

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Bird Island City Council
October 14, 2019 at 7:00 PM**

Council members present: Engelmann, Seidl, Prokosch, Schneider

The regular meeting was called to order by Assistant Mayor Engelmann.

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

Hazardous/Buildings Nuisances	Discussion continued regarding the hazardous buildings located at 860 and 1060 Highway Avenue. Following an interior inspection at 860, the City's Building Inspector informed the new owners that there were multiple issues with the interior (in addition to the exterior), and that the building is not worth saving. The owners are being encouraged to utilize the new County Blight Removal grant program to have the structure demolished. If not done voluntarily, the City will need an updated inspection report to enforce the Court order. The Building Inspector also completed an interior inspection of the buildings at 1060 Hwy. Avenue. He felt that the interior of the house was in better shape than the outside. However, the garage was in disrepair and needed to be demolished. The Inspector will be providing the City with an updated inspection report. An email received from the owner states his intentions regarding the garage and clean up of his yard. A notice will be served on the owner allowing him until October 31 st to tyvek the garage and clean up the property. The Court had previously issued a perpetual nuisance abatement order; therefore, following this notice, no other letters will be sent. If the nuisances are not abated by October 31 st , the City will do so, and assess the property for the cost of cleanup. Potential other hazardous buildings exist in town, including structures at 410 South 4 th Street and 941 Fir Avenue. These property owners will be encouraged to raze/repair the structures, and will be informed of the County Blight Removal grant program. Nuisances continue to be present on the vacant lot at 615 South 8 th Street. Since the owners were unable to be located, the order to abate was posted on the property and published in the newspaper for four consecutive weeks. The next step would be to file a motion with the District Court for Summary Enforcement.
2018/2019 Street/Utility Improvements Resolution 6-19	The 2018/2019 Street/Utility Improvement project is complete except for the issue of grass not growing in some areas. Woelfel will get email confirmation from the Contractor that re-seeding (where needed) will occur next spring. A motion was made by Prokosch and seconded by Schneider to approve Pay Estimate No. 7 for \$240,615.20, reducing the retainage from 5% to 2.5%. Passed unanimously. A motion was made by Seidl and seconded by Schneider to adopt Resolution 6-19, setting a hearing on the proposed assessments for 6:00 PM on Tuesday, November 12, 2019. Passed unanimously.
6 th Street Water Main	A cost estimate of \$1272.86 (+ shipping) was received from Core & Main for materials to replace the 6 th Street/Elm water main. A motion was made by Schneider and seconded by Prokosch to approve purchase of the materials. Passed unanimously. If time and weather permits, replacement of a section of the main could be completed this fall.
Equipment Rental Fees	Staff is recommending changes to the City's Equipment Rental fees, used mostly for reimbursement from the State and County for snow removal/sweeping on Hwy. 212 and Main Street. A motion was made by Prokosch and seconded by Schneider to approve the proposed amendments to the Equipment Rental fee schedule. Passed unanimously.
MDH Water System Report	The Council reviewed the annual MDH Sanitary Survey Report for the City's Public Water System. Woelfel noted the section regarding the maintenance/testing of back flow prevention devices, which were mainly installed with construction of water services to rural customers. Woelfel will research the names of licensed contractors and the costs associated with

inspections. Regarding the City's water tower, Woelfel is soliciting bids for replacement of the broken elbow on the overflow pipe. It appears that the elbow froze and popped.

Fairground Storm Sewer S.J. Jacobs & Sons connected the Fairgrounds storm sewer tile to the County line. City staff will install pipe bypassing the old line, which is clogged with tree roots. The Renville County Ag Society will pay for materials and Jacobs' labor.

Resolution 7-19 A motion was made by Prokosch and seconded by Schneider to adopt Resolution 7-19, designating the Municipal Building, at 660 Birch Avenue, as the City's official polling place for 2020. Passed unanimously.

MRU Resignation With thanks and appreciation, a motion was made by Prokosch and seconded by Seidl to approve the resignation of Marc Iverson from the City's Medical Response Unit. Passed unanimously.

November Meeting Due to the Veteran's Day holiday, a motion was made by Seidl and seconded by Prokosch to approve a change in the November Council meeting date to Tuesday, November 12th. Passed unanimously.

Zimmerman Assessments The Council discussed the deferred special assessments (street, water, sewer) to the Zimmerman property adjacent to 13th Street. A proposal was discussed on 8-27-18 and a follow-up letter, dated 9-17-18, was sent to the Zimmermans to confirm the details of the proposal. The City received no response to the letter. Another letter will be sent to the Zimmermans stating that the topic will be on the November 12th Council meeting agenda, and a decision made regarding the assessments, which will be certified to the County Auditor-Treasurer for collection with property taxes beginning 2020.

Meeting adjourned.
Deb Lingl, City Administrator