

CITY OF BEULAH

October 2, 2023, 6:30 pm

Beulah City Hall Council Chambers

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

The regular meeting of the Beulah City Council was called to order at 6:30 pm by Mayor Sean Cheatley with Council Members Ben Lenzen, David Czywczynski, Jason Isaak, Amanda Mohl and Auston Biles present. Gary Miller and Eric Hoffer absent.

Also Present: City Attorney Scott Solem, Economic Dev. Dir. Beaver Brinkman, Water Supt. Gary Bovkoon, Police Chief Frank Senn, City Assessor/Planner Heidi Hamelton, City Auditor Heather Ferebee, Kurt Zazeski, Bruce Neuberger, Roger Gazur, Steve Finsaas, Beulah Residents, Alyssa Meier.

Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF BILLS

Biles moved to approve the bills as presented and reviewed. Mohl seconded. Isaak stated the invoice for the Police Department SIRN radios is \$48,200.64. The funds will be paid from the PD radio budget and the Specialty Equipment fund. Roll call vote found Isaak, Mohl, Lenzen, Biles and Czywczynski in favor.

PUBLIC INPUT

Kurt Zazeski commented on his concerns for city expenses. The Main Street project and the pool will be high expenses. He commented on the results he received from an open records request of two officers. He presented results on the case reports, training, and wages for the officers. He is concerned about the cost of a sixth officer. He stated the information doesn't show the city has higher crime and a sixth officer is not needed. He was not happy with the amount of time it took to receive the records request from Solem Law. He also questioned why this information has to go to the law office and requested a refund for this service. He commented on the K-9 dog sale to the county. He stated calls for service are not all emergencies.

Bruce Neuberger commented that a policy for council meetings should be a city ordinance. He addressed the conflict-of-interest issue of Scott Solem being involved in the Main Street Project. He questioned where the Assessment Committee is with the assessment process. The assessment portfolio is not assigned to a council member at this time. He stated that it is his personal view that the City Attorney has a conflict of interest and should not be involved with this project.

Roger Gazur stated he does not see a reason why Scott Solem should not continue as City Attorney as the Assessment Committee determines who gets assessed and the amounts.

COUNCIL PORTFOLIOS

Council Member Mohl

The city will purchase flowers for the front of the Civic Center and the City Hall for \$39 each for next summer. The remaining amount will be used for the forestry budget. She commented on estimates for the pool. The Pool Board approved Interstate Engineering to put together an engineering and design plan. The Pool Board plans to install drain tile. Fundraisers for the pool will also take place.

CITY PERSONNEL

City Auditor

First Security Bank West has offered to increase the checking account interest to 1.5% from .5% with a minimum of a \$1 million balance. They also offered a money market rate of 4.3% with a minimum balance of \$100,000. The city can transfer money as needed to the checking account from the money market account. Czywczynski moved to approve the transfer of \$2.5 million to a new money market account with First Security Bank West. Isaak seconded. Roll call vote found Czywczynski, Isaak, Mohl, Lenzen and Biles in favor. Ferebee stated those listed on the account and who are able to sign checks will be Heather Ferebee, Darla Knutson, and Sean Cheatley.

It was questioned if the vote took place on the transfer of the money. Roll call vote was called again: Czywczynski, Isaak, Mohl, Lenzen and Biles in favor. Lenzen stated the auditor should have discretion to change those amounts as needed between the accounts so that a motion isn't required each time.

Police Chief

AgriBank donated \$25,000 to the police department for the new police vehicle. Steve Finsaas is senior loan officer and branch manager for Farm Credit in Beulah and commented that they offer grants for infrastructure and services needed due to energy and oil impacts. Finsaas presented the check to Chief Frank Senn.

City Attorney

Solem addressed the conflict-of-interest item. He presented a document from the State of ND Courts that refers to conflicts. The applicable section is where there might be adverse effects. Solem stated he doesn't believe there would be adverse effects. He wants the council to do what is best for the city even if that is bringing in separate legal counsel.

Economic Development Director

Attorney Update: Brinkman has contacted four attorneys for separate counsel for the project, but only two have responded. He will send them out to the council as soon as he receives them. An RFP for city attorney is being prepared and then he will forward it out to council.

City Assessor/Planner

Asbestos Removal Quotes for 700 Parkway Drive were presented. The bid from Total Control is \$23,880 and the bid from Safetech is \$32,810. The city and Solem Law have not heard from the

owner of 700 Parkway Drive. There is money in the Dilapidated Building fund for the removal. \$1,100 has been invoiced to them for the inspection. Isaak moved to accept the contract from Total Control for \$23,880. Biles seconded. Solem stated he left messages with the attorney and owner and hasn't heard back. The cost of the asbestos removal and demolition will be invoiced to the owner and if the city is not paid it will be assessed to the property. Roll call vote found Isaak, Mohl, Lenzen, Biles and Czywczynski in favor.

