

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Bird Island City Council
September 14, 2020 at 7:00 PM**

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

The meeting was called to order by Manor 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** A motion was made by Prokosch and seconded by Schneider to approve a land use permit for Midco to construct a broadband telecommunications shelter on their property. Passed unanimously. A motion was made by Prokosch and seconded by Engelmann to approve a land use permit for Mike Tersteeg to construct a storage shed, contingent on proof of ownership of the additional east 25 feet for the property. Passed unanimously. A motion was made by Schneider and seconded by Prokosch to approve a land use permit for Dan Elfering's storage shed. Passed unanimously.
- 2020 Seal Coat** Staff has received positive comments about this year's seal coat & fog sealing project. A motion was made by Engelmann and seconded by Seidl to approve final payment of \$281,268.54 to Pearson Bros, Inc., contingent on the Contractor submitting all necessary documentation. Passed unanimously.
- Public Works/
Maintenance Report** The Council reviewed the Public Works/Maintenance report submitted by Woelfel. More details were given regarding sanitary sewer flushing and some home owner issues at Ranchwood, 9th & 10th Streets. Future operations include the completion of the Fairground storm line.
- Solar Energy** Ideal Energies contacted the City regarding their on-site solar program. They are specifically interested in constructing a ground-mounted solar array by the wastewater treatment facility to provide energy to the lift station. The City would own and insure the solar array and lease it to Green2 Solar, who would operate & maintain the system during the payback period. According to Ideal Energies, the City could save over \$450,000 (depending on amount of power used) over the life of the system. Concerns were raised over the accuracy of the numbers, ownership of the solar array, and maintaining the equipment following the payback period. Further research will be needed to evaluate the proposal. If the City agrees to this on-site solar program proposal, the lift station address would need to be deleted from the subscription area in US Solar's Agreement. Approval of the subscription agreement with US Solar was tabled until a future meeting.
- CARES Act Funds** The Renville County HRA/EDA CARES Act Grant applications were due at 4:00 PM on September 11th. If individual Bird Island business needs surpass the maximum County grant, the City's CARES Act funds could cover additional eligible expenses. There may also be Bird Island businesses that did not apply, missed the deadline or omitted eligible expenses from their County application. The Council, via the City's EDA, would like to allocate funds to the businesses in need of financial assistance. A motion was made by Engelmann and seconded by Seidl to allocate up to \$50,000 to the City EDA to cover additional eligible Bird Island business expenses not covered by the County CARES Grant program. Passed unanimously. The Council also discussed the utilization of CARES Act funds to upgrade the office computers, to purchase laptops for remote-work, and to network the computers for employees to be able to work from home. Purchase of City Hall video conferencing equipment and remote scanners/printers were also discussed. Steve Altmann, Vision Systems & Consulting, provided quotes for three different laptop computers. Engelmann will request a proposal from Steve that includes three laptop computers and an upgrade to the current office PC's. The State has received special allocations of Community Development Block Grant funds to be used to prevent, prepare for, and respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. Feedback is being requested as to the need and utilization of these

funds. An interesting example of an eligible activity is to “rehabilitate a commercial building or closed school building to establish an infectious disease treatment clinic, e.g. by replacing the HVAC system”.

BOLD Elementary School

The Exploratory Committee met with Superintendent Bransoy, Head Custodian Denny Spielmann and Ryan Hoffman, ICS Consulting, to tour the BOLD Elementary School building on September 9th. Bransoy and Spielmann stated that the building would not be maintained, other than the gymnasium, which is still being used. Daily walk-throughs are planned and the heat will be kept on, but no cleaning or repairs will take place. There was no visible leakage into the building except in the boy’s locker room, which could be fixed by directing drainage to the street, instead of letting water seep straight down into the building. In addition, on the 2nd and 3rd floors, dehumidifiers are not being used and the air exchange units are shut off. Bransoy stated that even if the building referendum fails, students will not be coming back to the Bird Island campus. He also reiterated that cooperation with BLHS on facilities is not an option as previous conversations have not been successful. Therefore, until the BOLD School makes a decision, the elementary school building will continue to deteriorate unless moisture mitigation efforts are allowed by the School Board/Administration. Possible future uses of the building were discussed, along with the potentiality of demolishing the old center part of the building, and continuing to use the remainder. The Committee will further discuss these issues at a ZOOM meeting on September 15th.

Resolution 7-20

A motion was made by Engelmann and seconded by Seidl to approve Resolution 7-20, adopting the proposed 2021 Budget of \$1,782,596, and Payable 2021 Levy of \$582,854, a 2% increase over the 2020 Levy. Passed unanimously.

**New Firefighters/
Vehicle Liability**

A motion was made by Prokosch and seconded by Seidl to approve the addition of Connor McNamara and Cole Christenson to the City’s Fire Department. Passed unanimously. A reminder was given to all Bird Island emergency responders (MRU, firefighters) that taking personal vehicles to scenes is allowed; however, the City is not liable should an accident occur involving a private vehicle.

Resolution 8-20

A motion was made by Engelmann and seconded by Schneider to adopt Resolution 8-20, recognizing October 15th as National Pregnancy and Infant Loss Remembrance Day. Passed unanimously.

Resolution 9-20

A motion was made by Prokosch and seconded by Seidl to adopt Resolution 9-20, supporting a State Bonding Bill. Passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned.
Deb Lingl, City Administrator