

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

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

The regular meeting was called to order by Mayor Sander.

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

Open Forum

Rosemary Glesener was present to speak about the blight properties on Main Street near the Cultural Centre. She was wondering if there is an ordinance or if the City could put into place an ordinance on the way properties looked and are kept up. The Council was not aware of the Main Street properties she described but they will be added to the list for the Sheriff's Department to investigate.

**Splash Island
Adventure Park**

Kory Eiler and Ben Aaseth, Project Engineer, Interstate Engineering, Inc., were present to update the Council on the progress of the splash pad. The Council agreed to put the reclaim pond to the south of the splash pad with the shade shelter between the pickleball courts and the splash pad, the changing rooms/bathrooms south of the pickleball courts and east of the splash pad with a current cost estimate of \$896,000. Included in the current cost estimate is about \$200,000 in costs to get City infrastructure to the park. SIAP asked the Council if the City could help cover some of the costs and part of the labor by allowing City employee's to work on the project where able. The Council would like to look into fixing the infrastructure issues on Birch Avenue which may include looping the water line from Birch to Cherry. Members of the Council felt that the costs for getting the water to the splash pad park should be the City's responsibility since the City will eventually take over SIAP, similar to how they have helped with getting infrastructure to the ballfields in the past. Members of the Council agreed that it would be okay for City employees to work on this project because it will be a long-term asset for the City. SIAP would keep fundraising after this part of the project is complete to help expand the park in the future. The DNR Outdoor Recreation Grant could help cover \$350,000 of the costs of the project if SIAP is awarded the grant. The reclaim pond is needed in order to qualify for the grant and no work can be done prior to funds being awarded. The water from the splash pad would then be reused to help water the ballpark fields. A motion was made by Engelman and seconded by Prokosch to approve Resolution 1-23, approving MN DNR Outdoor Recreation Grant application and authorizing execution of agreements to implement the project. Passed unanimously.

Public Works

A Councilor was asked why the City removes snow for commercial properties and not for residential. Woelfel explained that the businesses are responsible for clearing their own property lots and the City removes excess snow piles to make room for delivery trucks. The State and County reimburse the City to remove snow from Highway 212 and the business section of Main Street. It was noted some Cobra street lights along the highway are out and MnDOT is aware the stop lights have been malfunctioning. Compliments were also given as to how nice the streets look after snow events and catch basins being cleared.

Bolton & Menk

Matt Miller, Bolton & Menk presented the updated Capital Improvements Plans (CIP) which was formulated based off past projects completed and conversations with Public Works Department on the current needs of the city. The new 2023 CIP includes five priority areas; Ranchwood/4th Street sewer problems, replace watermain and street surface 1 block on 5th street, replace 1 block of watermain on Birch Ave that services two properties, making a connection for the splash pad in that corner of Birch & 11th Street, and finally repair storm sewer and street surface on Cherry Ave between 9th & 10th Streets. It was also talked about

looping the watermain on Birch and Chery since they were both dead ends and that waterline would then go past the proposed location of the splash pad. In the next 5 years there will be money coming from the state for cities to get rid of the old lead and cast-iron water lines. The Council would like to see an updated cost estimate including the looping and replacement of the watermain on Elm Ave between 8th and Main Street. This would hopefully increase our score on the funding application. If we were to get funding through the Public Facilities Authority (PFA) application, the construction portion of the project would not happen until 2024. To complete items 1-5 it would cost roughly \$1,169,000. Matt thought the cost to do items 1-5, the block of looping and the block of watermain on Elm, would cost around \$1.5 million. The project would have to be completed two years after the funding would be awarded. The next step is to have a Preliminary Engineering Report (PER) completed with a cost between \$3,000-5,000. A motion was made by Engelmann and seconded by Schneider to have Bolton & Menk complete the PER (including CIP priority numbers 1-5, the block of looping and one block of lead) and PFA applications with the cost not exceeding \$5,000. Passed unanimously.

- Law Enforcement The Sheriff's Office was not available to give a quarterly update. Discussion on commercial nuisance properties for cleanup/removal was tabled until the March meeting. Vogelpohl was not present for the remote hearing on Jan 17th and was to be given a 45 day sentence for not complying with cleaning up his residence. The Administrator will follow up with the City Attorney regarding the case.
- LMCIT Liability Coverage Each year before insurance renewal, the City needs to officially decide whether or not to waive the statutory tort liability limits. If not waived, a claimant could recover no more than \$500,000. A motion was made by Engelmann and seconded by Leach to waive the statutory tort limits. Passed unanimously.
- Fire Relief Assn. Donation A motion was made by Prokosch and seconded by Schneider to approve the donation of \$1,049.74 from the Fire Relief Association for a new generator. Passed unanimously.
- Broaster Permit A motion was made by Prokosch and seconded by Leach to approve the renewal of a Consumption and Display Permit for The Broaster. Passed unanimously.
- Personnel A motion was made by Engelmann and seconded by Leach to hire Jaime Zamarron upon recommendation of Dustin Lynch for part-time on call maintenance help pending a background check. Passed unanimously.
- 2022 Financial Statement A copy of the 2022 Financial Statement was given to the council for review. No additional discussion took place. The City Auditor will be at the March meeting to present her audited financial statement. A motion was made by Engelmann and seconded by Schneider to approve the 2022 Financial Statement presented, contingent upon Auditor approval. Passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned.
Tracey Ahl, City Administrator