The mobile home removal and lot cleanup quotes for 304 1st Ave SW were discussed. This property has been condemned as it is inhabitable. A quote has been received for cleanup of the property. The owner will need to be served and there will need to be a hearing. Hamelton stated that the city should still move forward with the notification letter for the hearing.

The meeting adjourned at 7:39 pm.



Sean Cheatley, Mayor



Heather Ferebee, City Auditor

The following bills were approved and paid in September:

Check Range: 43373 to 43484, -99688

Payroll Check Range: -73464 to -73386, 43475

Employees	92559.43	Jim Schaefer	15.00
HEALTH INS	39338.62	Brian or Linda Williams	39.82
METLIFE	1226.89	Jennifer Schramm	50.00
NDPERS 457	712.50	MicroMarketing LLC	62.29
FIT	14931.58	Cengage Learning	269.14
NDPERS 457	824.50	Baker & Taylor	491.17
FIT	14505.67	Jessie Mann	565.75
NDPERS Main	5247.04	Petty Cash	180.38
NDPERS Main 2020	3334.09	North Dakota Dept of Health	75.00
NDPERS PD	3755.52	Mercer County Treasurer	10266.30
NY Life Insurance Company	4113.98	Beulah Lumber Company	13.98
Principal Life Insurance Co	367.66	Lignite Tire	3020.00
American Express	638.32	North Dakota One Call Inc	61.10
MDU	15173.00	Millennium Express	18.70
US Bank	1154.74	NDDEQ	272.73
Aramark	100.86	Beulah JDA	62.92
Sletten Excavating, Inc.	54808.87	Roughrider Electric Coop	5431.17
Clay's Plumbing & Heating	21275.94	Beulah Airport Authority	62.92
Shirley Breimeier	25.00	Aramark	505.50
Steve Pouliot	25.00	Bronson's Marketplace	294.59
Joanne Reisenauer	75.00	Hawkins Inc.	9066.13
Jeremy Brandt	50.00	Interstate Engineering, Inc	2005.00

Interstate Engineering, Inc	2879.98	Starion Bond Services	9073.75
AT&T Mobility	776.52	Butler Machinery Company	34585.84
West River Telephone	4539.86	Starion Bond Services	7071.25
Solem Law Office	7233.55	Beulah Beacon	514.14
Mark A. Kaffar	900.00	J & M Hardware Inc	490.12
Information Technology Dept	380.50	Bronson's Marketplace	367.79
The Union Bank	37337.38	Schirado Boys Lawn Care	165.00
Farmers Union Oil Company	854.99	John Helm	18.46
AE2S, LLC	9148.75	Uniform Center	229.98
Legend-Air LLC	935.00	Nancy Bickerstaff	9.99
Branch Mang Tree Service	600.00	Electronic Comm Inc	99.00
Benjamin Newman	185.52	Beulah Park District	37573.01
MDU	232.74	Black Mountain Software	23280.00
Beulah Drug	1.81	Beulah Park District	7415.60
Powerplan	2.11	Beulah Senior Center	1426.08
Quill LLC	109.44	Beulah Airport Authority	1996.51
Sanford Health Occup Med	175.00	AT&T Mobility	43.23
City of Beulah	99.00	Millennium Express	16.23
Solem Law Office	625.00	J & J Nelson Spraying	185.00
Steven Kuntz	104.80	Display Sales	2193.00
Gary Bovkoon	104.80	Stein's Inc	149.00
Ver-Tech, Inc	383.47	L-Tron Corporation	430.00
Core & Main LP	2335.44	Amy Prince	73.92
Midwest Canine Alternatives	300.00	Quill LLC	586.75
Pro Forms	79.16	Waste Management	829.60
Motorola Solutions, Inc.	6.00	Albin O Herman	5.00
Uniform Center	1154.25	Christopher S Askay	75.00
Mountain Plains Youth Serv	4000.00	Rough Rider Industries	18956.00
AED Everywhere	165.35	Rough Rider Industries	1770.00
Eide Ford	425.01	DEMCO	4057.00
Dakota Pump & Control, Inc	7896.00	DEMCO	9999.00
Sanitation Products	310.37	Postmaster	414.77
Hazen Welding	1879.75	Heather Ferebee	104.80
Neuberger Oil Co.	260.00		
Lucky's Towing & Repair	300.00		
Farmers Union Oil Company	1714.05		
West River Telephone	70.48		
Starion Bond Services	6265.00		
NAPA Auto Parts	2161.57		
Downtown Gas & Auto	7216.69		