

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Bird Island City Council
October 12, 2020 at 7:00 PM**

Council members present: Sander, Seidl, Engelmann, Schneider

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Sander.

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

- Land Use Permits** Pending review from Woelfel, a motion was made by Engelmann and seconded by Schneider to approve a land use permit for Toni Pruitt to construct a six foot high fence. Passed unanimously. A motion was made by Engelmann and seconded by Schneider to amend Dan Elfering’s storage shed land use permit to allow for a five foot side setback, which was approved in writing by his adjacent neighbor. Passed unanimously.
- Public Works/
Maintenance Report** The Council reviewed the Public Works/Maintenance report submitted by Woelfel. The surveillance camera has been installed at the burn site. There was further discussion on hazardous tree removal, and dust control needed on the gravel road out to the burn site. Since this is a Township road, staff will consult with Township Officials regarding dust control responsibilities. If need be, staff can use the water truck to wet down the road.
- BOLD Elementary
School Exploratory
Committee** Mark Glesener, representing the BOLD Elementary School Exploratory Committee, gave an update on their efforts to-date. The Committee has toured the building and has had several meetings, some of which included discussions with Superintendent Brandsoy and representatives from Engan Associates. The immediate concern is to stop further deterioration to protect the building for possible future use. With the help of Engan Associates, a “preservation list” was established and submitted to the School Board for (hopefully) their implementation. When discussing possible infrastructure (HVAC, electrical, plumbing, etc.) improvements, Engan Associates advised that a use for the building should be determined. It was also suggested that the 3-story oldest part of the building may not be worth saving, as the cost of necessary improvements would likely exceed any potential reuse of the area. The Bird Island EDA has hired Engan Associates to help with a Preservation and Reuse Plan for the building. As the purpose of the Committee has expanded into possible ideas to reuse the building, a motion was made by Engelmann and seconded by Seidl to have this Committee report to the EDA on their progress. Passed unanimously.
- Solar Energy** Following recommendation by a solar energy expert, the City will not pursue an agreement with Ideal Energies, which involves ownership of a ground-mounted solar array located at the wastewater lift station. A motion was made by Engelmann and seconded by Seidl to approve the proposed Sunscription Agreement with US Solar. Passed unanimously.
- CARES Act Funds** Engelmann is recommending the purchase of the following laptops from Vision Systems & Consulting: H/P Intel Corei7 processor, 16GB memory, 128GB SSD/ 1 TB HD with 17.3” HD Display. Along with the three laptops for Administration and Maintenance, it was suggested to purchase a fourth computer for the Fire Department. A motion was made by Schneider and seconded by Engelmann to purchase four laptops plus setup/networking for an amount not to exceed \$5000. Passed unanimously.
As the City’s WordPress website is outdated and unreliable, staff researched the purchase of website design & hosting from GovOffice. The new website will allow for online utility bill payments. A motion was made by Engelmann and seconded by Schneider to approve purchase of the new GovOffice website design, hosting and content migration for \$7150. Passed unanimously.
The City, through the EDA, is offering grants to local businesses, affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, for eligible expenses not covered by any other grant program (County, State or

Federal). Mortgage/rent payments and utility bill payments for September and October are eligible for reimbursement. Grant forms are due in the City Office by 10-31-20. Staff will look at purchasing an electrostatic disinfectant handheld sprayer for use at City-owned buildings.

Resolution 10-20

A motion was made by Engelmann and seconded by Seidl to adopt Resolution 10-20, designating the Municipal Building as the City's polling place in 2021. Passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned.

Deb Lingl, City Administrator