

City Council Meeting  
October 5, 2020

The City Council met at 6:00 PM at Oakes Community Center with the following members present: Council: O'Brien, Bagley, Schaefer, Bakke, Harris and Conklin. Mayor Zimmer was absent. Visitors present: Linda Roney, Rebecca Udem and Cavin Berube, Moore Engineering. Employees present: Matt O'Brien, Pat Nelson, Darrick Nitschke and Zasha Johnson.

Public Hearing: Community Development Block Grant

Hearing was opened with same attendees. Rebecca Udem explained the grant is part of the slum & blight declaration that includes approximately 33 properties. This year \$40,000 was awarded and there are 5-7 properties that have qualified and will be able to claim funding. Funding will be used to improve the exterior of the properties further enhancing our downtown area. No one appeared to comment and no written comments were received. Conklin moved, Harris second to introduce and approve RESOLUTION TO SPONSOR MAIN STREET IMPROVEMENT APPLICATION FOR CDBG FUNDING, carried. Public hearing closed.

Engineer Report:

Berube reported he is waiting on final bill from DSG to close out Lagoon/Meter project with rural development. Street planning project is on hold, funding options are very limited. Quotes were received for relining the sewer line on Main between 14<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup> Street. Project will not proceed until next year with option to look at adding additional blocks.

Final Budget Hearing:

Johnson presented the final budget and explained some of the changes made. The state provided Covid Relief funds to each city from the federal amount given to them. These funds were enough to allow for budgeted transfers to reserve funds and decrease the amount levied for in the general fund. Bakke moved, Bagley second to remove the \$20,000 cash reserve from the presented budget and approve without it, unanimous roll call approved.

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

Building Permit: Harris moved, Bakke second to approve building permits as listed, carried:

1. Nodak Insurance, Lots 1-3 Blk 9 OP, Sign
2. Cindy Bagley, Lot 12 Blk 22 Washburns, Retaining Wall
3. Jeff Wiek, Lots 7-9 Blk 3 OP, Fence
4. Starion Complex, Blk1 & 2 Oakes School District Addn, Signs

Game of Chance Permit: Harris moved, Schaefer second to approve permits as listed, carried.

1. Knights of Columbus, Bingo/Raffle/Calendar Raffle

Bills: Conklin moved, Bagley second to approve bills as listed, roll call approved:

Arthur Strutz	\$370.00	Austin Brummund	\$1200.00
Avid Hawk	\$200.00	Circle R	\$152.58
City of Fargo	\$28.00	Colonial Life Insurance	\$74.44
Computer Express	\$107.02	Dickey Rural Networks	\$818.95
Fabian Pest Control	\$105.00	Harris Machine	\$8,283.37
Hawkins, Inc.	\$5,031.38	Jason Paradis Law Office	\$500.00
Kustom Machine Inc.	\$250.31	Moore Engineering Inc.	\$2,439.75

Napa Parts Supply	\$182.40	ND One Call	\$18.00
NDPERS-Retirement	\$6,945.49	Novak Electric	\$130.00
Oakes Community Hospital	\$44.00	Oakes Enhancement	\$8,053.47
Oakes Truck & Trailer	\$1,705.52	Otter Tail Power	\$7,397.19
Pitney Bowes	\$1,140.97	Praska's Hardware Hank	\$562.29
Quill	\$163.40	Rod's Cleaning	\$350.00
Ron's Heating & Appliance	\$125.00	Starion Bank	\$2,407.04
Starion Bond Service	\$113,603.75	Streicher's	\$162.96
Sweets N Stories	\$47.60	Tools Plus Industries	\$409.55
Tornado Stop	\$1,250.65	Van Diest Supply	\$5,339.45
Visa-City	\$55.99	Visto's Carquest	\$67.38
Waste Management	\$4,867.41	Zack's Repair	\$1,049.13
Salaries	\$27,471.95	Payroll Taxes	\$6,210.01

#### Visitors:

Linda Roney presented a petition that she is gathering signatures on to present to the county commissioners in regards to improving county road three east of city limits to the cemetery. She asked if any council members would sign the petition. She was asked to leave the petition and any members wishing to sign could do so after the meeting was adjourned.

#### Committee Reports:

**Drainage** along railroad between 7<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> St. Dakota improvement has been doing some cleaning but needs to get larger equipment to finish. Will also need to get permission from railroad before using equipment on their property. **Sump Pumps**, more concerns from property owners on 12<sup>th</sup> street. Some residents still have pumps running causing water to pool and accumulate muck in gutters. City does not want to direct water into the sewers yet. Will work to notify residents to change pumping location by November 1 to prevent ice buildup on streets. **Property Cleanup**, a four step process has been written to provide timeline and actions to follow in regards to nuisance properties. The process allows ample time to remedy the issues before action is taken to fine owner or remove nuisance items. Bagley brought up additional properties that she has been approached about. Nelson and/or O'Brien will look into them. **Lawnmowers**, Nelson and Nitschke are working to replace a couple lawn mowers before next season. The goal is to get all mowers on a trade-in schedule to ensure mowers are under warranty and lower replacement costs. Quotes received from two dealers so far council would like to see a bid from Visto's as well. They will speak with Visto's and present findings at next meeting.

#### Unfinished Business:

**AMKO Advisors**, Johnson and Paradis still working to collect information on the process. Reached out to our previous underwriter and he would like a chance to provide a quote as well. He feels he can beat AMKO's fees by a significant amount. Will present his bid at next meeting.

#### New Business:

**Renaissance Zone Application**, Rebecca Udem gave an overview of her project renovating and repurposing the building at 510 Main Avenue. She is making significant improvements to heating/cooling, electrical, plumbing and roof. The city would grant a 5 year property tax exemption on the value of improvements starting at 100% and decreasing each year by 20%. Bakke moved, Schaefer second to approve RZ application and tax exemption, carried. Udem then asked if anyone had advice or ideas to get assistance involving requirements for fire suppression systems. City will ask Moore Engineering if they have any advice or contacts they can pass along.

November Meeting Date was changed to Wednesday November 4<sup>th</sup> at 6pm.

Bakke moved, Schaefer second to adjourn the meeting at 7:14 PM.

MAYOR

*Marty Zimmie*

ATTEST

*Zasha Johnson*

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