

## **CITY OF BEULAH**

**June 28, 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, Auston Biles and Amanda Mohl present. Eric Hoffer, Dave Czywczynski, Jason Isaak and Sean Cheatley absent.

Also Present: City Attorney Scott Solem, Police Chief Frank Senn, Public Works Superintendent Kenny Yeager, Water Dept. Superintendent Gary Bovkoon, Economic Development Beaver Brinkman, City Assessor/Planner Heidi Hamelton, City Auditor Heather Ferebee, Rod and Paula Schaper, Adam Baker, Jo Hafner, Roger and Mary Kay Gazur, Clyde Schulz.

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

### **PUBLIC INPUT**

Biles moved to approve the Peddler's Permit for Merili's Books to sell educational books door to door from July 3-8, 2023. Mohl seconded. Roll call vote found Biles, Mohl, Lenzen and Miller in favor.

Jo Hafner presented the Senior Center update and requested continuation of the State Aid allocation for the 2024 budget. The Senior Center donated to various organizations in the Beulah area in 2022. Expenses were presented. They may create a float for the parade next year. The thrift store is doing well. The bathroom downstairs needs to be repaired. It was stated that the council will review the allocation to the Senior Center during the budget meetings.

Rod and Paula Schaper presented information on the Beulah Bash on Main Street. Yeager has contacted the county regarding barricades as the city's barricades are being used at the Fire Dept. during the Fair. Senn commented they have added more officers to work that day. Lenzen moved to allow the Beulah Chamber to block off Main Street for the Beulah Bash as presented. Miller seconded. Roll call vote found Lenzen, Miller, Biles and Mohl in favor.

Adam Baker stated he is attending as a concerned citizen regarding hiring practices by the city. Baker questioned why the city now is hiring a Police Officer instead of a Police Sergeant. The Sergeant is no longer working for the city. He questioned why a sergeant was needed two years ago and not now.

Clyde Schulz with West River Transit addressed the city land auction. It was realized that there is a small section of land by the West River Transit building that is owned by the city. West River Transit has been maintaining it for years and would like to make an offer to purchase it. The proposed offer

is for \$1.00 for the property plus any legal fees to transfer the property. Biles moved to sell the property with a parcel number of BB14488500503 to West River Transit as offered. Mohl seconded. Roll call vote found Biles, Mohl, Miller and Gooss in favor. Lenzen abstained. Motion passed. Three buses were ordered, but they are on backorder. There will be more information in July.

## **COUNCIL PORTFOLIOS**

### Council Member Mohl

The waterpark has some water issues. They are waiting on an estimate from Backyard Escapes. There is a broken pipe and concrete was removed, but the water could not be controlled. The current water table outside the pool is the same level as the pool itself. A temporary repair would cost around \$75,000 with a complete repair being over \$200,000. Currently the pool will stay open, but it is losing water. A decision needs to be made whether to do a repair now and do the full overhaul later or complete the full overhaul now. Funding options are being researched. Dewatering wells will need to be installed before winter. An aquatic engineer is needed. It was suggested that the city look into rerouting the ground water. Biles stated that the concrete that is removed should be replaced with access panels. Gooss commented that the butterfly slide is shut off because that pipe is leaking. Biles questioned if there will be a maintenance program going forward to check for cracks before they get bigger. There should be an incident report put together showing what was found, what was addressed, and the future plans, so the city knows what's going on.

### Council Member Biles

Employee Relations met and are recommending an additional wage increase for Marlin Block after passing the Class 3 Water Treatment Certification. He received a \$1.00 increase, but the committee is recommending an additional \$2.50 per hour increase. He is the only employee that is certified. Lenzen moved to approve the \$1.00 and add the \$2.50 to the wage as presented. Mohl seconded. Roll call vote found Lenzen, Mohl, Miller and Biles in favor.

