

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Bird Island City Council
May 9, 2016 at 7:30 PM

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

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Erickson.

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

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| Fire Department Personnel | Ty Erickson, Assistant Fire Chief, was present to recommend the City terminate the employment of a firefighter due to absenteeism and no response to a letter that was sent. The Council requested that the recommendation come from the full Fire Department, not just the officers. |
| 13 th Street Lighting | A revised street lighting plan for 13 th Street was submitted, removing one light and placing one light at the pedestal along 13 th Street. The total cost is \$4540.00. A motion was made by Engelmann and seconded by Wolff to approve the revised plan. Passed unanimously. Funds will be taken from the Street-Capital Outlay Fund. |
| 13 th Street Utilities | According to Woelfel, Island Construction and S.J. Jacobs & Sons have been contacted and can be hired at an hourly rate to help install the utility stub-outs under 13 th Street. With the possibility of a business locating on 3.5 acres owned by the EDA, it was suggested to add stub-outs to that lot. No decision was made. |
| Rehab Wraps Banners | Jesse Hopkins, Rehab Wraps, was present to discuss the Main Street banner project and to show the Council two sample banners which showcase old buildings in Bird Island. Jesse suggested using a matte finish and changing the colors to compliment the green decorative light poles. There are 16 poles on Main Street and 6 on Hwy. 212. The Lion's Club showed interest in having some BOLD – related banners made that would work well on the Hwy. 212 poles. The search will continue for more pictures of old buildings. |
| Dirt Prices | Woelfel suggested that the sale price of City dirt should increase to \$8/yard, with an additional \$2/yard to load the dirt, and \$10/yard to deliver the dirt. The dirt is only available to Bird Island residents. A motion was made by Engelmann and seconded by Hansen to approve the new dirt prices. Passed unanimously. |
| On-Call Help | A motion was made by Hansen and seconded by Engelmann to approve the hire of Jason Paur for as-needed help for the Maintenance/Public Works Department. Passed unanimously. |
| Chicken Ordinance | An ordinance regulating chickens was drafted for the Council's consideration. The ordinance allows for up to 6 hens (no roosters) that must be confined, set back at least 25 feet from any residential structure on any adjacent lot, and requires sanitary conditions. A motion was made by Engelmann and seconded by Wolff to adopt Ordinance 215 Regulating Chickens and Repealing Inconsistent Ordinances, contingent upon City Attorney approval. Passed unanimously. |
| Splash Pad Study | The engineering firm SEH submitted an \$11,200 proposal for preliminary design services related to developing a splash pad concept in Bird Island. Jon Halter, Project Engineer met with the City's EDA to discuss their proposal. \$7500 has been secured through |

grants and the EDA. The EDA is recommending to proceed with the process and is asking the City to fund the remaining \$3700. Money in the Capital Project Funds, designated for parks, can be used for this purpose. A motion was made by Engelmann and seconded by Sander to approve the \$3700 expenditure. Passed unanimously.

Island Days

The Island Days Committee submitted a list of temporary street closures they are requesting for June 17 and 18. The County will need to be contacted regarding any Main Street closures. The Committee has enlisted volunteer help to barricade the roads and is requesting no assistance from City staff. Woelfel is concerned with liability issues if City staff does not oversee the temporary road closures. Staff will contact the City's insurance agent for advice. A motion was made by Engelmann and seconded by Hansen to approve the temporary road closures. Passed unanimously.

Assessment Agreement

A motion was made by Engelmann and seconded by Wolff to approve the 2017-2018 Assessment Agreement Contract with Renville County (no changes). Passed unanimously.

Solar Garden Subscription Agreement

The Council reviewed a Solar Rewards Cost Savings Analysis and Solar Garden Subscription Agreement prepared by Geronimo Energy/BHE Renewables. At \$.01 per KWh, the City would annually save around \$1100 on their Xcel Energy bills, which total around \$42,000 a year. The agreement requires a minimum 25 year commitment. The Council felt the savings wasn't large enough to commit to a 25 year contract, with the possibility of a better deal to come in the future.

Lot Purchase

Bob van der Hagen has offered to purchase the lot between his property and Lowell Lauer for \$6500. The lot is 110' x 150' and has assessments totaling \$10,290 that was paid by the City for water/sewer/bituminous/curb & gutter. The policy for sale of lots in Zimmerman's 1st Addition is that a building valued for at least \$75,000 must be constructed within a year and the lots would sell for the cost of assessments. Staff will draft a policy that can be used consistently for any residential City lots available for sale.

Conference

Mayor Erickson gave an update on the annual Mayor's Association Conference in Bloomington. Topics of discussion included the upcoming elections, broadband to rural areas and funding for small cities street assistance.

Stump Removal

Mayor Erickson questioned why a stump on the boulevard hadn't been removed. The City's policy states that the City will not be responsible for stump removal on boulevards except when the City is being reimbursed by a third party or the stump is interfering with City-maintained sidewalks or curbs. Since the issue was not on the agenda, the subject will be discussed further at the next meeting.

Meeting adjourned.

Deb Lingl, City Administrator