

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Bird Island City Council
September 11, 2017 at 7:00 PM**

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

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. Passed unanimously. A motion was made by Engelmann and seconded by Wolff to approve land use permits for Geraldine Dahl (shed) and Wade Zimmerman (garage addition). Passed unanimously.

Open Forum Jim Lynch stated that mosquitoes are still a problem and questioned whether or not the City is spraying. Staff sprayed malathion on September 1st, and one more chemical application is planned. Wet weather has contributed to the problem.

**Flooding, I&I and
and Back Up Issues** Concerned and impacted residents were present (attendance sheet on file) to question why following large rainfall events, many homeowners have experienced repeated flooding of their homes/garages, including some who have had sewer back-up – from a supposedly separated storm and sanitary sewer system that cost the City around 15 million dollars to construct. Dave Woelfel gave an overview on the history of the sewer system and what has been done to locate and resolve any inflow & infiltration (I&I) issues; which included televising & smoke testing lines, monitoring manhole flows and identifying cross connections and separating one on 4th Street North. Engineer David Palm emphasized that the 2006-2009 project (SSP) did not redo private property sanitary sewer lines, nor did it include location and correction of private property foundation drain tiles or intakes that may still be “cross connected” with the sanitary sewer service pipe system, as was the case with the cross connection found at the Paur/Weis property. He also stated that the emphasis of the 2006-2009 project (SSP) was to separate the sanitary sewer flows from the combined pipe system by constructing new sanitary sewer mains. The existing pipes were left in place to handle the storm water and were not designed/built to handle 100 year storm events; thus causing flooding with large amounts of rainfall in a short period of time, especially in lower areas of town. Mayor Sander then asked for comments, questions and feedback from the public.

Ranchwood Drive residents have experienced both storm water flooding (Betty Schemmel & Jim Lynch) and wastewater back up (Don & Penny Peterson/Penny Herning) in their basements and questioned why, as they didn't have any issues before the SSP. It was also stated that the Fairgrounds is under water much more, with the water flowing south to the homes on Ranchwood. It was stated that an old clay tile line running under the fairgrounds may have been cut off and not recapped. Since the sanitary sewer main on Ranchwood was not replaced during the SSP, the area should be investigated for possible cross connections.

On Maple Avenue, Tony Raitz had water running into his garage and Jerry Kuemper had two feet of water in his basement that came through his basement door. Maple Avenue is a low part of town and the storm sewer was not upgraded with the SSP; therefore, with large amounts of rain fall in a short period of time, flooding can be expected.

John Jacobs (441 South 9th Street) has had sewer back up in his basement three times since the SSP and asks that the City consider installing a big enough pump to handle the water. Steve & Summer O’Neill (861 Grove Avenue) have also had sewer back up in their basement and ask the City to research the cost of upgrades and to come up with solutions. Steve also suggested that, in emergency situations the restrictor be pulled from the Ditch 66 system, allowing water to flow quicker. John O’Neill reiterated the need for purchasing a bigger pump and for the city to perform sump pump inspections. David Palm explained that a bigger pump would likely require the need for another force main, as the current force main can only handle so much pressure. Questions regarding the Ditch 66 system should be directed to County Ditch Inspector, Larry Zupke. The Engineer also recommended that emergency bypass pumping be instituted during major rain events, reporting the bypass measures to MPCA.

Jesse Hopkins & Jessica Toren (751 South 12th Street) also had water and back up in their basement and wondered how long it will take the City to figure out the problem(s) and correct them because residents cannot wait another 10 years.

Virgil Green suggested that some of the City’s current ordinances (172, 182, 201, 208) might help to solve the problem(s).

Woelfel stated that some private property sump pumps are being drained into the sanitary sewer system, which is contributing to the backup problem and is in violation of the City Ordinance. Enforcement of the City’s sump pump Ordinance is needed, with a penalty for noncompliance. Sump pump inspections will be needed. Various avenues to educate the public were discussed. Although sump pump violations are a contributor to the backup problem, the inflow via cross connections was felt to be the bigger concern.

Those present wanted their concerns to be heard, solutions investigated and a timeline for completion of tasks to be initiated.

