

The regular Beulah City Council meeting of October 17, 2016 was called to order at 7:00 pm at Beulah City Hall by Mayor Darrell Bjerke.

Present: Brant Keller, Kathy Kelsch, Joel Morgan, Travis Frey, Clyde Schulz, Kelsey Timmer

Absent: Ben Lenzen, Eric Hoffer

Also Present: City Attorney Scott Solem, Economic Development Director John Phillips, City Engineer Loren Daede, City Coordinator Russell Duppong, Public Works Foreman Kenny Yeager, Water/Wastewater Foreman Gary Neuberger, John and Sharon Maupin

Pledge of Allegiance

Frey made a motion seconded by Morgan to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the last regular meeting on October 3 and approve as transcribed to the Council. Roll call vote found Keller, Kelsch, Morgan, Timmer, Schulz and Frey in favor.

Bjerke commented three entities were notified they are no longer in the city budget next year. He commented on the 24-unit apartment complex being built by Lutheran Social Services and false rumors that it would be used for refugee services. He stated Fargo, Grand Forks and Bismarck are approved for refugee resettlement; Beulah is not approved. The need for those units was based on a housing study. Financing is through the Housing Incentive Fund and a local bank. Rents are market rate and income based and twelve of the units will be reserved for essential service workers. Land and infrastructure was to be provided by the City of Beulah. The complex is subject to property taxes and will add value to our tax base. Completion is scheduled for February 2017.

Keller commented on the water meter reading program. A block valve was included as a bid requirement but it would increase the bids significantly. That portion has been removed from the bid process as most houses have a valve to shut off water. Keller commented on the stream gauge on the bridge to measure water elevation. The City pays 60% per year to keep it in service. We don't know what the elevation is for flood stage yet so the information at this time isn't as useful as we thought. Keller made a motion seconded by Frey to pay the Mercer County Water Resource District \$5,808 for the gauge on the Knife River bridge. Kelsch questioned if it is an annual fee and Keller stated yes. Bjerke commented it is recording baselines and history and will be more helpful in the future. Frey stated the bridge was widened so it would be good to have more baseline numbers. Duppong stated Greg Lange provided information that the gauge is in service now and will stay in service through the bridge construction. Schulz commented we should find out how to access the information and report at the next meeting, as well as a conversion for the elevation to water level in feet. Keller stated he would get the information. Roll call vote found Keller, Kelsch, Morgan, Timmer, Schulz and Frey in favor. Daede commented on the water tower repainting project stating we are waiting for the final cure on the interior paint. It takes longer with cooler temperatures. Neuberger stated three bidders came in last week to look at the plant and two are scheduled for next week. Duppong stated the emergency siren on the north side of town is close to being in service.

Morgan commented on the proposed Transfer Station fee schedule. Morgan made a motion seconded by Frey to approve the new Transfer Station rates. Schulz requested to table it until the next meeting. Kelsch commented Hoffer disagreed with the charge for the disposal of tree branches. Kelsch commented she learned that the ash needs to be hauled to the landfill when we burn the tree branches and that we are then charged for the ash. We need to have a better way to monitor after hour dumping

across from the Transfer Station. It will continue until something is put into place. Bjerke stated the plan is to fence this off. He questioned Yeager on how many tons of ash we haul to the landfill. Duppong commented snow fence can be looked at for temporary use. The camera at the Transfer Station has a rolling problem that needs to be corrected. Keller commented West River could be looked at for a security camera. Schulz commented the person who installed the camera may be able to help. Bjerke tabled the motion.

Frey had no report.

Bjerke questioned Yeager if new garbage routes are being considered.

Schulz commented the Water Park is ready for winter. There will be a Wellness Center meeting with the architect next week. There was a JDA meeting last week. Police have been patrolling construction south of town. Schulz made a motion seconded by Timmer to accept the municipal court reports for August and September. Roll call vote found Keller, Kelsch, Morgan, Timmer, Schulz and Frey in favor.

Timmer commented the Library Board met last week. They had 2,287 checkouts last month, three new families and added 96 new items. Two employees are going up to KRCC twice a week to read to residents. Story hour will have a Halloween Party and they will be involved in the Trail of Treats. She commented the Assessment Board met on October 6 and accepted the assessments. The hearing is scheduled for October 28.

