

**Minutes of the Public Hearing to discuss Amendment to Zoning Ordinance (Variance) Application
May 13, 2024 at 7:00 PM**

Council members present: Sander, Prokosch, Lingl, Leach

The hearing on the variance application to amend Zoning Ordinance 153 was called to order by Mayor Sander.

The Council discussed the Application for Consideration of Zoning Request submitted by Steven Dobmeier to allow the property located at 115 South Main Street to be a personal residence on the first floor of the building. Residents within 350' of the property submitted letters of objection.

Being no further business, the hearing was closed at 7:04 PM.

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Bird Island City Council
May 13, 2024 immediately following the Public Hearing**

The regular meeting was called to order by Mayor Sander.

A motion was made by Prokosch and seconded by Leach to authorize payment of the claims, and to approve the minutes from the last regular meeting. Passed unanimously. A motion was made by Lingl and seconded by Leach to approve a land use permit for Dan Elfering (garage). Passed unanimously.

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| Open Forum | Heidi Woelfel was present to ask the Council about changing the street sweeping schedule to a different day to avoid interference with garbage pickup day. Placement of the garbage cans was also discussed, the maintenance dept would prefer the cans be placed on the curb instead of in the street. She also inquired about the flower planters on Main Street. She will contact the Civic and Commerce with her concerns. |
| Zoning Application | It was decided by the Council to abide by Ordinance 153, not allowing a residence on the first floor of a commercial building in our downtown and deny the Consideration of Zoning application for an amendment to the zoning ordinance (variance) by Mr. Dobmeier. |
| Law Enforcement | Deputy Jordan Larsen, representing the Renville County Sheriff's Office, updated the Council on the progress blight properties and to ask about proceeding with citations and orders to remove nuisances. A motion was made by Lingl and seconded by Leach to move forward with abatement of nuisance violations at the discretion of the Sheriff's Office. Passed unanimously. The City received the Renville County EDA blight grant for up to \$5,000 for demo at 1060 Highway Avenue and another grant for up to \$10,000 for demo at 750 Ash Avenue. A motion was made by Lingl and seconded by Leach to accept the blight grants. Passed unanimously. Work on the properties will start as soon as the contractors hired are available. |
| Water Looping Project | Matt Miller, Bolton & Menk, Inc., gave a summary of current work being done. Notification of plans being approved was received May 8 th from MN Dept. of Health. Bid opening date has been set for June 6 th at 9:00 AM at City Hall. |
| Fire Department | Chief John Thompson was present to give an update on the department's fire trucks. Due to an accident during a fire call, the Ford pumper/tanker truck has been deemed totaled by the insurance company. The department is looking for a replacement truck and will bring more information to the June meeting. A motion was made by Lingl and seconded by Leach to approve up to \$10,000 for a downpayment to hold a prospective fire truck to be used toward purchase price or to be returned if a decision not to purchase is made. Passed unanimously. |
| Public Works | Woelfel reviewed his monthly report with the Council. Issues with the lift station, water treatment plant, and cleaning catch basins were discussed. Lead pipe inspections are progressing and a water line in the Main Street Park will be repaired soon. |
| Island Living | The Council discussed the using City Maintenance department mowing the former EDA |

- Property Maintenance 4-Plexes (now owned by Island Living) and the Island Living facility. A motion was made by Leach and seconded by Sander to allow City employees to continue to mow the Island Living properties until a maintenance company has been hired. Motion passed, Prokosch and Lingl abstained.
- Engineering Services Interview scores were tallied and reviewed. A motion was made by Sander and seconded by Leach to table a decision until the June meeting when a full council is in attendance. Passed unanimously.
- Island Days Street Closures A motion was made by Lingl and seconded by Leach to approve the proposed Island Days street closures contingent upon all residents affected by this year's new closure are notified. Passed unanimously.
- Fire Relief Donation A motion was made by Lingl and seconded by Leach to accept a donation from the Bird Island Fire Relief Association in the amount of \$4,359.16 for turn-out gear. Passed unanimously.
- Nuvei Ahl explained a new system the office will be using in the near future that compliments the current utility billing program by offering added payment options and electronic billing features. A motion was made by Lingl and seconded by Leach to approve a new contract with Nuvei. Passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned.
Tracey Ahl, City Administrator