

City Council Meeting  
September 11, 2023

The City Council met at 6:00 PM at Oakes Community Center with the following members present: Mayor O'Brien, Council: Bagley, Harris, Day, Hernandez-Waite, Bakke and Mayer. Employees present: Matthew O'Brien, Dan Brandner, Lee Bredeson, Steve Berntson, Jason Paradis and Zasha Johnson. Visitors: Betty Kelly, Yolanda Zimbleman, Ricky Gamon Jr., Ariel Gamon, Sonia Meehl, Monica Heimbuch, Rhonda Day, Steve Johnson and George Rick.

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

Game of Chance Permits: Mayer moved, Harris second to approve permits as listed, carried.

1. Knights of Columbus – Calendar Raffle
2. The Lions Club - Calendar Raffle

Bills: Bakke moved, Day second to approve bills excluding any Moore Engineering bill, carried.

Agtegra Coop	495.50	Aflac	118.10
American Legion	500.00	American Welding & Gas	39.14
Astech	22,050.00	A-Train Auto	2100.00
Avid Hawk	200.00	B&K Murphy Plumbing	151.40
Central Business Systems	165.46	City of Fargo	230.00
Computer Express	10.00	Crossroads Electric	1,389.31
Dakota Performance	896.99	Dakota Valley Electric	202.00
Daniel Kenney	1,100.00	DRN	858.45
Economy Oil	2,644.61	Fabian Pest	215.00
Geffdog Designs	505.00	GS Services	150.00
Hach Company	83.54	Hawkins	1,106.68
Jane Demoray	255.00	James River Repair	142.00
Kamstrup	1,157.08	Information Tech	115.40
Kustom	78.65	Mertz Lumber	4.47
Midwest Equipment	123.00	Napa	118.09
ND Dept. Environment Quality	141.83	NDPERS-Insurance	19,770.82
Novak Electric	524.50	NDPERS-Retirement	7,627.19
Oakes Enhancement	17,309.20	Oakes Chamber	1700.00
Oakes Times	483.24	Oakes Truck & Trailer	602.79
Online Dakota Info	24.00	One Call	15.60
Ottertail	6,593.73	Paradis Law	500.00
Pat Nelson	35.00	Patrick O'Brien	387.00
Praskas	355.45	Rods Cleaning	80.00
Sanitation Products	167.67	Starion Bank	2407.04
Sweeney Control Company	9,568.33	Sweets & Stories	101.99
Team Lab	886.00	Tornada Stop	5,932.70
Valley Plains Equipment	1,846.17	Visa-library	339.65
Visa-City	1,957.65	Vistos	93.38
Waste Management	12,957.71		
Payroll Taxes	13,429.42	Salaries	57,325.03

Visitors: Sonia Meehl, Oakes School Board President, presented the council with information regarding their ongoing facility update project. Priorities have been identified and their board is discussing the possibility of a \$16.5 million dollar project in the near future. Ricky Gamon Jr. inquired about the veterinary clinic that is opening across the alley from his home. He has concerns about livestock, traffic and general cleanliness problems this business could bring. Assurances were made that these issues will be contained and city ordinances will be enforced.

Engineer Report: Discussed the street improvement project including the possibility of using a private company with in-house engineers, the amount of engineering needed for a street project and the size/scope of the project. Considered pros & cons of doing project now versus delaying for a few years. Bakke moved, Harris second to table a decision on the street project until the next meeting, roll call vote Mayer-yes, Harris-yes, Bagley-no, Day-no, Hernandez-Waite-no, Bakke-yes, O'Brien-no, motion failed. Reber explained possible next steps and timing if the project is still expected to start in 2024. Bagley moved, Day second to authorize engineer to move forward with design of the project including beginning work prior to contract signing, roll call vote Mayer-no, Harris-no, Bagley-yes, Day-yes, Hernandez-Waite-yes, Bakke-no, O'Brien-yes, motion carried. Reber has filled out application for drinking water state revolving funds, this application only makes the city eligible for funding, does not have a requirement to move forward with a project. Harris would like to look at longer bond options on the street project with idea to refinance to shorter terms once existing assessments are paid off.

Committee Reports: Mayer asked about doing more mosquito spraying. Bagley updated council on cemetery maintenance with Doosan employees volunteering to do some tree/brush removal. Discussed water treatment plant and Steve Johnson with Aqua-Pure spoke about his assistance to Steve Berntson at the plant and ongoing plans to keep things running smoothly. Day explained that inspections were completed on the lift stations and we are awaiting the report. Repairs will qualify for payment from ARPA funds. O'Brien explained recent training that he and Sitzler had attended. Spoke about equipment needs for high risk situations. Brander told the council the old generator will be going to auction, have tried to sell multiple times with no luck. Snowplow updates are needed, will be looking at the upcoming state auction.

Unfinished Business: The police department roof is still leaking after repairs, will check on it again.

New Business: Bagley moved, Mayer second to deny permission for owner of 5 Main Ave to connect a new service line to an existing service line instead of the main line, carried. Harris moved, Day second to approve the chamber request for \$1700.00 from tourism funds for the Wine Walk, carried. Bagley moved, Harris second to appoint Rod Rodningen as city assessor for the next two years, carried. Residents have requested a new stop sign at the intersection of Kola & 11th Street due to speeding drivers and a recent accident. As part of the street project, will ask Moore to make recommendations on traffic control. Bagley moved, Harris second to deny a request for reimbursement of an individual's auto deductible, carried. Day moved, Harris second to deny reimbursement for a mailbox damaged by the snow last winter, carried.

#### Announcements & Correspondence:

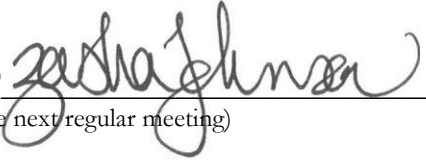
Water appropriation notice received from Forward Farm. Water appropriation change notice received from Quandt Brothers. Proposed changes to leash law and penalties received from Sharon Dudley, committee will review to determine next steps. Bagley voiced her concern over the recent tree trimming undertaken by the police department. She received several complaints and felt that more communication could have occurred with homeowners. Others stated the trimming was done with good intentions with traffic and pedestrian safety in mind.

Mayer moved, Hernandez-Waite second to adjourn the meeting at 8:49PM.

MAYOR \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST \_\_\_\_\_

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

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