

City Council Meeting
September 10, 2024

The City Council met at 6:00 PM at Oakes Community Center with the following members present: Mayor Sitzler, Council: Day, Hernandez-Waite, Mayer, Hollingsworth and M. Kelly. Employees present: Matthew O'Brien, Lee Bredeson, Steve Berntson, Fallon Kelly and Zasha Johnson. Visitors: Kausha Magill and Cindy Bagley, Brandon Reber & Josh Roehrich – Moore Engineering.

2nd Reading Chapter 1 Ordinance Amendment: Mayer moved, Harris second to approve amendment as presented, carried.

Engineer Report: Reber gave an updated timeline for the street improvement project and discussed consequences if the contractor exceeds the project deadline. M. Kelly moved, Day second to pay contractor's payment #3, carried. Hollingsworth moved, M. Kelly second to pay Moore invoice 40126, carried. Reber presented an invoice for water plant assistance. Berntson verified it was correct, Mayer moved, Day second to approve payment of invoice 40131, carried. Reber discussed the latest developments in the Lead Line Inventory project, it will involve notifying all residents of the dangers of lead lines.

Minutes, Auditor and Police Reports: Mayer moved, Day second to approve police report, carried. Mayer moved, Day second to approve minutes, carried. Hernandez-Waite moved, Hollingsworth second to approve auditor reports, carried.

Building Permits: Mayer moved, Day second to approve permits as listed, carried.

1. S 10' Of Lot 7 & All Of Lots 8 & 9 & N 15' Of Lot 10 Blk 2 Outlots & Additions, Front Steps
2. Lot 6 Block 1 Reko's 2nd Addn, New Home
3. OEI – Multiple demolition permits

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

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

Bills: M. Kelly moved, Mayer second to approve bills as presented, carried.

Aflac	118.10	American Welding & Gas	40.52
Aqua Pure	1384.00	Avid Hawk	200.00
Bituminous Paving	39,730.50	Central Business Systems	209.72
City of Fargo	42.00	Dakota Performance	323.05
Dakota Supply Group	262.22	Dakota Valley Electric	195.00
DRN	971.70	Economy Oil	934.88
Embroidery Creations	67.92	Fabian Pest	230.00
GS Services	100.00	Information Tech	130.40
Kustom	12.18	Lexipol	376.20
Midstates Wireless	1520.00	Midwest Radar & Equipment	82.00
Moore Engineering	86,467.74	Napa	317.49
ND Dept. of Chemistry	591.29	NDPERS-Insurance	21,093.56
Novak Electric	137.36	NDPERS-Retirement	9,498.97
Oakes Enhancement	15,676.90	Oakes Chamber	2000.00
Oakes Times	310.11	Oakes Truck & Trailer	578.78
Oakes Park Board	22,243.44	One Call	69.85
Ottertail	11,730.78	Praskas	645.93
Rods Cleaning	80.00	Starion Bank	2407.04

Strata Corp	1035.38	Sweeney Control Company	280.00
Sweets & Stories	60.33	Tornada Stop	2,398.99
Verizon	466.82	Visa-library	457.91
Visa-City	496.19	Vistos	32,161.59
Waste Management	13,163.99	Zacks Repair	83.00
Payroll Taxes	15,395.61	Salaries	65,287.20

Visitors: Kausha Magill, Oakes Chamber Director, submitted a request for tourism funds for the upcoming Wine Walk and “Oh Deer” weekend. Both events draw a significant number of out-of-town visitors and funds are used for advertising, busses, maps and punch cards. Mayer moved, Day second to approve request for \$2000.00, carried. Magill also introduced the council to the new Oakes App they have been working on.

Final Budget Hearing: Johnson presented the 2025 budget of \$487,415.17. This is a 1.3% increase over the 2024 budget. Cash reserves were discussed as was the street maintenance projects fund established in 2024. Day moved, Hernandez-Waite second to approve budget as presented, carried.

