

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Bird Island City Council
Monday, April 13, 2026 at 7:00 PM

Members present: Sander, Prokosch, Lingl, Schneider, Leach

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

Renville County Pork Producers Michael Kingstrom, Renville County Pork Producers, was present to discuss the idea of allowing 4-H members to raise pigs in the Renville County fairground's swine building. The program would run for 6 to 8 months leading up to the fair with a maximum of 10 pigs. The Council had concerns about the fairgrounds being in a residential area, animal waste, and snow removal. The Council will resume discussion at the May meeting.

Ball Park Complex Mike Nagel, president of the BOLD Baseball/Softball Association, lead a presentation on a proposed fastpitch softball field addition to the current ball park complex.

Derek Flann, BOLD School Athletic Director, started by catching the Council up with the inferior field conditions the BOLD softball team is currently playing on in the City of Olivia. The fields are being used by many different teams and equipment is being moved around to accommodate the requirements of each team. They have hit some road blocks trying to make improvements at the Olivia fields. Flann stated the situation is not ideal for BOLD Girls Softball team and the team will play on the best field in the district, no matter what community that field is located in.

Ben Aaseth, Interstate Engineering, shared a mockup of what the proposed project will look like. The new field will be a reconstruction of the north field inside the current track. The City will have to install catch basins at the end of Park Street East to remedy flooding issues. Some of the features the new field will have include; enclosed dug outs, clay surface pitcher's circle and home plate, permanent fencing, and accessible walking paths connecting all the fields that will eventually be concrete or asphalt. Benefits of having the new field near the current baseball field will be the shared use of the press box for announcing, music during games, and storage of equipment. The Lily Pad building will be refurbished to be used as a concession stand which will now be known as "Gunner's Lily Pad". A sprinkler system will be trenched in and trees will be planted to improve the complex aesthetics. Score boards will be installed between the north and south fields.

Sara Anderson, St. Mary's Business Manager, read a letter on behalf of The Leadership Team & Administration Council St. Mary's Church and School regarding the proposed field improvements. Some concerns included: student activity space, walking track access, and parking infrastructure. St. Mary's is not opposed to the project but safety of their students and the integrity of parish operations should remain a priority. Nagel addressed the issues raised. St. Mary's will continue to have access to the green space and will have a key to the locked fence; however, the clay mound and home plate will be covered with tarps rendering the field useless for student use. An asphalt track will be included in the project which will be better than the current gravel track. St. Mary's parking lot will remain off limits during the hours of 7:30 AM – 5:30 PM to ensure safety of the school children and avoid parking problems for parishioners. The Baseball/Softball Association will work with St. Mary's to ensure this is not an issue. A maintenance vehicle access will be added to eliminate people driving on the track/grass area.

Total estimated cost of this project is \$200,000. BOLD Baseball/Softball Association and BOLD Softball Boosters will be funding the entire project through fundraisers and donations. The only foreseen expenses for the City of Bird Island will be installing the catch basins and insuring the complex.

Currently the Association is working on remodeling the hall of fame building. Electricity will be connected, a maintenance free deck will be added, and the area will be landscaped. A dedication ceremony is being planned for July 10, 2026 where the building will be named the Bob Bohm Bird Island Baseball Hall of Fame.

A motion was made by Prokosch and seconded by Leach to approve moving forward with the ball park complex improvement project as presented by Mike Nagel. Passed unanimously.

Ball Park Complex
Joint Powers
Agreement

Nagel questioned who is responsible for paying for gas in the mowers used at the ball park complex. The Association has 3 lawn mowers used to tend different areas of the complex but are using the City's mowers to care for the inferior fields and charging gas used in those mowers to the city. According to the 2026 Ball Park Complex Contract, the Baseball Association will take over mowing responsibilities from the School. Nagel stated the Association can take over the mowing responsibilities and paying for gas but it may turn out the Association may need to ask for more money from the other parties listed in the contract. Derek Flann stated BOLD School can increase their monthly fee payment of the services provided by the Association. The Council will revisit this subject at a future meeting.

Vacated 9th Street

The City is not interested in assuming ownership of the vacated portion of 9th Street currently owned by BOLD Schools at this time.

Blight List

The Council reviewed the blight property list provided by the Renville County Sheriff's Office. Letters will be sent to violators.

Public Works

Maintenance Supervisor Thompson reviewed his monthly report with the Council. Items discussed included: school demolition, street sweeping, repairing water main shut-offs, and dust control. The pickleball nets will be going up and the bathrooms will be opened soon. Residents are reminded to switch their sump pumps from the sanitary sewer to outside curbs.

State Pond Lots

The city would have to hire the engineer to complete a preliminary engineering report prior to selling the undeveloped lots around the State storm water pond.

Temporary Shelter

A motion was made by Lingl and seconded by Schneider to approve the Memorandum of Understanding for Temporary Shelter/Community Partner with EON, Inc. Assisted Living. Passed unanimously.

Fire Department

A motion was made by Schneider and seconded by Leach to approve hiring Kyle Athmann as a fire fighter. Passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned.

Dawn Soukup, Deputy Clerk