Employee Relations is also recommending the promotion of Benjamin Baasch to Public Works Maintenance Worker II as he is currently fulfilling the duties of that position. He is recommended by his supervisor Kenny Yeager. Lenzen moved to approve the promotion of Benjamin Baasch based on the recommendation of Kenny Yeager. Miller seconded. Roll call vote found Lenzen, Miller, Mohl and Biles in favor.

The recommendation for the 2024 preliminary budget for salaries is a 5% increase in employee wages. It was discussed that more data will be reviewed.

### Council Member Lenzen

The Assessment Committee is gathering information and trying to set up a meeting.

### Mayor Gooss

Budget discussions are going very well.

## **CITY PERSONNEL**

### City Auditor

Lenzen moved to approve the local permit for a raffle for Beulah Little People Preschool at Black Sands Golf Course on July 27, 2023. Biles seconded. Roll call vote found Lenzen, Biles, Mohl and Miller in favor.

Miller moved to approve the local permit for a Calcutta for the Mercer County Ranch Rodeo at the fairgrounds on July 14, 2023. Biles seconded. Roll call vote found Miller, Biles, Mohl and Lenzen in favor.

Mercer County Fair will have Mobile Food Vendors. Biles moved to approve the Mobile Food Vendor License applications presented, with the sidenote that Flounders provides an updated inspection form:

1. Tim Lingelbach DBA Tim Dandy's BBQ & Smoked Meats
2. Brian Bowman DBA Flounders
3. Polar Slush
4. Kane Thedsomboon DBA Little Blue Elephant

Mohl seconded. Roll call vote found Biles, Mohl, Miller and Lenzen in favor.

### City Attorney

Miller moved to have the second reading of Ordinance #456 - Zoning Text Amendments. Biles seconded. Biles recommended having an executive summary of the changes. Solem stated the next time the zoning ordinance changes the council will be provided with the changes only and not the entire zoning code. Roll call vote found Biles, Mohl, Miller and Lenzen in favor.

### Public Works Superintendent

Garbage truck #408 is in Bismarck with an electrical problem. The one-armed garbage truck has rollers on order. Public Works will be moving out of their building next week so the fair can use it.

### Water Dept. Superintendent

Lift #1 had the PLC go out. They decided to drain the north lagoon while the lift was down and found the pipe to the aeration system had a rock on it. They removed the rock and now the system is working better. Gooss thanked him for his dedication to the city.

### Economic Development Director

Community Income Survey letters are going out this week and an ad will be in the paper stressing the importance of filling out the surveys. There is a purchase offer for parcel BB14488670219 at 1<sup>st</sup> Ave NW by Kris Martens for \$3,000. Miller moved to approve the sale of the lot as presented. Biles seconded. Roll call vote found Miller, Biles, Mohl and Lenzen in favor. The list of available properties and maps are on the city website. There are very few certified contractors to remove abandoned autos, but the city can become certified. This is to remove mobile homes that need to be removed. If the city can get the grant to remove mobile homes, the city would then be reimbursed. Biles

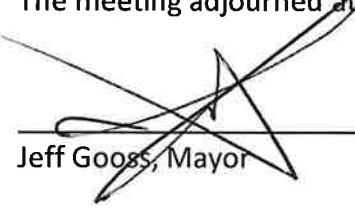
moved to approve the city become certified as long as legal reviews the requirements and there is insurance coverage. Lenzen seconded. Roll call vote found Biles, Lenzen, Mohl and Miller in favor. JDA provided rental assistance to two businesses in Beulah. Jessica Beck is interested in being on the JDA Board. She will attend a JDA meeting first.


Police Chief

Biles moved to approve the auction of police vehicle #10. Mohl seconded. Roll call vote found Biles, Mohl, Miller and Lenzen in favor. Senn stated he attended the ND State's Attorney's Association and DRE training and Chief's of Police of ND training.

Ferebee stated the Driver's License Service (DOT) has relocated to the Beulah Civic Center.

The meeting adjourned at 7:51 pm.

  
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Jeff Gooss, Mayor

  
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Heather Ferebee, City Auditor