

City Council Meeting
September 8, 2020

The City Council met at 6:00 PM at Oakes Community Center with the following members present: Mayor Zimmer and Council: O'Brien, Bagley, and Conklin. Schaefer, Bakke and Harris were absent. Visitors present: Corey Schall, Steve Frojen, Brian Osowski, David Peterson, Tim Forward and Mark Kuipers. Employees present: Jason Paradis, Kevin Haring, Matt O'Brien, Pat Nelson, Darrick Nitschke and Zasha Johnson.

Engineer Report:

None.

Minutes, Auditor and Court Report: Bagley moved, O'Brien second to approve minutes, auditor reports (cash balance, expenditures, revenues, tax income & journal entries) and police department report as presented, carried.

Game of Chance Permit: Conklin moved, O'Brien second to approve permits as listed, carried.

1. Junior Class, Calendar Raffle
2. American Legion Site Authorization amendment to include raffle

Building Permit: O'Brien moved, Bagley second to approve building permits as listed, carried:

1. Friedt, Lot 2 & S ½ Lot 3 Blk 4 Reko's Addn, Egress Window
2. Meyer, S 20' Lot 2 & All Lot 3 Blk 24 Washburn's Addn, Detached Garage
3. Gebhardt, S ½ Lot 5 & All Lot 6 Blk 10 Washburn's Addn, Concrete Driveway
4. Trageton, Lot 1 Blk 33 Western Town Lots, Garage

Bills: Conklin moved, O'Brien second to approve bills as listed, roll call approved:

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|--------------------------|------------|--------------------------|-------------|
| Acme Tools | \$39.49 | Napa Parts Supply | \$107.71 |
| Aflac | \$199.64 | ND Community Corrections | \$209.50 |
| Arthur Strutz | \$655.00 | ND One Call | \$21.60 |
| Austin Brummund | \$1,400.00 | NDPERS-Group Ins. | \$15,744.80 |
| Avid Hawk | \$200.00 | NDPERS-Retirement | \$6,955.01 |
| B&K Murphy Plumbing | \$219.69 | Oakes Enhancement | \$11,633.55 |
| Central Business Systems | \$197.37 | Oakes Truck & Trailer | \$2,605.61 |
| Circle R | \$181.92 | ODIN | \$34.00 |
| City of Fargo | \$28.00 | Otter Tail Power | \$7,745.53 |
| Code 4 Services | \$1,875.07 | Praska's Hardware Hank | \$231.36 |
| Computer Express | \$8,465.99 | Rod's Cleaning | \$350.00 |
| Dickey Rural Comm. | \$1,225.19 | Sanitation Products | \$2,287.17 |
| Fabian Pest Control | \$205.00 | Starion Bank | \$2,407.04 |
| Hawkins, Inc | \$2,561.50 | Streichers | \$162.96 |
| Jason Paradis Law Office | \$500.00 | Sweeney Controls | \$1,950.44 |
| Lisbon Body Shop | \$742.78 | Sweets N Stories | \$64.84 |
| Tokina McHarry | \$108.00 | Tornado Stop | \$1,615.84 |
| Visa-Library | \$335.94 | Visa-City | \$610.58 |
| Visto's Carquest | \$1,211.38 | Waste Management-Route | \$2,414.88 |
| Zack's Repair | \$21.00 | Oakes Area Chamber | \$225.00 |

Visitors:

Steve Frojen informed the council that Oakes will be hosting the State American Legion Baseball tournament next summer. They are looking at some improvements to the field and an area of concern is the water that flows and pools along the west side of the field. Various ideas were discussed regarding drainage or a ramp system at the entrance. The street crew will work on keeping the washouts smoothed out and bring in some gravel. The area will be monitored in the spring to determine how to move forward. Brian Osowski with AMKO Advisors presented the council with an analysis of current debt and discussed the option of refinancing multiple project loans to lower interest rates. AMKO reaches out to companies looking to buy out the existing bonds and refinance them; the results are presented to the council to decide if they wish to move forward. O'Brien moved, Conklin second to allow AMKO to reach out and get bids for refinancing. Paradis recommended that the City receive references from AMKO and speak more in depth regarding the process before moving forward. O'Brien requested to have his motion withdrawn; hearing no object the previous motion was withdrawn. Mr. Osowski will work with Johnson and Paradis to provide the requested information.

Tim Forward discussed the drainage along the railroad from 14th St to Hockenberry Park. He believes that a culvert is plugged and there may be some high spots that cause water to pool. The city has worked with Dakota Improvement to adjust the grade and will again look at the culverts and drains to improve flow.

Committee Reports:

Water Meters, portfolio members have decided that installation needs to start again. They would like to focus on businesses and then move on to scheduling appointments with any residents that feel comfortable. All necessary precautions will be taken, O'Brien moved, Bagley second to move forward with meter installation, carried. **Property Clean-Up**, progress was made but now appears to be stalled. Mayor Zimmer asked for public works and police input on entering properties and removing the items in violation as stated in City Ordinance. As more properties are addressed the same steps will need to be followed. **Park Board Contract**, after reviewing expenses for park maintenance it is likely the contract will need to be renegotiated. After mowing season ends expenses will be reviewed again to determine the amount and discussion will be had with the park board. **Cardboard**, there may be an option to change where the cardboard is hauled, Nitschke and Nelson are researching and will present more information as it is received. **Trees**, Bagley would like to see the dead trees along Highway 1 removed this fall with plan to replant new trees next spring. **Budget**, Conklin asked about the status of the budget, Johnson reported that the city had received Covid Relief Funds that will greatly improve the budget, updates will be sent out prior to October meeting. **Police Department**, Chief O'Brien stated there have been a number of thefts occurring around town lately with business being broken into. **Landfill**, changes to fees and billing at the landfill have greatly improved the revenues and crew is looking into possibility of hauling select items to the Gwinner Landfill rather than placing them in the roll-off dumpsters. **Lift station**, located near the old concrete plan on Fir Avenue is inoperable at this time. Quote was received to repair it and can be done very soon, O'Brien moved, Conklin second to accept the bid, carried.

New Business:

Propane Bids, Two bids were received: Economy Propane and Agtegra. Conklin moved, Bagley second to accept a bid for propane from Agtegra Coop of \$0.93/gallon for the 2020-2021 season, carried.

Fall Clean-Up Week, will be held October 12-17, landfill will be open for residents to dispose of accepted items free of charge.

O'Brien moved, Bagley second to adjourn the meeting at 7:49 PM.

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