excluding all utilities, fabric, top soil and seed, for a total cost of \$604,230. Passed unanimously. Bids for the utility work will be reviewed at the next meeting.
- 13th Street Lighting Xcel Energy submitted a street lighting plan for 13th Street that includes installation of 4 new poles/fixtures, with buried wire, for a cost of \$6100. Concerns were raised with the amount and location of the light poles. Discussion was tabled to review the plans/concerns with Xcel Energy.
- Water Looping
Project According the PFA Loan Officer, Kathe Barrett, the City’s water main looping carryover project may be in line for a substantial grant funding. We will know more by the end of May.
- Law Enforcement
Issues Deputy Dennis Fiebelkorn was present to review the first quarter contract hours and activities; and to answer any questions the Council may have and to address any concerns. The City will be patrolled for any nuisance and unlicensed vehicle violations. Regarding the Arbaugh property at 860 Hwy. Ave., no progress has been made to abate nuisances and clean up; therefore, a motion was made by Engelmann and seconded by Wolff to hire the City Attorney to file a Motion for Summary Enforcement of the abatement order to the District Court. Passed unanimously. Because the Fairfax Veterinary Clinic no longer accepts stray/lost dogs/cats, a motion was made by Engelmann and seconded by Sander to approve changing the City’s official kennel to the Redwood Humane Society. Passed unanimously. Regarding regulation of chickens in town, the

Council felt the current ordinance is outdated and should be repealed, and a new ordinance adopted. It was felt that no roosters would be allowed and a maximum of 6 hens. Coops or runs will be maintained in a sanitary and humane condition, and chickens to be kept under control at all times. Coops or runs shall be set back at least 25' from any residential structure on adjacent lots. An ordinance will be drafted for the Council's consideration.

Fire Department
Mutual Aid
Agreement

The Council reviewed a Mutual Aid Agreement that was drafted by all of the Fire Departments in the County. A motion was made by Engelmann and seconded by Hansen to approve the Agreement as presented. Passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned.
Deb Lingl, City Administrator