

CITY OF BEULAH

August 23, 2023, 6:00 pm

Beulah City Hall Council Chambers

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

The regular meeting of the Beulah City Council was called to order at 6:00 pm by Mayor Jeff Gooss with Council Members Ben Lenzen, Gary Miller, Jason Isaak, Auston Biles, Dave Czywczynski and Sean Cheatley present. Amanda Mohl and Eric Hoffer absent.

Also Present: City Attorney Scott Solem, Public Works Superintendent Kenny Yeager, Water Dept. Superintendent Gary Bovkoon, Economic Development Beaver Brinkman, City Assessor/Planner Heidi Hamelton, City Engineer Charlie Hankins, City Auditor Heather Ferebee, David Whipps, Ashley Baker, Laura Benz, Monica Johner, Beulah Residents, Editor Alyssa Meier.

Pledge of allegiance

Miller moved to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the last regular meeting on August 9 and approve as furnished to the Council by email. Biles seconded. Roll call vote found Lenzen, Miller, Czywczynski, Isaak, Biles and Cheatley in favor.

PUBLIC INPUT

Isaak moved to approve the Special Event Permit for the Main Bar on Saturday, September 2, 2023 and to allow the closure of the street. Cheatley seconded. The street would be blocked off on Central from Main Street to the alley. Roll call vote found Isaak, Cheatley, Lenzen, Miller, Czywczynski and Biles in favor.

Main Street Project – David Whipps and Ashley Baker requested a meeting to discuss this further. They are concerned about the assessments being placed on Main Street. Biles requested this be tabled until the Council meets with the Assessment Committee prior to a town hall meeting. Discussion followed on meeting with the Assessment Committee next week and having a town hall meeting the following week. It was commented that the timeline may not allow the city to spread the special assessments this year. It was questioned if there are performance obligations of which the city would be in breach. It was stated the contract is executed. It was commented that if the Assessment Committee does not want to meet, the Council will need to replace those members. Discussion followed. The size of the sidewalks and parking were questioned. It was stated there will be bulb-outs, fifteen-foot sidewalks, parallel parking, ADA stalls and compliance into every building, new water, sewer, storm water, lighting, and trees. Hankins stated that the plows can go over the bulb-outs to remove snow.

Monica Johner requested the road going south from her property to the lift station be blocked off for safety reasons. There is a lot of traffic in the middle of the night. It was stated that there could be a gate for the city employees and police. Gooss questioned if there is a legal issue with blocking

off the road. Solem stated it will need to be checked whether it is a public street. Miller questioned if the street could be vacated. Solem stated that it could be. The street may be in the County so it will need to be looked into. Johner also stated she is a volunteer with Mercer County Ambulance and the train blocked all three crossings of the tracks and she couldn't get through for a call. Senn stated he addressed this issue with Burlington Northern police, and he will contact them again. He would also like her to contact him when it happens again.

Gooss addressed the Council stating he does not share the same values as Council but stands with the community. He stated that he has not been found to have done anything in violation of his position as mayor. He stated he was accused of creating an atmosphere of fear and being a bully. He commented the council hasn't finished the Main Street assessment, the roads are in disrepair, and the pool needs to be repaired. The leader must make decisions and put the community before self-preservation. He stated there are differences of opinion, but they need to come to a point where they can have civil discourse and still work together for the people of Beulah.

Gooss left the meeting. Lenzen took over the chair.

COUNCIL PORTFOLIOS

Council Member Lenzen

JDA had a meeting tonight.

Council Member Miller

Dilapidated buildings: They are moving forward with the Aalton apartment building survey. The 408 West Main property needs to be addressed. The next step is to complete an inspection. The burned mobile home needs to be removed. The city is waiting for the grant application to be approved in order for the city to be reimbursed for the removal.

Council Member Czywczynski

Employee Relations meets tomorrow.

CITY PERSONNEL

City Auditor

Cheatley moved to approve the local permits for Beulah Education Foundation for football at Riverside Park from September 8 to October 6, 2023, and for volleyball at the Beulah High School from September 26 to October 31, 2023. Miller seconded. Roll call vote found Cheatley, Miller, Biles, Isaak and Czywczynski in favor.

City Assessor/Planner

The owner at 1400 Energy Drive would like to purchase the lots to the north and south of New Energy Drive Apartments. He offered \$.25 per square foot totaling \$17,511 for both lots. Isaak moved to table the offer on the lots. Cheatley seconded. Roll call vote found Isaak, Cheatley, Miller, Biles and Czywczynski in favor.

City Engineer

Bechtold Paving would be available next week if the city would like to move forward with some street patching. Street repairs for the curb stop and sewer repairs can be taken out of those enterprise funds.

Police Chief

The engine on PD unit #17 will need to be replaced. Isaak commented the Equipment Committee could meet regarding this issue.

Public Works Superintendent

The metal sheet is in place on Main Street by the laundromat.

Water Dept. Superintendent

MDU had a power outage and burned out two relays on the RO's and corrupted the Scata program. The VFD cannot be repaired. The 2nd Ave SE sewer repair was completed.

The meeting adjourned at 7:20 pm.



Ben Lenzen, Council President



Heather Ferebee, City Auditor