

City Council Meeting  
November 12, 2024

The City Council met at 6:00 PM at Oakes Community Center with the following members present: Mayor Sitzler, Council: Day, Mayer, Kelly, Hollinsworth and Harris. Employees present: Matt O'Brien, Steve Berntson, Lee Bredeson, Fallon Kelly and Zasha Johnson.

PUBLIC HEARING RENAISSANCE ZONE RENEWAL: Mayor Sitzler opened the hearing, Johnson gave a summary of the history of the zone, the projects that have applied and the tax benefits allowed. No input, objections or questions were received prior to the hearing. No one in attendance has any objections. Hollingsworth moved, Mayer second to approve the extension of the Renaissance Zone for five years, carried, unanimous vote. Mayor Sitzler closed the hearing.

Mayor Sitzler began the meeting by informing the council of a portfolio change, Mayer will now be on the Finance Portfolio and Harris will be on the Public Works Portfolio.

Engineer Report: Josh Roehrich, Moore Engineering discussed the street project wrap up for this year and briefly outlined work remaining for next year. Kelly moved, Day second to approve change order #2 for the drainage cover near Cummings Field, carried. Hollingsworth moved, Kelly second to approve contractor's application for payment #5 as presented, carried. Harris moved, Day second to approve Moore Engineering invoice 41015 as presented, carried. Berntson verified the Moore invoice for water plant assistance, Harris moved, Day second to approve Moore invoice 41018, carried. Roehrich informed council that clean water state revolving fund project applications were submitted.

Minutes, Auditor and Court Report: Harris moved, Hollingsworth second to approve minutes, carried. Mayer moved, Day second to approve police report, carried. Harris moved, Hollingsworth second to approve auditor reports, carried.

Game of Chance Permit: Mayer moved, Day second to approve game of chance permits as follows, carried.

1. Hospital Foundation, Calendar Raffle
2. Hangsleben Benefit, Raffle

Bills: Mayer moved, Kelly second to approve bills as listed, roll call approved:

Aflac	177.15	Aqua Pure	500.00
Avid Hawk	200.00	Agtegra	289.35
Banyon Data Systems	2,915.00	Beckman Septic	150.00
City of Fargo	216.00	Computer Express	445.99
Dakota Supply Group	36.58	Dakota Improvement	566.60
Dakota Performance	99.63	Dakota Valley Electric	388.00
Dickey County Recorder	20.00	DRN	969.82
Fabian Pest Control	105.00	GS Services	300.00
Information Technology	130.40	J&K Seamless	6350.00
James River Repair	649.87	John Deere Financial	37.92
Kustom Machine	17.50	Mertz Lumber	4.99
Midwest Pest Control	138.00	Mike Sandy	3200.00
Moore Engineering	550.00	Novak	1021.60
Napa	63.53	ND One Call	19.50
ND Dept of Quality	100.00	NDPERS-Insurance	18,080.38
NDPERS-Retirement	12,134.25	ND Water Users	300.00
Nichole Nitschke	176.00	OEI	12,368.08
Oakes Times	307.11	Oakes Truck & Trailer	572.25
Ottertail	7,786.62	Praskas Hardware	377.69
Primary Arms	531.53	Roadway Services	14981.76

Rods Cleaning	80.00	Sanitation Product	1601.46
Seyer Plumbing	325.00	Starion Bank	2,407.04
Sweets & Stories	68.84	Tornado Stop	2161.11
US Blue Book	91.80	USDA	21068.00
Valley Plains Equipment	37.92	Van Diest Supply	2080.00
Verizon Wireless	487.89	Visa-library	925.11
Visa-city	732.54	Vistos Carquest	63.16
Waste Management	13569.49		
Salaries	80,092.48	Payroll Taxes	19,194.89

Committee Reports: The quote for updating water plant computer/alarm systems was discussed. Moore will schedule meeting with water committee to review and ensure it is the best use of funds. Chad Raatz was introduced as the new public works employee, Mayer moved, Day second to officially hire Raatz, carried. Chief O'Brien informed council Officer Toepke will be attending Firearm Instructor Training in December. After the training he will be able to certify our officers, and we won't have to depend on an outside agency. A request was made to have a central rural trash pickup in a neighborhood south of town. Pros and cons were discussed and the council is not in favor of this option, no action taken. Appreciation was expressed to the Fire Department, Jeremy & Jerry, for their assistance in cleaning up around the City Shop. Southeast Rural Water has requested permission to place an antenna on the water tower to assist them in remote reading their water meters. Hollingsworth moved, Kelly second to give permission with a \$100/year fee, carried. Kelly brought up the need for part time help in the public works department, especially with winter and snow removal coming up. Kelly moved, Day second to hire five part-time temporary workers at \$27/hr for snow removal. Kelly amended his motion to hire five part-time temporary workers at \$27/hr, Day second the amendment, carried. The stop light on Highway 1 was discussed, specifically the timing of the red to green light in each direction. It is thought that during construction this summer something was changed that shortens the amount of time north/south lights stay green. M. Kelly will reach out to the DOT office in Valley City to determine if there are specific regulations regarding timing of the light. A resident has disputed billing for asphalt millings as the majority of the millings were spread in the city alley leading to the driveway. Council debated removing the millings or allowing them to stay, no action taken. The need to keep some older equipment at the shop was debated. The green pickup may be able to be utilized for police/fire training. The old sander should be disposed of. Hollingsworth presented a quote for run-flat tires for the Bobcat as multiple punctures occurred while at the landfill recently. The Bobcat is rarely used at the landfill and typically does not have tire issues, will discuss the topic again next spring.

Unfinished Business: Council member pay was discussed. Mayor Sitzler presented a summary of pay for similar sized towns. Harris moved, Mayer second to introduce and approve resolution setting council member pay at \$250/month and Mayor pay at \$300/month, carried. Information about the Red River water supply project was reviewed. Hollingsworth moved, Day second to not participate in the red river water supply project, carried.

New Business: Miller's Fresh Food application for off-sale liquor license was reviewed. Miller's representatives answered questions and conversation took place. Hollingsworth moved, Kelly second to approve the application as presented, motion failed, Harris, Mayer and Day- Nay, Kelly and Hollingsworth-Aye. New Residential Property Tax exemption application for Oakes Housing Partners was presented, Hollingsworth moved, Day second to approve the exemption, carried. An inquiry was made on the City owned lots on the 400 Block of Main Avenue. Due to the value of the lots, they will have to be placed for sale on bids. Hollingsworth moved, Day second to advertise the lots for sale on bids, with minimum bid of \$7,000 and a business plan must accompany the bid, carried. Landfill winter hours were discussed, Mayer moved, Harris second to close the landfill for the season on December 1<sup>st</sup>, carried. A spring opening date will be discussed next year.

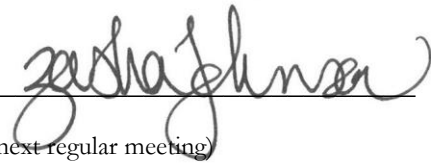
Announcements & Correspondence:

Thank You card was received from Scout Micah Malmberg for contribution to his Eagle Scout project. City Hall will be closed November 28 & 29 for Thanksgiving.

Mayer moved, Day second to adjourn the meeting at 8:03PM.

MAYOR \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Zasha Johnson", written over a horizontal line.

(minutes subject to correction and approval at the next regular meeting)