

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Bird Island City Council
May 11, 2020 at 7:00 PM**

Council members present via ZOOM meeting: Sander, Seidl, Schneider, Engelmann, Prokosch
The meeting was called to order by Mayor Sander.

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

- Law Enforcement** Deputy Swyter was available to discuss service calls this year, which are up some, partially due to the abatements of nuisances at 1060 Hwy. Avenue and 615 South 8th Street. Lists of nuisance ordinance violations and unlicensed vehicles were submitted. Letters will be sent to property owners, giving them 30 days to comply. If not, abatement orders will be issued for nuisances and a fine issued to unlicensed vehicle violators. Vehicles can be registered online or through the mail. There is also a drop box available in the main lobby of the County Government Service Center. Regarding the demolition of the outbuildings at 1060 Hwy. Ave., a motion was made by Engelmann and seconded by Schneider to solicit bids from contractors to raze all the outbuildings (not the house). Passed unanimously. A letter will be served on the property owner when a date for abatement is determined.
- Crack Sealing** Bertram Asphalt Company has completed crack sealing of city streets. 24,300 pounds of product was used, which was less than the estimated 30,000 pounds. Bertram also submitted bids for spray patching (16 tons) and eight infrared patches (\$1300). Since fog sealing is scheduled to be performed with the seal coat project, Woelfel felt that the spray patching would not be necessary. A motion was made by Engelmann and seconded by Seidl to approve the \$1300 bid from Bertram for the eight infrared patches. Passed unanimously.
- 6th Street Watermain** The Engineer has prepared the MDH permit application and change order for the 6th Street water main project. Since this is a change order to a recently approved MDH project, it appears that MDH will forgo the application fee, and will allow the project to commence upon submission of the application.
- 2018/2019 Project Reseeding** Regarding the 2018/2019 Improvement project, a retainage was held until the Contractor satisfactorily reseeds all the problem areas. Woelfel will identify the areas, and will contact the Contractor to return and reseed the areas.
- Hwy. 212 Drain Tile** A bill of \$3321.10 was received by R&R Excavating for excavating the area where there is a drain tile issue along Hwy. 212 adjacent to Stamer's land. According to Woelfel, nothing was fixed and two problems still exist. He also suggested not paying the bill until the problem can be identified and corrected. City Staff will again excavate the area to determine the exact issue. R&R will then be given the opportunity to return and fix the problem.
- Burn Site Camera** Regarding a camera at the City burn site, Woelfel will install a deer trail cam on a 15 foot pole.
- Midco OTN** Upon further communication with Midco, they are interested in purchasing parcel 28-02080-00 (lot north of Athmann's Inn) from the City for location of their Optical Transition Node. A purchase of the land is preferred over a lease agreement. Before making any arrangement with Midco, Athmann's Inn will be consulted as to any interest they may have in purchasing the property. A motion was made by Schneider and seconded by Engelmann to offer the land to Athmann's; and if declined, to negotiate a price to sell the land to Midco. Passed unanimously.
- On Sale Liquor License Fee** The Council discussed the possibility of further reducing the cost of the City's On Sale liquor license beyond what was approved as a credit in Resolution 2-2020. The annual current On Sale liquor license fee is \$2000; with the license running from July 1 - June 30. A suggestion was

made to credit the current license fee from March – June 2020, and then to forgive the license fee for July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021. The current license fee will need to be paid in full (minus the credit from March – June) before a new license can be issued on July 1, 2020. The forgiveness of next year's fee would also extend to On Sale Beer license holders. A motion was made by Engelmann and seconded by Prokosch to enact the suggestions listed above. Passed unanimously.

MRU Staff

A motion was made by Schneider and seconded by Engelmann to approve the addition of Ben Bohlin to the MRU staff. Passed unanimously. The City accepted the resignation of Dave Woelfel from the MRU and thanked him for his years of service.

Meeting adjourned.

Deb Lingl, City Administrator