

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Bird Island City Council
July 10, 2023 at 7:00 PM**

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

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Sander.

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

Senior Housing Chris Knoll with Heartland Partners and Gene Wenstrom, Bird Island EDA Advisor, presented the Council with a comparison of neighboring facilities rates and services, an updated examined forecast report, and projected rates and budget for the proposed facility. It was determined the facility will be financially stable at 90% capacity. A commitment from the City of \$600,00 in taxable G.O. Tax Abatement Bonds would increase property taxes by 11% over a 15-year term. Bonds won't need to be secured until half way into the construction. If at that time it was determined a lesser amount was needed the City could bond for less than \$600,000. A motion was made by Engelmann and seconded by Prokosch for the City to secure \$600,000 in bonds for Island Living Senior Housing Project. Passed unanimously. Gene Wenstrom will make a personal contribution of \$5000 to the project. The Council thanked Gene for his hard work and generosity.

Splash Island Adventure Park Kory Eiler was present to thank former City Administrator Deb Lingl for all of her work on the DNR Outdoor Recreation Grant. \$350,000 was awarded to The City of Bird Island at the end of June and now the full project is able to come to fruition. Construction will begin when the paperwork has been processed with the DNR. The City is in the process of purchasing the land from BOLD School. Irrigation options for the reclaimed water was discussed. A motion was made by Engelmann and seconded by Schneider to authorize Woelfel to approve stock purchase of manholes and related supplies not to exceed \$12,000. Passed unanimously.

Baseball Park Complex Mike Nagel started with sharing the BOLD Baseball Association has grown immensely over the last year and discuss future plans for the Lions Memorial Park. The Association would like to add a shelter similar to the one currently in use at the park. The City's Building Inspector is requesting an engineer to approve the plans. Ahl will check with the City's Attorney to see if engineer approved plans are necessary. A motion was made by Prokosch and seconded by Engelmann to approve the BOLD Baseball Association to build a line structure at the ball park contingent upon remarks from the Attorney. Passed unanimously.

Public Works Woelfel presented his report to the Council. The following items were discussed:

- Main Street sidewalks were inspected. A motion was made by Engelmann and seconded by Leach to repair the sinking sidewalks due to the ground settling from the sewer separation project to remove tripping hazards. Passed unanimously. Woelfel will forward an estimate to repair the curbs to the Council when he receives it.
- Woelfel would like to continue removing and cleaning up trees in Sunrise Park. The tree removal budget will be increased for next year.
- Due to the power outage over the weekend the control panel on the sanitary lift station was damaged. The new controller has been ordered and will be installed later this week. There has been discussion to disconnect the landlines and go to cellular phone use alarms. Woelfel will get a cost estimate for adapting to a cellular alarm.
- A motion was made by Leach and seconded by Prokosch to purchase a pull behind sweeper on an auction from the County not to exceed \$2000. Passed unanimously.
- Woelfel present the council with the cost estimate on what it would cost to bring the south connection up to compliance. Dave was not able to get a letter from MDH on whether a backflow preventor is required, instead they sent guidelines based on the risk of contamination to the drinking water. It was determined that if the connection was switched

back to the original connection on the north side of the railroad tracks, the connection would be back in compliance with the City's ordinance. The City would still take over the ownership of the line between the two watermains because it benefits the City. If water customers have any problems after it is switched back the Council will then reevaluate and look at making the south connection compliant.

- Shipping Container Ordinance The Council reviewed the proposed portable storage/shipping container ordinance. Adoption is tabled until the Sheriff's Department can review and give approval.
- Hazardous Building The property at 750 Ash Avenue was discussed. City Administrator received an email from the attorney wanting to know how the City would like to proceed in the abatement process since we are past the date the new owners had to bring the property into compliance. The new owner did pay to get a structural engineer and a building permit for the north wall of the building. The City Administrator will follow up with the attorney on what the next steps for the City are and to ask for the Judge to weigh in. They council would like the north wall repaired to make it a secure structure before winter and the pile of debris behind the building cleaned up.
- Engelmann Resignation Council Member Engelmann presented the mayor with his resignation letter effective September 1, 2023. Engelmann was thanked for his many years served on the Council.
- Meeting adjourned.
Tracey Ahl, City Administrator