

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Bird Island City Council
February 10, 2020 at 7:00 PM**

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

The 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 from the last regular meeting. Passed unanimously.

- Law Enforcement** Sheriff Hable and Deputy Fiebelkorn were present to discuss 2019 law enforcement data and possible initiatives for 2020, and also to address any concerns/questions the Council may have. County wide there were 1200-1300 more calls; however, Part 1 and 2 (more serious) crimes were down. More tickets were issued, with more warnings and less citations. There were 6323 911 calls, which was up a little from 2018. In 2020, a Police Chaplain Program was launched. Pastor Hausken will be the chaplain providing support for officers and civilians during times of crisis or incidents. The Code Red system will possibly be changed to include weather alerts. If the change takes place, those people already enrolled in the system, will need to sign up again. The Sheriff's Department is also looking to add an employee to handle welfare fraud prevention. Due to people not paying ordinance violation fines, the Council is considering the issuance of State tickets that would be filed with District Court. A state surcharge and law library fee would then be added to the City's fine. Instead of issuing State tickets for all City ordinance violations, it was suggested that the decision be situational; such as when administrative fines are not paid, or when there are multiple violations of the same offense. There was much discussion on possibly amending Winter Parking Ordinance 220. Residents are concerned with the blanket "no parking" from 1:00 AM to 6:00 AM from November 1st through April 1st; and if no parking is allowed in the alleys, City Staff should be plowing the alleys. Others believe there should be a notification process (radio, texting, Code Red system, etc...) when roads are going to be plowed. City Staff does not plow residential alleys, as there is concern with damaging resident's property that is close to, or on the alley right-of-way. Staff will draft an amended Ordinance that deletes the blanket "no parking" section, but prohibits on-street parking when there are any "plowable" snow events, which are decided by the Public Works Supervisor. There will also be clarification of the meaning of "vehicle" and a change to the penalty section, leaving it to the discretion of law enforcement as to when to issue written warnings, citations and/or when to have a vehicle towed.
- Hospital Update** Jackie Edwards, Marketing & Communications Director at RC Hospital & Clinics, was present to educate the Council on the Hospital's planned affiliation with Health Partners, and the benefits it provides. The Letter of Intent to affiliate should be complete by the end of March. A new entity, with a majority "local voice", will operate and manage the hospital and employees, via a 30 year lease with the County. Health Partners will guarantee the USDA loan and is supportive of a Wellness Center. The Hospital will retain employees and outreach services, while providing more affordable healthcare, and new/improved health care access.
- 2020 Seal Coat** The Council reviewed the plans and advertisement for bids for the 2020 seal coat project. Besides the standard seal coat product, there will be alternative bid schedules for RePlay and GSB 88 on specific streets. The project will be scheduled to begin on or after 6-22-2020 and be completed on or before 8-31-2020, with no work to take place during the week of the County Fair. A motion was made by Engelmann and seconded by Schneider to approve the plans & specs and advertisement for bids for the 2020 seal coat project. Passed unanimously. Concern was raised regarding utilizing City staff for construction engineering instead of hiring an engineer. With only two full-time Public Works/Maintenance employees, there is concern that other city work may not get done.
- LMC Liability** The Council discussed the City's liability insurance coverage and whether or not to purchase

- Coverage excess liability coverage, and whether or not to waive the statutory tort limits. Following discussion on the pros and cons, a motion was made by Engelmann and seconded by Prokosch to waive the statutory tort limits and to purchase excess liability coverage. Passed unanimously.
- Support Letter The SW Corridor Transportation Coalition is once again requesting a letter of support for federal INFRA grant funds to help finance the construction of a four-lane expressway from Norwood-Young America to Chaska. A motion was made by Engelmann and seconded by Schneider to approve the support letter as presented. Passed unanimously.
- Personnel Issues Upon recommendation from the Fire Department, a motion was made by Seidl and seconded by Prokosch to approve the addition of Brandon Senkyr to the City's Fire Department. Passed unanimously. Staff will request a history of attendance at fire calls to help determine if further recruitment efforts are needed. A motion was made by Engelmann and seconded by Schneider to approve the addition of John M. Lingl to the on-call Maintenance Department list. Passed unanimously. With thanks and appreciation, a motion was made by Prokosch and seconded by Schneider to accept the resignation of Mary (Patty) Sanger from the City's Medical Response Unit. Passed unanimously.
- 2019 Financial Statement The Council reviewed the 2019 Financial Statement. As a requirement of the last PFA water loan, the City is required to annually transfer \$.50 per 1000 gallons water used into a water system replacement fund. Preauthorization from PFA is needed before using these funds. Regarding the 2018/2019 Improvement Bonds, fund splits were amended to reflect actual costs versus bid amounts. The budgeting process was also discussed. A motion was made by Engelmann and seconded by Seidl to approve the 2019 Financial Statement as presented, contingent upon Auditor approval. Passed unanimously. The City Auditor is requesting that the Council begin their March 9th meeting at 6:30 PM to accommodate her travelling to two meetings that night. The Council agreed to her request.

Meeting adjourned.
Deb Lingl, City Administrator