

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Bird Island City Council
June 8, 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 Prokosch and seconded by Schneider to authorize payment of the claims and to approve the minutes from the last regular meeting. Passed unanimously.

- Land Use Permits** To comply with the 15' front setback requirement, Pietig will shorten his proposed deck to 8 ½'. Provided he meets the front setback, a motion was made by Prokosch and seconded by Engelmann to approve the land use permit for a front deck. Passed unanimously. Eiler's storage shed meets setback and height requirements. Concerns were raised regarding the starting of work before permit approval, and possible noncompliance with current policy regarding valuation and timeframe for construction. Eilers will be signing a purchase agreement with earnest money down for closing on the purchase of the lot to the north of their current lot, where their future home will be built. A motion was made by Seidl and seconded by Schneider to approve the land use permit for the storage shed. The motion failed on a 2 to 3 vote (Schneider and Seidl in favor). A motion was then made by Engelmann and seconded by Sander to approve the land use permit contingent upon Eilers signing a purchase agreement, with earnest money down, and closing on the purchase of the lot to the north, for the purpose of building a home on the property. All voted in favor except Schneider, who was opposed.
- Law Enforcement** Sheriff Hable and Deputy Swyter were present to discuss law enforcement issues and the proposed 2021-2023 Law Enforcement Services Agreement with Renville County. Contract hours were discussed, along with an update on abatement of nuisances at 1060 Hwy. Avenue. The demolition of outbuildings and abatement of nuisances is scheduled for June 11th. Before the July Council meeting, the Sheriff's Department will reassess those properties with nuisance violations, unlicensed vehicles and hazardous buildings, for possible action by the Council. Citations will then be issued and/or abatement of nuisances will be ordered. The Council reviewed the proposed 2021-2023 Law Enforcement Services Agreement with Renville County. The contract remains the same, other than a small increase in the hourly rate (.95% in 2021 and 2.5% in 2022 and 2023). Sheriff Hable explained how the proposed increases were determined. In addition to Bird Island, Renville County contracts with Sacred Heart, Morton and Franklin for law enforcement services. Staff feels the working relationship with the Sheriff's Department, and the services they provide, have been great. A motion was made by Engelmann and seconded by Seidl to approve the 2021-2023 Agreement. All voted in favor, except Sander, who abstained.
- Ball Park
Improvements/
Baseball Games** Mike Nagel was present to discuss possible improvements to Lion's Memorial Ball Park. Proposed improvements include: (1) Creating a new plaza where the agri-lime sits, and moving a 24'x30' building (donated by Weis') on to the site. (2) Constructing a deck on top of the visitor's dugout and landscape seating just south of the visitor's dugout. (3) Constructing a new outfield fence, and raising the wall on the north side of the berm and putting a six foot fence on top of the wall. The old fencing could be reused for the softball/little league fields. The BOLD Baseball Association would pay for all the improvements, except that they are asking the City to pay for water/sewer/electrical hook ups to the new building on the plaza. A motion was made by Prokosch and seconded by Seidl to approve the land use permit for moving in the building to the designated Ball Park location. Passed unanimously. The Minnesota Baseball Association has developed a COVID-19 Preparedness Plan and will be requesting that Governor Walz allow baseball leagues to begin play. If not, the Association is asking that all 277 teams request permission from their respective Ball Park owners. At present Public Health cannot license the selling/serving of food/drinks at Ball Park concession stands. It was suggested to possibly contract with local businesses to deliver food into the Ball Park. A motion was made by

Engelmann and seconded by Schneider to allow baseball practices/games to begin at Lion's Memorial Park, without concessions (until approved in accordance with the Governor's Executive Orders), provided the most recent executive order and CDC guidelines, relating to baseball parks, are followed. Passed unanimously.

- Midco Purchase Agreement A motion was made by Prokosch and seconded by Schneider to approve a Purchase Agreement with Midcontinent Communications to buy Lot 4 and south ½ of Lot 3, Block 1 of McMahon's Addition for \$18,500. Passed unanimously.
- US/Solar Subscription Proposal US/Solar is constructing a solar garden on 10 acres of Prokosch land west of St. Mary's Cemetery. The company submitted a subscription proposal to the City which involves no financial commitment to join. The City would receive a credit on their Xcel Energy bills that could save the City up to \$2000 a year. For the entire 25-year subscription term, the payment rate would be exactly \$.01/kWh less than the bill credit rate that Xcel Energy owes the City. Upon receipt of the City's electricity usage/cost savings analysis, the City will review a proposed subscription agreement with US/Solar.
- Resolution 3-20 Due to the new loan debt, and declining fund balance, it has been suggested that the City look at increasing its water system rates, specifically an increase in the base rate to \$34/month. A motion was made by Engelmann and seconded by Prokosch to approve Resolution 3-20, increasing the water system base rate to \$34/month. Passed unanimously
- Assessment Agreement As there were no changes from the 2019-2020 agreement, a motion was made by Engelmann and seconded by Prokosch to approve the 2021-2022 Assessment Agreement contract with Renville County. Passed unanimously.
- Liquor License Renewals A motion was made by Engelmann and seconded by Prokosch to approve renewal of the current list of annual liquor and beer licenses, contingent on proof of liquor liability insurance. Passed unanimously.
- Regatta Parade The Island Days Committee is planning a Regatta Parade on 6-20-20 beginning at 11:00 AM. Nothing will be allowed to be thrown from the vehicles in the parade. A motion was made by Schneider and seconded by Prokosch to approve temporary closure of Main Street from Ash to Elm for the parade. Passed unanimously.
- Public Works Woelfel gave an update on future public works activities. He felt it unnecessary to replace Weis with another full time seasonal employee, as the City has many people available on its on-call list. The pole at the Burn Site has been installed but cameras have yet to be purchased. Notice will be placed on Facebook and the message board to remove leaves from garbage bags when depositing at the City Burn site.

Meeting adjourned.
Deb Lingl, City Administrator