

CITY OF BEULAH

October 12, 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 Council President Ben Lenzen with Council Members Gary Miller, Auston Biles, Jason Isaak, David Czywczynski, Eric Hoffer and Amanda Mohl present. Jeff Gooss and Sean Cheatley absent.

Also Present: City Attorney Scott Solem, City Engineer Charlie Hankins, Economic Development Beaver Brinkman, Water Superintendent Gary Bovkoon, Public Works Superintendent Kenny Yeager, City Assessor Heidi Hamelton, City Auditor Heather Ferebee, Carmen Reed, Steven Dschaak, Rick Bauman, Jeff Klein, Editor Bill Schmalfeldt.

Pledge of Allegiance

Biles moved to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the last regular meeting on September 28 and approve as furnished to the Council by email. Miller seconded. Roll call vote found Biles, Miller, Mohl, Isaak, Czywczynski in favor.

PUBLIC INPUT

Carmen Reed presented the Mercer County Mitigation Plan Resolution which needs to be approved to adopt the mitigation plan. Each city and the county will approve a resolution and the plan will be reviewed each year. The city's requests were all included in the plan. Mohl moved to approve the resolution as presented. Biles seconded. Roll call vote found Mohl, Biles, Miller, Isaak and Czywczynski in favor.

Rick Bauman – Mercer County Fair Invoices

Bauman questioned the invoice for the Civic Center. He stated the Fair will pay the invoice, but then the Fair should be paid by the city for the use of their barn. The Fair uses the Civic Center and Public Works Building during the fair. Bauman believes the Fair Board should be exempt from charges at the facility since the buildings are shared facilities with the city. The Fair is the largest four-day event in the county, and it brings people to Beulah.

Hoffer arrived.

Biles commented a letter was sent out to the Fair Board at the beginning of the year when the rates changed. He questioned why they waited so long to come to the city. Bauman stated he didn't know for sure if there would be charges until he got an invoice. Bauman questioned the invoice on the easement and Hankins explained the survey charges for the Fair. Hankins explained that the different survey charges are for different individuals who worked on the one survey. Bauman stated they don't have a problem paying the easement, they just wanted clarification.

Discussion followed on the Civic Center rates. Miller stated the \$900 charge for the Civic Center comes out to \$75 per month to rent the building for city equipment. Miller moved to waive the \$900 invoice for the Fair in lieu of the city storing equipment in the Show Barn. Isaak seconded. It would be looked at perpetually. It's a trade in services. It was stated there should be a meeting before and after the fair to discuss these issues each year. Roll call vote found Miller, Isaak, Mohl, Biles, Hoffer and Czywczynski in favor.

Steven Dschaak – Utility Vacation Rate

He questioned why vacation rates are high and why rates are going up. He would like to hear back from the city. Hoffer shared information on utility vacation rates. The city has looked into it and in researching what other cities are doing, rates are all over the place. The city ordinance allows the owner to have the water turned off at the curb stop. It is a \$50 fee to reconnect and there are no other charges. The \$50 reconnect fee also helps with water meter and curb stop fees not being paid during the absence. Dschaak questioned if he could turn the water off inside his home and only be charged the \$50. Hoffer stated that according to ordinance it is a requirement to turn the curb stop off, otherwise he will need to pay the monthly vacation rate. Turning it off at the curb stop is a failsafe. Hoffer stated the city could be called a week ahead of time to remove any snow in preparation for turning it on. It is the responsibility of the city to get it turned on and if the curb stop breaks, the city will fix it. The water dept. can come over early and check the curb stop.

COUNCIL PORTFOLIOS

Council Member Mohl

The Water Park is waiting on an estimate for a repair of the plaster. The flowers have been taken down. It was questioned if there would be more than one estimate on the repair to the plaster. Mohl stated that they are just getting one for now.

Council Member Hoffer

A list of past due water and mowing charges was presented. These amounts will be assessed to each property's taxes. Hoffer moved to assess properties for past due water and lawn mowing invoices as presented. Mohl seconded. These past due charges are added each year before the annual assessments are sent to the county. The amount is added to the property taxes on those parcels and then comes back to the city when they are paid. The property owners have multiple opportunities to pay the invoices before being added to the taxes. Roll call vote found Hoffer, Mohl, Miller, Isaak, Biles and Czywczynski in favor.

Council Member Biles

Hankins stated the request is drafted and ready to be sent in regarding the bike path being added to the DOT project.

Council Member Czywczynski

BND funding is still available for sidewalks, and it should be considered. Ben Baasch has accepted the position as Public Works Laborer. The Water/Wastewater Operator position had sixteen

applicants. Employee Relations met after the interviews and the final three applicants were evaluated. One applicant has been chosen as a better fit for the team. The position will be offered, and we will wait for the acceptance.

Czywczynski commented on what he sees going on with the council. At the beginning of the term everyone is assigned portfolios, and they are asked to be on committees. He stated that people are being removed from committees and he hasn't seen anything like it. He stated he would like a vote by council on the removal of members from committees. This is a small city, and everyone is volunteering their time and trying to do their best job. If someone is removed, it should be discussed at council. When someone gets a letter or email, everyone should know about it. We need to get back to the basics and be a good governmental body.

