

City Council Meeting
January 14, 2025

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

New Police Officer: Brent Larson was introduced as the newly hired police officer for the City. Mayor Sitzler administered the Oath of Office and Larson was welcomed by the Council.

Engineer Report: Brandon Reber, Moore Engineering gave a brief recap of the street construction project and presented invoices for project expenses and water plant support. Hollingsworth moved, Day second to approve Moore Invoices 41875 and 41877, carried. Reber presented an engineering agreement for a water treatment plant improvement project. Explained that grant funds could be applied for to allow more work to be completed. Kelly moved, Harris second to authorize Moore Engineering to apply for grant funds from NDDWR, carried.

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

Year-End Financial Statement: Mayer moved, Day second to approve the report as presented showing Year End Financials for 2024 ending cash balance \$ 5,001,915.84, carried.

Budget Amendment: Hollingsworth moved, Harris second to approve budget amendments for 2024 fiscal year increasing overall budget by \$247,196.16, carried.

Pledge of Assets and Designate Depositories: Starion Financial, First Community Credit Union, BankNorth are designated depositories with pledges of \$6,407,641.73, \$0.00, \$213,529.70 accordingly; Mayer moved, Hernandez-Waite second to accept report and depositories designation, carried.

Game of Chance Permit: Mayer moved, Day second to approve Oakes Post Prom permit for Bingo and Superbowl board, carried.

Bills: Mayer moved, Day second to approve bills as presented, carried. Johnson will verify the US Bank bill before issuing payment.

Aflac	118.10	Agtegra	4153.46
American Welding	80.32	Avid Hawk	200.00
B&K Murphy	1260.46	Brent Larson	105.00
Chads Electric	1111.24	City of Fargo	28.00
Colliers Securities	500.00	Computer Express	2525.00
Dakota Valley Electric	828.00	Dickey County	2,895.78
DRN	1177.41	Economy Oil	170.78
Fabian Pest Control	210.00	General Irrigation	23.06
Hills Cabinetry	3000.00	Information Tech	130.40
Kustom Machine	17.30	Midwest Pest Control	75.00
Mid States Crime Center	100.00	Mid States Wireless	877.50
Moore Engineering	3492.76	Napa	327.01
NDPERS-Ins.	20,127.44	NDPERS-Retirement	8,713.72
ND Dept. of Transportation	11.50	Novak Electric	414.50
Oakes Enhancement	14,079.97	Oakes Times	211.39

Oakes Truck & Trailer	3184.88	Omni Site	2,730.00
Ottetail	8,304.64	PPI Consulting	475.00
Praskas	451.71	Quill	222.74
R Enterprises	2343.94	Reserve acct-Pitney Bowes	4000.00
Rod's Cleaning	80.00	Starion Bank	2,407.04
Sweets & Stories	42.49	Tornado Stop	2,827.12
Verizon	487.89	Visa-Library	448.82
Visa-City	2865.83	Vistos	14.49
Waste Management	11,258.99		
Salaries	59,489.00	Payroll Taxes	13,866.92

Committee Reports: Discussed various public works items including the sandtruck, the stoplight inspection and streetlight damaged by a car accident. Thank you to the public works department and Scott Fahrenholz for his assistance with street cleanup. A quote was received to repair the blade, Kelly moved, Hollingsworth second to repair blade based on quote, Kelly amended his motion, Hollingsworth second to repair the blade at a cost of up to \$20,000, carried. Harris moved, Day second to authorize Dakota Improvement to haul the blade to Butler Machine to save on transportation costs, carried. A police incident involving forced entry into a home to respond to an emergency call was discussed. Chief O'Brien explained that Officer Larson is working on a limited license for the time, but because he was licensed in another state, he will only have to complete two weeks of training in ND. The first draft of the Employee Handbook updates was provided, this includes the addition of an option for a cash-in-lieu of benefits for health insurance as has been discussed previously. Berntson gave a report on the water plant, there are a few issues with pumps and some possible inspections needed on wells. Brandon Reber mentioned that if the inspections are not needed immediately, they could be included as part of pre-con for a water plant project. A quote was received to spray foam the shop, no action at this time. At this time new radios for first responders have to be ordered by the end of March, this includes police, fire and ambulance services.

Unfinished Business: The bidder on lots 6 & 7 Block 9 OP has declined to accept the counteroffer with contingencies from the council, lots will remain in possession of the City. Hollingsworth moved, Day second to have City Attorney Kelly proceed with updating the full ordinances including the flood zone ordinances as required, carried.

New Business: Flood zone ordinance requirements were discussed with F. Kelly as part of the ordinance update. The Park/Pool service contracts were discussed, Kelly moved, Day second to not renew agreement as written, carried. Committee will meet with Park Board members to discuss the contract.

Announcements & Correspondence:

Westgate Energy, LLC notice of change for water permit was received.

Mayer moved, Kelly second to adjourn the meeting at 7:47PM.

MAYOR _____

ATTEST _____

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

