

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

Council members present: Sander, Leach, Schneider, Prokosch

The regular meeting was called to order by Mayor Sander.

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

2022 Audited Financial Report Sara Oberloh, CPA with Oberloh & Oberloh, Ltd. was present to review the Audited Financial Report for the year ended 12-31-22. Because the City's population is under 2500, we are allowed to report on a cash basis, which is different than the accounting principles generally accepted in the U.S. Management and Auditor responsibilities were identified, and no material misrepresentations were noted. No legal compliance issues were found and two internal control findings were cited (same every year due to limited staff). The financial reports in the audit were reviewed. The unassigned General Fund balance at year end was 138% of the subsequent year's budgeted disbursements, which is above the State Auditor's recommendation. The City could assign some of these funds to future capital purchases/projects. A motion was made by Prokosch and seconded by Schneider to approve the Audited Financial Report as presented. Passed unanimously.

Law Enforcement Deputy Ben Dehmlow was present to answer any questions regarding the last quarterly law enforcement report. The abatement process will proceed at 1060 Highway Avenue as soon as the snow has melted. Commercial property nuisances and how to identify them was discussed again.

SWMHP Workshop Southwest Minnesota Housing Partnership will be holding a workshop in Bird Island in May. The City's three main goals to address are: loss of aging population, housing rehab, and marketing the lots that are available for sale. Council members will be reaching out to community members to participate in the workshop and help the City address the main goals.

Public Works Woelfel reviewed his monthly report with the Council. Spring thaw and preventable flooding measures were discussed. Residents are reminded to remove sump pumps from the sanitary sewer on March 15th of every year or when the weather becomes more favorable to avoid freezing during the night. Discharge lines should run out to the street to drain into the storm sewer. Woelfel will be contacting Dan Wolff, Civil Defense Director, to plan for potential flooding in problem areas.

Ball Park Contract The Council reviewed the 2023 Ball Park Complex Contract. There was a change with the monthly fees being increased \$250 per month for a total of \$1250 over the 5 months of the contract. This increase in fees is to help the BOLD Baseball Association cover the additional expense of maintaining the areas BOLD School was previously responsible for. A motion was made by Prokosch and seconded by Leach to approve the 2023 Ball Park Complex Contract contingent upon BOLD School's approval of the changes as well. Passed unanimously.

Spring Clean Up City Staff was asked to contact Jon Mitchell, Redwood Renville Regional Solid Waste Authority, to work on a solution to the problem of electronics and appliances being dumped prior to the RRRSWA collection dates/times. Wednesday, May 3rd and Thursday, May 4th are the possible dates discussed for the City Spring Clean Up to coincide with the RRRSWA electronics and appliance recycling at the Fairgrounds.

Personnel Pay Rate A motion was made by Prokosch and seconded by Leach to approve to pay Deb Lingl at her last hourly rate prior to retirement for on-call services. Passed unanimously.

Fire Relief Donation A motion was made by Schneider and seconded by Leach to approve the donation of \$3539.62 from the Fire Relief Association for new rescue saws. Passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned.

Tracey Ahl, City Administrator