

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Bird Island City Council
August 14, 2017 at 7:00 PM**

Council members present: Sander, Seidl, Engelmann, Wolff

The regular meeting was called to order by Mayor Sander.

A motion was made by Engelmann and seconded by Seidl to approve the minutes of the last regular meeting. Passed unanimously. Following discussion regarding three of the claims, a motion was made by Engelmann and seconded by Wolff to authorize payment of the claims. Passed unanimously.

Three land use permit applications were reviewed, and a motion was made by Wolff and seconded by Seidl to approve land use permits for Tim Woelfel (fence), Dave Friesen (deck) and Jay Dunks (fence/gate). Passed unanimously.

Fire Department Upon recommendation of the Fire Department, a motion was made by Engelmann and seconded by Wolff to approve that Zach Chapman be moved from probationary firefighter to permanent status. Passed unanimously.

On Call Pay At the June 12, 2017 meeting, the Council approved the minutes from the May meeting which stated the approval of a increase in on-call help pay from \$11 to \$13 per hour, except for duties now being handled by summer help (i.e. mowing, painting). Jim Flann, on-call employee, who has worked an average of 90 hours per year, for the last six years, was present to request that he be paid \$13/hour for any work he does for the City, including mowing. Flann did not want to be burdened with the responsibility of having to keep track of what jobs he is performing for the City and felt that he should be paid \$13/hour for anything he does for the City, including mowing; even though summer help receives only \$10/hour to mow. There was some discussion as to the meaning of "on call" help, and if there is a need for on-call help to mow, with the reinstatement of summer help, and availability of full-time employees. Woelfel stated how busy they are in May and the need for extra help during that time. Following much discussion, a motion was made by Wolff and seconded by Seidl to pay seasonal summer help \$10/hour and on-call employees \$13/hour regardless of the jobs they perform. All voted in favor except Engelmann who was opposed. A motion was then made by Wolff and seconded by Seidl to make the \$13/hour on-call pay for mowing retroactive to the May 8th Council meeting, which results in additional gross pay to Flann of \$18.82, to Sorem, \$7.78 and to Chapman, \$17.00. All voted in favor except Engelmann who was opposed.

Crack Filling Woelfel submitted a map designating areas where cracks need to be filled on city streets. It was stated that cracks should be filled prior to the next seal coat project. In years past, all paved roads were seal-coated every five years; however, this was not the case with the last seal coat/RePlay project. Woelfel will bring a seal coat map to the next meeting.

**212 & 4th Street
Storm Sewer** Woelfel spoke with Heiderscheidt Digging, and received an hourly labor quote to perform Option 2 of the storm sewer improvements at 212 & 4th Street, which involves the installation of 124 linear feet of storm sewer pipe from the existing 212 CB south along the west 4th Street boulevard, and installing a new CB on 4th Street, 85' south of 212. Woelfel suggested the city assist by cutting the asphalt and ordering the materials. Island construction is also interested in quoting an hourly labor rate to do the project, but S.J. Jacobs & Sons is not. There was no cost estimate on materials or an estimated

completion date at this time. A motion was made by Engelmann and seconded by Seidl to authorize construction of Option 2 provided labor & materials do not exceed \$4950. Passed unanimously. MnDOT will be asked to issue a permit for Option 2.

**Nuisances/
Unlicensed Vehicles** The Committee met and submitted recommendations for amendments to Nuisance Ordinance 185 and possible exemptions to the Abandoned/Unlicensed Vehicle Ordinance 200. Amendments include a limit (4) to the amount of vehicles that can be stored anywhere outside on residential use property, which must be owned by a person who resides on the property; and requiring vehicles in the front yard to be parked on a paved/graveled area. Regarding abandoned/unlicensed vehicles, an exemption, with specific requirements, was suggested for seasonal/recreational purpose (i.e. demo derby, racing) vehicles. It was suggested to have law enforcement review the amendments prior to involving the City Attorney. A motion was made by Engelmann and seconded by Wolff to approve the Nuisance Ordinance 185 amendments pending law enforcement and attorney review and approval. Passed unanimously.

Hazardous Buildings The City Office continues to receive complaints regarding possible hazardous structures in town. The City's Building Inspector was consulted and recommended following the procedure that is used in Granite Falls. The first step is to send letters to property owners who may have hazardous structures, requesting that they repair, clean up and/or remove the structures, depending on the circumstances. Councilors were asked to survey the town before the next meeting, and bring a list of any structures they feel may be hazardous.

**Preliminary 2018
Budget** Preliminary discussion took place on the City's 2018 proposed budget and levy. Since recommendations were not received from the Maintenance/Public Works Department until 8-11-17; and therefore, were not considered in the preliminary budget, it was suggested that \$20,000 be added to the budget for equipment replacement. The current streets repair budget can cover the needed repairs to the plate compactor attachment for the backhoe. The proposed 2018 budget and levy will have to be approved at the September meeting.

Siren Wolff reported that the civil defense siren is not working properly, and that the antenna should be mounted on top of City Hall. West Central Communications will be asked to assist with the project.

Cross Connection Woelfel reported that during a recent large rainfall event, it was determined that, by pulling manholes, a cross connection was found in the Paur Agency/Weis Oil Company area. Further investigation (camera the line/smoke test) will be needed to locate the actual problem.

Meeting adjourned.
Deb Lingl, City Administrator