

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

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

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.

- |                                   |   |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| BOLD Elementary School            | Mark Glesener and Theresa Jacobs were present to discuss their concern with the condition of the BOLD Elementary School in Bird Island. Nothing has been done to address the moisture issue or remediate the mold spores in the building, and it doesn't appear that the School Board will spend any money to fix the problem. A report by IEA, Inc., dated 10-23-19, recommended that "the moisture and source of the mold spores should be determined and repaired." Glesener/Jacobs are recommending that the "City Council and EDA become proactive in protecting the Elementary School building as a city asset and set forth a plan to address the mold issue to assure that the building can be used for a community and business asset in the future." A motion was made by Engelmann and seconded by Prokosch to set up an Exploratory Committee to address the mold issue by lining up local contractors and inspecting the buildings. Passed unanimously. The Committee will report back to the Council with their findings. |
| Law Enforcement Meeting           | Deputy Swyter was available to discuss service calls for the second quarter to update the Council on nuisance properties and unlicensed vehicles. The property owner at 360 South Main Street was served the nuisance abatement order on July 16. Progress has been made to clean up the property. There are still three unlicensed vehicles on private residential properties. It appears that the property owners at 410 South 4 <sup>th</sup> Street are applying for funding through the County HRA/EDA's Blight Removal grant program to raze the hazardous building. Notice will be given to property owners at 1060 Hwy. Avenue and 151 North Main Street that people are not allowed to live in dwellings that have no active water service. Another order for abatement will be served on the owner of 1060 Hwy. Avenue. Swyter stated that reports have been received regarding someone going through vehicles at night.  |
| 2018/2019 Improvements & Pea Rock | A motion was made by Engelmann and seconded by Prokosch to approve the final pay estimate of \$37,382.24 for the 2018-2019 Street & Utility Improvements, contingent upon the Contractor submitting all necessary documentation, and reimbursing the City for city-owned materials used on the project. Passed unanimously. Upon recommendation from Woelfel, a motion was made by Engelmann and seconded by Seidl to sell the seal coat "dirty" pea rock for \$4/Ton + \$2/Ton to load. Passed unanimously.  |
| Water Metering System             | The City's 8 year old radio-read meters are now obsolete, as Badger Meter is going to the automatic cellular metering system. The City can purchase a used Trimble handheld, from the City of Morgan, that will work with both the radio-read meters and the new Beacon software that is needed for the cellular meters. This will allow the City to gradually switch over to the new system. The used Trimble, Beacon software and Banyon Beacon module will cost a total of \$11,795. There was \$15,000 in the Water Fund budget to be used for this purpose. A motion was made by Engelmann and seconded by Seidl to approve the purchases. Passed unanimously.   |
| Burn Site Camera                  | Various security cameras were discussed for use at the City's burn site. A motion was made by Schneider and seconded by Prokosch to purchase surveillance equipment to be used at the burn site. Passed unanimously.  |
| US Solar Subscription Proposal    | Discussion continued regarding possible approval of the subscription agreement with US Solar. According to the City's Attorney, the only "scenario that would give rise to additional costs incurred by the City would be due to the City cancelling the Agreement or defaulting under the  |

Agreement". Due to the proposed annual cost-savings, there should be no reason for the City to cancel or default on the agreement. A final copy of the Agreement will be requested for consideration at the next Council meeting.

Resolution 5-20

The Council again considered the approval of Resolution 5-20, adopting a policy for selling residential lots in town. A motion was made by Engelmann and seconded by Prokosch to approve Resolution 5-20. Passed unanimously.

CARES Act Funds

The Council again discussed the possible uses of the \$74,512 in CARES Act Funds that the City received. PPE, sanitizing supplies, technology upgrades, payroll expenses for sick/quarantined employees and grants to local businesses were all mentioned. All funds need to be expended by 11-15-20; if not the unspent funds will go to the County. To avoid duplication and streamline the process, the Council is agreeable to cooperating with the County on a business grant program based on need.

2021 Preliminary Budget

The Council discussed a preliminary 2021 Budget and Levy, that involves a \$698, or .12% levy increase. Upgrades to the Main Street Park were discussed, specifically adding a "bean bag toss" area by the horseshoe pits. Money has been saved for improvements to the park. The Park Committee will meet to discuss possible improvements. Woelfel will check on the cost to purchase portable toilets instead of annually renting them. A service contract would also be needed to clean/maintain the toilets. It was suggested to add \$20,000 to the budget for possible expenses related to mold remediation at the BOLD Elementary School. The money would be added to the EDA's budget allotment.

Meeting adjourned.

Deb Lingl, City Administrator