

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Bird Island City Council  
July 13, 2020 at 7:00 PM

Council members present: Sander, 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 meeting with the following correction: "US/Solar is proposing to construct a solar garden..." Passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Engelmann and seconded by Prokosch to approve land use permits for Garrett Dahl (storage shed), Ben Bohlin (storage shed), Amy Weis (deck) and Amanda Jungers (deck). Passed unanimously.

**US/Solar Subscription Proposal** US/Solar's proposal to the City is a fixed-discount of \$.01/kWh off the bill credit rate, with no up-front cost. Using the City's current electricity usage, the estimated savings over the 25-year subscription term would be approximately \$46,000. The Council reviewed the City Attorney's opinion on the proposed subscription agreement, and US/Solar's response to that opinion. US/Solar's response will be forwarded to the City Attorney to verify that there are no potential "back side" or "hidden" costs to the City should they choose to enter into this agreement.

**Public Works Report** No written report was submitted by Woelfel. The following items were discussed:

- Regarding the 6<sup>th</sup> Street water main project, the compaction appeared inadequate, as a truck got stuck prior to M & R Paving laying the non-wear course. Since Subcontractor, M & R Paving, was already present to complete the asphalt work, Schmidt Construction (Contractor) agreed to an extended warranty.
- Seal coating of streets is to start this week and hopefully, be completed by Friday. Fog sealing will then start next week. Woelfel stated that the Contractor was unaware of their responsibility to remove weeds from the streets; however, they are in town today with their street sweeper.
- Quality Flow, Inc. continues to work on the control system at the lift station.
- Some work may be necessary to utilize the generator that Lake Lillian purchased with a DNR grant.
- A camera has yet to be purchased for the brush site. The Administrator will consult with the Sheriff's Department regarding the battery-operated cameras that they have used. The brush site is now back to normal hours.
- Regarding the County electronics/appliance recycling at the Fairgrounds, it was suggested to get volunteer group(s) to assist residents with getting their recyclables to the Fairgrounds.
- Woelfel reported that the water treatment plant post-chlorinator broke; therefore, there is not sufficient chlorine getting to town. Staff is working on the issue.

**Nuisances/Unlicensed Vehicles** Law Enforcement updated the Council on blighted properties and unlicensed vehicles. A motion was made by Engelmann and seconded by Prokosch to approve Resolution 4-20, ordering the razing of hazardous buildings at 410 South 4<sup>th</sup> Street, contingent upon concurrence with the Building Official's inspection report. Passed unanimously. A motion was made by Prokosch and seconded by Engelmann to order the abatement of nuisances at 360 South Main Street.

Passed unanimously. Regarding unlicensed vehicles, there are still two noncompliant, and those at 161 12<sup>th</sup> Street North were to be compliant by 7-12-20. According to Woelfel, two of the unlicensed vehicles were removed from the property, and one was put inside the building. The other unlicensed vehicle is a farm truck that Woelfel doesn't believe needs to be licensed. A motion was made by Prokosch and seconded by Engelmann to have law enforcement issue citations to the two remaining unlicensed vehicles. Passed unanimously. Law enforcement will also be asked to survey the town for properties in violation of Ordinance 217, which makes it unlawful to have more than five vehicles stored outside on residential use property. Residents are reminded that you must have a City permit and valid driver's license to drive a golf cart in town. It is also illegal to carry open bottles of alcohol on the cart.

**COVID-19 Issues** A motion was made by Engelmann and seconded by Prokosch to approve the City's COVID-19 Preparedness Plan as presented. Passed unanimously. Following guidance from the State, the Council discussed eligible uses for the City's \$74,512 share of the CARES Act funds being distributed to local governments. PPE, technology upgrades and assistance to businesses were mentioned as priorities. Staff will contact other communities to help with developing a grant program for businesses in town who showed a loss in the first half of 2020. The Council reviewed COVID-19 Executive Order enforcement information submitted by Sheriff Hable. Civil and criminal penalties are available for sufficiently serious violations.

**Sale of Lots Policy** The Council reviewed a possible Resolution that would outline the policy for the sale of residential lots in town. In order to allow for more research, and input from the two Councilors not present, a motion was made by Engelmann and seconded by Prokosch to table discussion. Passed unanimously.

**Personnel Issues** A motion was made by Prokosch and seconded by Engelmann to approve the addition of Andrew Sheehan to the on-call Maintenance Department list. Passed unanimously.  
A motion was made by Sander and seconded by Prokosch to approve the following election judges: Dawn Soukup, Deb Lingl, Lisa Engelmann, Amy Weis and Carol Senkyr. All voted in favor except Engelmann, who abstained.

**City Office Filings** Filings for three City Offices (Mayor and two Council persons) are open on July 28, 2020 and remain open until 5:00 PM on August 11, 2020.

**Appreciation** Mike Nagel sends his appreciation to the City Council for their assistance with the process of getting the Minnesota Baseball Association to safely bring back town baseball.

Meeting adjourned.  
Deb Lingl, City Administrator