

**Minutes of the Public Hearing and Regular Meeting of the Bird Island City Council  
October 9, 2023 at 7:00 PM**

Council members present: Sander, Leach, Schneider, Lingl

The Public Hearing was called to order by Mayor Sander at 7:00 PM to discuss the variance request from the Zoning Ordinance to allow a 50' building line width in Residential District. Woelfel raised concern as to where the sanitary sewer will be connected to the property and stated the water service is located in the old driveway. As there were no objections from surrounding property owners the public hearing was closed.

The regular meeting was called to order by Mayor Sander at 7:03 PM

A motion was made by Lingl and seconded by Leach to approve the claims and minutes from the last regular meeting. Passed unanimously.

**Land Use Permit**            Brandon Ortloff was present to discuss his land use permit for a proposed fence extension on his property located at 842 Fir Avenue. Woelfel was concerned about the right-of-way for utilities that run through the alley. After discussion as to the placement of the alley possibly being located on the property owners to the west of said alley, it was suggested to have the property lines professionally surveyed. As there were no objections from surrounding property owners, a motion was made by Schneider and seconded by Lingl to approve the original land use permit, allowing the property owners to connect the existing fence at the 66' 3" mark based off the property line. Passed unanimously.

**Resolution 6-23**            A motion was made by Lingl and seconded by Schneider to approve Resolution 6-23, approving application for variance from zoning ordinance to allow a 50' building line width in residential district. Passed unanimously.

**Learning Funhouse**        A motion was made by Lingl and seconded by Leach to approve replacing a window at The Learning Funhouse with a new vinyl window. Passed unanimously. Window replacement for the Funhouse building will be budgeted for in the future.

**Resolution 7-23**            A motion was made by Lingl and seconded by Leach to approve Resolution 7-23, designating the 2024 annual polling place as the Municipal Building located at 660 Birch Avenue in Bird Island. Passed unanimously.

**Southwest Minnesota Housing Partnership (SWMHP)**            The Council reviewed a written proposal that Renville County received from the Southwest MN related to single family home development in the County. SWMHP would like to build at least 10, 2-3 bedroom single family modular homes in the County. They are requesting that land is donated, building permit and SAC/WAC fees are waived; other incentives like down payment assistance, tax abatement, etc. are included. Possible building lots were discussed. It was felt at this time the City is not interested in owning another rental property.

**Splash Island Donation**        A motion was made by Lingl and seconded by Schneider to accept a donation of \$89,999.20 from Splash Island Adventure Park for the purchase of equipment and construction. Passed unanimously.

**1060 Hwy. Avenue**        The Council was given a brief update on the abatement process at 1060 Highway Avenue. A representative from the Renville County Sheriff's Department will be present at the November meeting to present a plan as to the disposal of the items removed from the property. Bids will be solicited soon to raze the house. Because the hazardous tree located on the property hasn't been removed by the owner, Woelfel will contact a company to remove it. Tree removal costs will be assessed to the property taxes.

## Public Works

Woelfel submitted his monthly report. A timer will be installed on the lights at the basketball court as they have been left on overnight. A problem with the post chlorinator injector was discovered by doing monthly records. The post chlorinator was disassembled and cleaned with muriatic acid, inspected and reassembled. This injector is now operating correctly. A replacement should be ordered for the next time it fails. A motion was made by Lingl and seconded by Leach to approve the listed expenditures for the sewer portion of the splash pad project not to exceed the listed values. Passed unanimously.

## 2024-2025 Improvements

The Council reviewed the 2024-2025 Infrastructure Improvements Engineer Report. A representative from Bolton & Menk, Inc. was not present but available by phone if needed to discuss the report or answer questions. The city is still waiting to find out if we have been awarded any funding through the Public Facilities Authority (PFA) for the Capital Improvements Project (CIP) the city applied for this past spring. Having Bolton and Menk complete the topo survey was discussed with the proposed amount not to exceed \$9,000 and what the timeline would be to complete the survey if the city is awarded any funding. Other items that were discussed were the urgency of the projects included in the CIP, if the city would consider completing any of them with out receiving any funding, and should the city consider contacting other engineering firms. A decision has been tabled until a funding notification has been received.

Meeting adjourned.

Tracey Ahl, City Administrator