

City Council Meeting
May 16, 2018

The City Council met at 6:00 PM at Oakes Community Center with the following members present: Mayor Zimmer and Council: Engel, Forward, O'Brien, Conklin, and Harris. Visitors present Dusty Farley-Oakes Times. Employees present: Pat Nelson, Gary Neuharth, and April Haring.

LED Highway Light Replacement

The City of Oakes has been awarded a grant through the Department of Commerce to upgrade the 54 lights along Highway 1 to LED fixtures. The application estimated costs to be \$22,000 with a 20% match of local funds or in-kind labor. The project must be completed by June 30, 2018, or the other option is to wait until after July 1, 2018, for the next funding award cycle. Bids have been requested for installation and supplies. Discussion was held to have City employees do most or all of the installation with the rental of a lift. Haring will check with the Department of Commerce to see if that would be acceptable and Nelson will check with suppliers and contractors. O'Brien moved, Harris second to accept lighting grant from the Department of Commerce for this fiscal year to be completed by June 30, 2018. Roll call approved.

City Attorney

Attorney Neuharth has requested compensation upon his resignation as City Attorney. Neuharth submitted an invoice for \$6,000.00 for unbilled services while working as City Attorney. Neuharth feels the announcement at the last Council meeting has impeded his credibility and his usefulness with city business has been compromised. He stated the precedence has been set with previous employee resignations and their separation compensation agreements. Neuharth has enjoyed working with the City and feels he has done an acceptable job; he would like a respectful, clean separation. Discussion was held regarding the amount of the request and principles with the invoice and resignation request. Neuharth stated all employees, appointed or at-will, have the rights to due process and liberty interests in their employment; with the offer he is proposing he is giving up those rights. Engel moved, Forward second to approve invoice of \$4,000.00 from Neuharth Law Office for unbilled services and accept the resignation of City Attorney Gary Neuharth. Roll call: O'Brien-no, Harris-yes, Conklin-yes, Forward-yes, Engel-yes, carried. Council wished him good luck and thanked him for his years of service.

Forward moved, Engel second to adjourn the meeting at 6:50 PM.

MAYOR Marty Zimmer ATTEST April Haring
(minutes subject to correction and approval at the next regular meeting)