Committee Reports: After discussion regarding improper dumping at the waste disposal site, Mayer moved, Hollingsworth second to purchase two trail cameras including wireless service plans for installation at the site, carried. Mayer expressed thanks to Dan Brandner and Troy Schumacher for their service to the city. Also, in recognition of his dedicated service to the City Mayer moved, Day second to give Lee Bredeson a pay increase of \$1.00/hour, carried. Council members have offered to assist with tasks such as mowing and landfill attendant, it was questioned if they can be paid for those hours. It was also questioned whether the council can vote to increase their regular monthly pay, Johnson will research. M. Kelly also wished to thank Brandner and Schumacher. Discussed allowing the fire department to have some of the millings for their parking lot area. M. Kelly moved, Day second to have millings delivered directly to their parking lot, carried. The possibility of hiring outside help from private contractors has been considered, will need to look at insurance issues if contractors are using city equipment. Novak Electric is working on the repairs to the street light power line near the school that was hit during construction. Talked about options and uses for the construction material that was deposited at the waste disposal site. Day asked to have the drain in the skating rink area flagged or covered. The police department will be attending an active shooter training course early next year. They will be able to train others on what they learn such as faculty at the school. There are some issues with rain gutters on the south side of the community center, Hollingsworth will contact J&K Seamless to take a look. Hollingsworth is working with a contact to replace the sign at the waste disposal site. The front addition of the old armory is in bad condition and is not suitable for storage of any items that can't be exposed to the elements. The possibility of removing that section and adding a garage door for city use was proposed as a project for the future. There are old lights in that area as well, Hollingsworth knows someone who would take the lights to be crushed but the bulbs will need to be disposed of separately. Berntson explained that the water towers need to be cleaned and inspected, it is typically done every other year and was missed last year. Hollingsworth moved, M. Kelly second to authorize Maguire Iron to complete the inspection, carried. Given that September 13th is the last day of employment for Brandner and Schumacher it was discussed to change waste disposal site hours, it was decided to be open Saturdays from 8am-2pm for the time being. Fall Clean-Up was also discussed and due to the staffing shortage, it was decided to have free fall clean-up for one day, Saturday October 12th from 8am-3:30pm at the waste disposal site. There has been multiple inquires regarding the asphalt millings from the street project. Because the contractor will use some of them when rebuilding the base for the road nothing will be done until the project is completed. At that time, they will be offered for sale at \$12.50/yard and individuals will be responsible for their own hauling and spreading.

Unfinished Business: Johnson presented a list of garbage rate increases that are needed to maintain the fund going forward. Rates for users with higher volumes of garbage were increased more as well as considerable increases for rural customers. Rates have not increased since 2015. Day moved, Hollingsworth second to

increase rates as presented, carried. Sewer line easement on Dollar General property was discussed. F. Kelly explained the options available to the City and possible costs for each. Council would like to counter the offer submitted by the current owner; F. Kelly will handle communications with the current owner.

New Business: Park Maintenance contract was discussed, a joint meeting between the Park Board and City Council will be scheduled to determine expectations for both parties and any updates that may be needed. Owner of Lot 9 Block 24 Washburn's Addn has requested permission to cut back the curbing in front of their home to allow creation of a driveway for off-street parking. Hollingsworth moved, Day second to approve request, carried. First reading of Chapter 4 Ordinance Amendments concerning Fire Protection, Hollingsworth moved, Hernandez-Waite second to approve first reading as presented, carried.

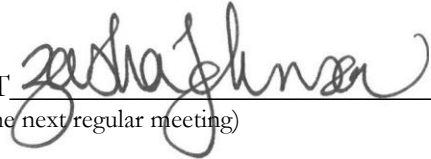
Announcements & Correspondence:

Johnson will be attending the League of Cities Annual Conference in Grand Forks September 18-20.

Mayer moved, Hollingsworth second to adjourn the meeting at 8:12PM.

MAYOR _____

ATTEST _____



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