Kelsch commented the grant for the multi-use path has been increased from \$150,000 to \$200,000. She commented on the Christmas Walk Around and closing off part of the street for a living manger and petting zoo. Kelsch stated John and Sharon Maupin intend to refurbish the property they own at 200 2nd St NW. She stated they would like to execute a stipulation for each of the properties being handled in the dilapidated building project. The stipulation for the Maupins would indicate that they have until December 31, 2017 to complete the renovation. It would set out what they need to do and the timeline in which they need to do it and would also accomplish an order to abate. We can proceed to the next step if they don't meet the deadlines or guidelines. The other property is at 109 3rd Ave. SW and is owned by Lenny & Cheree Tesky. They have agreed to remove the structure by April 30, 2017. Kelsch made a motion seconded by Schulz to proceed with the stipulation process with the two properties presented. Roll call vote found Keller, Kelsch, Morgan, Timmer, Schulz and Frey in favor.

Daede commented Keller Drive should have the topcoat and asphalt put on this week. New Energy Drive water lines are in and are pressure tested. The sanitary sewer is close to being finished and the base should be on the street by Friday.

Frey made a motion seconded by Schulz to have the second reading of Ordinance #420. Roll call vote found Keller, Kelsch, Morgan, Timmer, Schulz and Frey in favor.

Yeager stated crews changed oil on the sand truck, mixed sand and salt, filled in drainage ditches, hauled furniture, cleaned drains, replaced a bearing in the sweeper, and did some mowing, weed eating and leaf sweeping. In the next weeks they will continue leaf sweeping and mowing, put a barricade up on 1st Ave SW, burn the woodpile and winterize vehicles. Derrick and Jeremy are going to snow and ice training.

Duppong commented on permits coming in for roof repairs. The Wellness Center submitted their plans. There is a P&Z hearing this Thursday for replat of the area for the Wellness Center. He stated there was a permit denial for a mobile home that was to be moved in. It was in very bad shape and we are trying to clean up properties that are dilapidated. Kelsch questioned some zoning in the City that needs to be updated.

Schulz made a motion seconded by Frey to approve assessments on properties for unpaid invoices as presented. Roll call vote found Keller, Kelsch, Morgan, Timmer, Schulz and Frey in favor.

Ferebee presented a raffle permit for the Beulah Chamber at the Chamber of Commerce Office on December 12, 2016 for St. Nick's Picks and the Walk Around. Keller made a motion seconded by Kelsch to approve the raffle permit as presented. Roll call vote found Keller, Kelsch, Morgan, Timmer, Schulz and Frey in favor.

Ferebee presented a raffle permit for the Beulah Chamber at the Beulah Civic Center on November 11, 2016 for Chili Bingo. Timmer made a motion seconded by Schulz to approve the raffle permit as presented. Roll call vote found Keller, Kelsch, Morgan, Timmer, Schulz and Frey in favor.

Schulz made a motion seconded by Timmer to approve the September Financial Reports. Roll call vote found Keller, Kelsch, Morgan, Timmer, Schulz and Frey in favor.

Phillips commented the Chamber hosted an update on preservation of the coal industry. Discussions have focused on a carbon free future. He addressed a legislative draft bill that may have an impact on severance tax. Phillip commented on clean coal technology. He commented on the Assessment Board meeting on October 6 regarding Keller Drive. The bonds have not been sold yet but will be soon. There will be a 4.5% interest rate to owners of the property. He presented the assessments to properties stating Lot 15 is a drainage area that was not assessed. It's in the flood plain and cannot be built on. Drainage ditches are not assessed and was not part of the district. There were 26 lots and each was assessed equally. The Special Assessment Board will have a hearing October 28 at 1:00 and then it will go to Council for approval. Phillips commented there were some individuals in town today who are interested in opening a Chinese restaurant in Beulah and also an individual interested in opening a Mexican restaurant. There is another individual interested in the Grandview, but it will take some time to reopen it. Phillips stated the Chamber is hosting a meeting Thursday which focuses on shopping locally. He stated Vision West is bringing in a presenter on December 12 to speak on hometown shopping promotion.

Schulz made a motion seconded by Kelsch to approve the bills for Interstate Engineering for SID #24 and New Energy that didn't arrive in time for the last meeting. Roll call vote found Keller, Kelsch, Morgan, Timmer, Schulz and Frey in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm.

Darrell R. Bjerke, Mayor

Heather Ferebee, Auditor