

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Bird Island City Council
November 13, 2023 at 7:00 PM

Members present: Prokosch, Leach, Lingl, Schneider (via ZOOM)

The meeting was called to order by Assistant Mayor Prokosch.

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

- Open Forum Mark Glesener was present on behalf of the Bird Island Lions Club to ask the Council for permission to trench an electrical line in Main Street Park to provide electrical outlets on the north and west sides of the park. The project will be paid for by the Lions Club. Their intention is to have this done before the upcoming holiday season to add more to the lighted display. Local contractors are on board to start the project as soon as possible with the forecasted nice weather this week. A motion was made by Lingl and seconded by Leach to give the Bird Island Lions Club permission to complete the proposed electrical project in the Main Street Park provided a map of the work completed is filed with the City Administrator and the ground is restored to its current condition. Passed unanimously.
- Law Enforcement Deputy Luke Jaques was present to give an update on the 1060 Hwy. Ave. abatement. The deadline to reclaim items removed from the property has expired. A plan has been put together to dispose of the items that have no resale value. Anything of value will be sold at auction with the proceeds to be used to offset the costs incurred during the abatement. A motion was made by Lingl and seconded by Leach to follow the recommendations of the Renville County Sheriff's Office to dispose of the items removed from 1060 Highway Avenue. Passed unanimously. The City will be accepting bids to raze the house as soon as the Judge signs the order at the court date scheduled for the middle of December.
- Resolution 8-23 Betty Christensen with Minnesota River Area Agency on Aging was here to present to the council the benefits of applying for membership in the AARP Network of Age-Friendly Communities. Over the past year she has been working with community members to complete a survey of the community needs. From that survey the pergola project next to the library was built. Being part of this network will open up more grant opportunities to the community. A motion was made by Lingl and seconded by Leach to approve Resolution 8-23, Approving the Application to Seek Membership in the AARP Network of Age-Friendly Communities. Passed unanimously.
- Cannabis Ordinance The Council reviewed the Renville County Ordinance Regulating the use of Cannabis and Cannabis Derived Products in Public Places. City Administrator will have an ordinance ready for the December meeting.
- Resolution 9-23 A motion was made by Lingl and seconded by Leach to approve Resolution 9-23 Authorizing Sale of Real Estate. Passed unanimously. The legal descriptions of the lots are: Lots 6 and 7, Block 2, Zimmerman's Second Addition.
- Township Fire Contracts A motion was made by Lingl and seconded by Leach to approve the 2024 Township Fire Contact Agreements, with no change from 2023. Passed unanimously.
- Learning Funhouse Lease A motion was made by Leach and seconded by Schneider to approve the 2024 Lease Agreement with The Learning Funhouse (same as 2023). Passed unanimously.
- Public Safety Aid The City of Bird Island will receive \$43,759 in Public Safety Aid from the State of Minnesota. Possible uses for the awarded money were discussed. Some suggestions were radar speed limit signs and fire department turn-out gear. The Council will continue this discussion when the money has been received.
- Mediacom Internet Due to a significant increase in price for internet service from Mediacom, the Administrator has

been comparison shopping with local providers. Because our current city email addresses are through Mediacom, we will need to change them over to a new provider before changing our internet service. Administrator will look into getting a registered domain email service instead of going with a free email provider. The Maintenance Department has switched to LightBeam Internet earlier this year and the City Office would like to do the same.

Maintenance Report Woelfel reviewed his monthly report with the Council. Sanitary sewer pond discharge limit has been reached and high phosphorous numbers are expected from pre-sampling. Pond levels are in OK shape for the winter. The storm pond is half full, a good winter level. Catch basins are continually plugging up from leaves and the sweeper has been busy. Asphalt patching was completed except the alley by Rumor's Bar. Snowplows will be assembled and worked on after some tree removal. The splash pad sanitary sewer work is underway with the parking area currently being planned out. Building footings will be dug soon. Water has been turned off at all parks.

Water Tower Inspection Report The Council reviewed the water tower inspection report from Maguire Iron. The current contract maintenance schedule appears to be right on track with a forecasted clean out/ROV and exterior renovation. Safety issues listed were discussed. Woelfel will get an estimate for a safety climb and report back at the next meeting.

NPDES Permit The Council reviewed the NPDES Permit Compliance Summary Report for the period of October 1, 2022 to September 30, 2023. The Phosphorus Management Plan will need to be updated. Two quotes were submitted and discussed but it was felt that the two weren't comparable. A motion was made by Lingl and seconded by Leach to accept the lower bid to update the Phosphorus Management Plan after two comparable bids are received from the same two companies. Passed unanimously.

Bolton & Menk Matt Miller from Bolton and Menk was here to present the status update on the PFA funding for the potential Capital Improvements Project (CIP) for 2024. Bird Island has made the draft list for funding but was not given the split between loan and grant funding. The total project cost is just under \$1.8 Million. The PFA funding applied for would cover about \$957,200 of the \$1.8 million. The funding would be for the lead service line replacement, watermain looping, filter media replacement at the water treatment plant and water distribution recon. Once the final list comes out in December, the City would have six months to finalize the planning and specifications. The next step for the project is to complete some survey work. Members of the Council did not feel comfortable moving forward with spending on the CIP project without knowing what the split between loans and grants would be. The priority of different parts of the project were discussed. The survey for the total project was \$9,000. Matt Miller was asked for an updated proposal to do survey work on just the area by the splash pad and also the area on Ranchwood. Lingl made a motion seconded by Leach to authorize up to \$5,000 for engineering fees to survey the project at Ranchwood and Birch for the Splash Pad Budget. Passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned.
Tracey Ahl, City Administrator

Special Email Vote:
After the meeting it was discovered the original amount on Resolution 9-23, Authorizing Sale of Real Estate was incorrect. The revised resolution was emailed to the council as soon as the error was discovered and corrected. Prokosch made a motion second by Lingl to approve the revised Resolution 9-23, Authorizing Sale of Real Estate with the corrected sale price amount of \$25,345. Motion Passed.

Tracey Ahl, City Administrator