The Council then summarized the action items as follows:

1. Initiate by pass pumping (with notification to MPCA) when needed during major rain events.
2. Continue to look for cross connections (specifically Ranchwood & Grove areas). Hire company to camera/smoke test.
3. Research the cost to install a bigger pump and possibly an additional force main.
4. Work on sump pump inspections/compliance.
5. Research temporary removal of restrictor on Ditch 66.

2018/2019
Street/Utility
Improvements

David Palm presented review drawings for possible street and utility improvements being planned for 2018-2019, that include street construction of Sunrise, Ranchwood, 2 ½ blocks on Ash, and one block on Cherry and 5th & 6th Streets, including some utility work underneath. Cost estimates are not complete, but look to be around 1.9 million, not including engineering. Discussion on the current assessment policy and possible amendments were discussed.

Water Main Loop
Project

The Council reviewed the plans and specifications for the water main loop project. Following feedback from MnDOT and the Railroad, minor changes were made (addition of 40’ casing pipe), that will need to be approved by MDH. The Contractor will be given

the option to directional bore or open cut; if open cut, seeding will be included with the project. The project will include providing staff with an O&M manual. The process to secure permits and easements is underway. A motion was made by Engelmann and seconded by Wolff to approve the plans and specs, as presented. Passed unanimously.

13th Street Cost & Assessments

The Council reviewed the final costs and proposed assessments for the 13th Street Improvement project. A motion was made by Engelmann and seconded by Prokosch to approve Resolution 5-17, setting the assessment hearing date for October 9th at 6:30 PM and authorizing publication and mailed notice of the hearing. Passed unanimously.

Hwy. 212 & 4th Street Storm Sewer Improvements & Cross Connection Issue

MnDOT approved the Drainage Permit application for the "Option 2" storm sewer improvements to Hwy. 212 & 4th Street, which includes 124' of PVC pipe from the catch basin on 212, and construction of a new catch basin on 4th Street. Woelfel stated that this project should wait until the cross connection issue is resolved. Paur Agency plans to hire Island Construction to reroute storm water in a new pipe to outlet on 2nd Street. Island Construction is asking the City to provide the outlet. Since the project involves draining water from private property, it was felt that City dollars should not be spent, and may set a precedent for similar situations. David Palm felt that a permit from MnDOT would be needed to add flow to the 2nd Street storm sewer pipe and that hook-up requirements should follow MnDOT's instructions. It was felt that the property owner should apply for the MnDOT permit.

Street/Maintenance Improvements

A street crack-filling project will be planned for next year before the next seal coat project is undertaken. Before next summer, staff will present a plan for possible improvements needed to the streets that will not be included in the 2018/2019 project discussed earlier in the meeting.

Sidewalk Improvements

Regarding the sidewalk adjacent to Island Market, a motion was made by Engelmann and seconded by Wolff to approve an additional cost of \$1500 for the extra sidewalk removal/replacement. Passed unanimously. Regarding the other city-maintained sidewalks in town, staff will inspect the sidewalks to determine a priority list for sidewalk replacement.

Nuisance Ordinance Amendments

Following discussion with the Sheriff's Department, further amendments to the City's Nuisance Ordinance were discussed, including definition of "vehicles" and how to deal with boats and other recreational vehicles. The council also discussed the addition of "Building Maintenance and Appearance" requirements to the Ordinance. The Committee will meet with Sheriff Hable to discuss the possible amendments.

Hazardous Buildings

Renville County Public Health will be contacted regarding the possible health issues inherent with dwellings that have no water/sewer services or that have obvious structural issues. If no resolve can be found via Public Health, the Council will proceed with the "hazardous building" process.

Library Drainage

The Council discussed possible drainage improvements to the Library that would involve landscaping issues to the north of the building. Woelfel will get cost estimates for the improvements. The neighbor to the north will be contacted as to the possibility of putting eaves/gutters on their building, so that water off their building does not drain to the Library property.

Municipal Building Municipal building heating and lighting were discussed. One bid for a new heating system was received. Engelmann will get two more bids for the project.

2018 Budget/Levy A motion was made by Engelmann and seconded by Wolff to approve Resolution 4-17, adopting the proposed 2018 Budget (\$1,714,982) and Levy (\$475,527), a 4% increase over the 2017 Levy. Passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned.

Deb Lingl, City Administrator.