CITY PERSONNEL

City Engineer

Hankins commented on reviews of geothermal sidewalks, which are not recommended due to cost feasibility and performance over time. He will not move forward with them.

Public Works Superintendent

Transfer Station shipped out 93 bales of cardboard. Ashes were also shipped out.

Water/Wastewater Superintendent

There has been a lot of grease and rags in the sewer during the flushing of sewers. This is the worst they've seen it. It was commented that if a business isn't complying with grease traps, the state can intervene. A lot of the problem is coming from households. It was stated that it could be put on Facebook and the public access channel. It is costing \$400 per week to use degreaser.

City Assessor

An application for Abatement of taxes was presented for Renee Johnson at 409 2nd Ave NE. An appraisal was received for the property. The value was not adjusted by the previous assessor, so the abatement is needed. Hoffer moved to approve the abatement as presented. Isaak seconded. The abatement is for 2022 and the property value will be adjusted for next year. Roll call vote found Hoffer, Isaak, Mohl, Miller, Biles and Czywczynski in favor.

APPROVAL OF BILLS

Miller moved to pay the bills as presented and reviewed. Mohl seconded. Roll call vote found Miller, Mohl, Biles, Isaak, Hoffer and Czywczynski in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 7:11 pm.



Ben Lenzen, Council President



Heather Ferebee, City Auditor

The following bills were approved and paid in September:

Check Range: 42170 to 42275

Payroll Check Range: -74594 to -74523, 42249

Employees	89526.97	The Beacon	412.11
FIT	14697.18	Information Tech Dept	263.20
NDPERS 457	297.50	NDDEQ	100.00
HEALTH INS	34122.57	West River Telephone	110.78
METLIFE	897.44	Beulah JDA	57.55
NDPERS 457	297.50	Beulah Airport Authority	57.55
FIT	14609.07	MFOA	60.00
NDPERS Main	5197.39	Josie Reinhiller	50.00
NDPERS Main 2020	2157.33	Clyde Mittelsteadt	50.00
NDPERS PD	3770.75	The Beacon	426.25
NY Life Insurance Company	3861.30	Lookout Books	61.97
North Dakota One Call Inc	70.20	Findaway	19.99
American Express	2366.70	MicroMarketing LLC	401.81
Hawkins Inc.	10327.59	Nancy Bickerstaff	13.96
MDU	15598.96	North Dakota Dept of Health	48.00
The Union Bank	37337.38	Beulah Lumber Company	13.90
City of Beulah	97.50	Starion Bond Services	6952.50
Benjamin Newman	50.00	Starion Bond Services	9902.50
Darla Knutson	14.38	Millennium Express	32.46
Joe Dugan, Jr	50.00	NDDEQ	18.54
Donna Willmus	25.00	Butler Machinery Company	34579.77
Dale Zahn	50.00	Mark A. Kaffar	600.00
Ramada Bismarck Hotel	86.40	Aramark	420.56
Electronic Communications	750.00	USA Blue Book	562.90
SIRCHIE ACQUISITION CO	91.92	Bronson's Marketplace	83.54
Mercer County Treasurer	7651.60	Black Mountain Software	21171.00
NAPA Auto Parts	970.51	Kinetic Leasing	37710.00
AE Operations, LLC	4430.60	Starion Bond Services	7577.50
US Bank	1997.77	Farmers Union Oil Company	5333.17
Productivity Plus Account	4754.00	AT&T Mobility	777.42
Motorola Solutions, Inc.	13297.94	AT&T Mobility	43.23
MARC	1808.17	Kristi Kost	38.72
Powerplan	903.78	Coal Country CHC	26.00
Downtown Gas & Auto	6695.98	City of Beulah	435.98
Waste Management	702.88	Beulah Electric	247.50
Roughrider Electric Coop Inc	5329.67	C & H Glass	832.00
Aramark	80.52	Schirado Boys Lawn Care	225.00
West River Telephone	1632.76		

Dale Cooper, LLC	63070.00
Bronson's Marketplace	1271.72
Roadway Services, Inc	33264.00
M Construction & Landscape	84636.55
Knife River Veterinary Clinic	337.07
Ferguson Enterprises	274.00
Pipe Detectives	62328.02
Ver-Tech, Inc	360.43
Lucky's Towing & Repair	1400.00
High Plains Concepts	149.75
Neuberger Oil Co.	510.00
Idemia Identity & Security	1550.00
Electronic Communications	566.00
Office of the Adjutant Gen	13.91
VESSCO, INC	585.98
Beulah Park District	51621.58
J & M Hardware Inc	795.72
Solem Law Office	5437.93
Interstate Engineering, Inc	13234.20
Beulah Park District	7567.91
Beulah Senior Center	1455.37
Beulah Airport Authority	2037.52
Interstate Engineering, Inc	2499.00
Interstate Engineering, Inc	3022.00
Interstate Engineering, Inc	13663.52
Eide Ford	62.42
Waste Management	702.88
Darla Knutson	416.75
Heather Ferebee	416.75
Frank Senn	451.75
Quality Inn	86.40
SennSational Paint Inc.	2500.00
Michael Todd Company	610.94
Titan Machinery	1035.38
Postmaster	407.64
Auston Biles	416.75
Gary Miller	416.75
Ben Lenzen	416.75