

## **CITY OF BEULAH**

**December 28, 2022, 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 Auston Biles, Eric Hoffer, Jason Isaak, Ben Lenzen and Amanda Mohl present. Dave Czywczynski, Gary Miller and Sean Cheatley absent.

Also Present: Assistant City Attorney Jennifer Gooss, Economic Development Beaver Brinkman, Water Superintendent Gary Bovkoon, Police Chief Frank Senn, City Engineer Charlie Hankins, City Assessor Heidi Hamelton, City Auditor Heather Ferebee, Editor Bill Schmalfeldt.

Lenzen moved to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the last regular meeting on December 14 and approve as furnished to the Council by email. Mohl seconded. Roll call vote found Biles, Hoffer, Mohl, Lenzen and Isaak in favor.

### **COUNCIL PORTFOLIOS**

#### Council Member Hoffer

The city is still waiting on a rental loader. Some damage was incurred to one of the garbage trucks. The old garbage truck is also in the shop with steering issues. The new rear load garbage truck did not come with a kickbar. It will be taken to Fargo to have kickbar equipment installed.

#### Council Member Lenzen

Public Works has gone above and beyond to keep the streets clean. They've done a superb job this snowy season. He thanked all city employees for the work they've done this season. It was commented that residents keeping cars off the streets has been very helpful.

#### Mayor Gooss

The Water Dept. employees were on top of water and sewer operations during the power outage.

Gooss declared a snow emergency for December 13-16, 2022. Lenzen moved to ratify the Snow Emergency Declaration for December 13-16, 2022. Isaak seconded. Roll call vote found Lenzen, Isaak, Hoffer, Biles and Mohl in favor.

The city may purchase a dozen cots and possibly a Conex box for cold storage. There was a power outage this week. Emergency generators are being discussed for the Water Plant, Civic Center and Public Works. It would be a good idea to have a manual transfer switch installed. Setting up monthly or weekly checks or startups was discussed. The quote for the City Hall generator automatic transfer switch is \$13,500. It was discussed that the two posts should be removed on the road to Lift #3 to allow for the plow to more easily get through. It was stated that the city put

the posts in. Biles moved to remove the posts on the road to Lift #3 contingent on them being in the right of way or in the event they are not, that there is permission. Hoffer seconded. Roll call vote found Biles, Hoffer, Lenzen, Isaak and Mohl in favor.

Hoffer commented the Conex boxes should not be in a residential area. Other location options were discussed.

Hoffer moved to install the auto transfer switch and repair the generator at City Hall, but at the same time apply for grants. Isaak seconded. The auto transfer switch and repair will take place even if a grant is not received and be paid for by the Emergency fund. The Water Dept. starts the generator at Lift #3 every two weeks in the winter and every week in the summer. Discussion followed on a procedure for city staff. It was stated that a city employee could be paid accordingly to check and maintain the generators in the city. It would be a good idea to have an expert in the field check it once every year. Roll call vote found Hoffer, Isaak, Lenzen, Biles and Mohl in favor.

## **CITY PERSONNEL**

### Economic Development Director

Generator estimates were received for city properties as well as a large portable generator for emergencies such as wells. More information will be gathered, and the Equipment Committee will meet to discuss. It was requested that each council member provide a list of what is important in their portfolios.

Gooss commented on the possibility of spring flooding. A flood preparedness meeting should be held at the end of January.

### City Engineer

Bike Path: A revised alignment cost estimate was provided. Hankins contacted the state to let them know the city is in favor of accepting the grant for the multi-use path. Discussion followed on the location and use of concrete instead of asphalt.

Beulah GIS Mapping/Corridor Plan Contract: An updated task order and an extended deadline are needed. There are some minor items that need to be done on the GIS Mapping project. Hoffer moved to approve extending the contract for one more year until the end of 2023. Isaak seconded. The Corridor Plan expenses can be spread over the next three years. Roll call vote found Hoffer, Isaak, Lenzen, Biles and Mohl in favor.

City Wide Street Repairs for asphalt patching final payment of \$39,838.75 to Dakota Concepts, LLC. Lenzen moved to approve the final payment as presented. Mohl seconded. Roll call vote found Lenzen, Mohl, Isaak, Hoffer and Biles in favor.

There is a grant that has become available for infrastructure. Hankins will meet with city staff to discuss.

Police Chief

Another body cam grant may be available for next year.

City Attorney

Resolution 2022-10 for a Premium Conversion Cafeteria Plan. The city's health insurance company completed a compliance check and the city is required to have a premium only plan to maintain compliance with IRS regulations because the city offers pre-tax benefits. There is a resolution, plan document and summary of the plan. Biles moved to approve Resolution 2022-10 as presented. Isaak seconded. Roll call vote found Biles, Isaak, Hoffer, Mohl and Lenzen in favor.

A contract for City Attorney legal services and criminal prosecution for 2023 was presented. Mohl moved to approve the contract for legal services and criminal prosecution as presented. Lenzen seconded. Lenzen questioned the set dollar amount instead of using the hourly rate. Jennifer Gooss stated that it is for budgetary purposes for the city. Big projects will be billed separately. It was stated that when City Hall asks for a legal opinion, they are being billed at 5-minute increments. This allows staff to ask questions without being concerned on the amount of time being billed. It is for one year and will be looked at during the budget season to see if it is beneficial for the city and the law office. Roll call vote found Mohl, Lenzen, Biles, Isaak and Hoffer in favor.


The rewrite of the criminal ordinance is being worked on. The numbers will be based off the century code to work better with the police officers. It was requested that the amount budgeted be moved to 2023. Isaak moved to approve moving the budget amount remaining to 2023. Mohl seconded. Roll call vote found Isaak, Mohl, Biles, Hoffer and Lenzen in favor.

Water Wastewater Superintendent

Water meters were read today and there were three major water breaks in empty houses.

Meeting adjourned at 7:25 pm.

  
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Jeff Gooss, Mayor

  
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Heather Ferebee, City Auditor