

CITY OF BEULAH

September 14, 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 Gary Miller, Ben Lenzen, Auston Biles, Jason Isaak, David Czywczynski, Eric Hoffer, Amanda Mohl and Sean Cheatley present.

Also Present: Assistant Attorney Jennifer Gooss, City Engineer Charlie Hankins, Economic Development Beaver Brinkman, Police Chief Frank Senn, Water Superintendent Gary Bovkoon, Public Works Superintendent Kenny Yeager, City Assessor Heidi Hamelton, City Auditor Heather Ferebee, Clyde Schulz, John Phillips, Kevin Flaagan, Kevin Lee, Ted Chick, Barb Richau, Roger Gazur, Beulah Residents, Editor Bill Schmalfeldt.

Pledge of Allegiance

Lenzen moved to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the last regular meeting on August 24 and approve as furnished to the Council by email. Mohl seconded. Roll call vote found Lenzen, Mohl, Miller, Biles, Isaak, Czywczynski and Hoffer in favor.

PUBLIC INPUT

Airport Authority Report – Kevin Flaagan requests the continuance of financial support from the city. If funding is not received, they would be unable to continue the maintenance program. The margin on fuel sales is 20%. If there is no city funding, they will drop down to about \$11,000 of revenue per year and be downgraded by the ND Aeronautics Commission. They will need a runway overlay in the next couple of years which at today's costs would be \$600,000. There are 13 planes and 4 helicopters based in Beulah. The city could lose the Dakota Helicopter's business. The employees of this business live in Beulah while working. The Airport has been able to buy bulk fuel when costs are low and sell at a lower price, which has increased business. The city currently provides a portion of state aid and a mill levy. Gooss questioned the benefit to the citizens of Beulah. He also questioned the maintenance costs of more traffic due to the cheaper fuel costs. It was stated that small aircraft don't cause a problem. If there are no planes coming in, it will still deteriorate. Flaagan stated the Airport keeps Dakota Helicopter in town, which provides \$300,000 of payroll. If the Airport is not maintained, it will deteriorate. Beulah will lose current businesses and potential businesses. The difference between Beulah and Hazen is that Hazen has instrument approaches, and they receive Federal dollars. [Cheatley arrived.] It was stated that as a community, we need to have all amenities to serve all the people in Beulah. The Airport has a curtesy car for use. The Fly-In is a benefit for the community and will be held Saturday.

Barb Richau – Train Idling

The entire Labor Day weekend the train was idling. Richau described the noise. About every Friday afternoon they idle for 24 hours. It feels like an earthquake when they connect cars, and it isn't

necessary. When they call Dallas, they are connected with the Railroad Police, but it never goes anywhere. It's too noisy and the exhaust is dangerous. It was stated that the city doesn't have a noise ordinance. Senn commented he will contact the Railroad Police Chief in Bismarck to see if that will help. It was stated there is a Federal Ordinance that they cannot free roll cars. Gazur commented that they were told the railroad is not held to city ordinances, they only answer to the Feds.

Clyde Schulz presented a West River Transit report. West River Transit is based out of Bismarck and seven counties are serviced. The city helps financially. Beulah area numbers are: 6-7 employees who live in the Beulah area, \$20,000 on fuel purchased in Beulah, maintenance of 5 buses and 3 vans in Beulah, ownership of a building in Beulah which has taxes and specials, 35 children are taken to school, and they have 350-400 riders per month in Beulah. Federal and State funds received are \$80,000 and the city pays a match of 20%. A van was replaced in 2021. In 2023, the city will need to match \$15,900 for a new van. The annual Federal match of \$14,000 is requested.

Beulah Park District Local Permit for a raffle or sports pool. They would like to have a weekly drawing for an NFL Weekly Pick Sheet. Discussion followed on how the game would be held. It would be classified as a sports pool. Cheatley tabled until someone attends the council meeting to explain the raffle. Miller seconded. Roll call vote found Cheatley, Miller, Lenzen, Mohl, Biles, Isaak, Czywczynski and Hoffer in favor.

COUNCIL PORTFOLIOS

Council Member Cheatley

Employee Relations met and it is recommended that the Chief of Police compensation be changed from an hourly position to a salaried position starting October 1, 2022, at a rate of \$90,000 per year with a minimum of 40 hours per week. There would not be a wage increase in 2023 as the increase is built into the salary. Senn expressed his belief that the minimum be set at 45 hours per week. Cheatley moved to change the Police Chief position to a salaried position at a rate of \$90,000 per year with a minimum of 45 hours per week. Lenzen seconded. It was stated that the city does not have a comp policy. It was stated that on a salary, the employee is paid a higher rate to work extra hours if needed. Extreme situations where excessive extra hours are a concern. A comp time policy may need to be considered and it would need to be added to the employee policy. Miller commented that it should be left as an hourly wage. Senn does a good job and should be paid for the hours he's putting in. Hoffer stated that Senn's experience is above average and that was taken into consideration in determining the wage, as well as how respected he is in the community. His past annual earnings were also taken into consideration. It was stated this salary could be for a 12-month trial period.

Gooss commented that other departments have the Police Chief on salary. What we are doing is the exception. Biles commented the overtime hours were mandated so that shouldn't be an issue. Beulah is unique as the town has a lot of transient and seasonal workers in the community and that needs to be taken into consideration. It was questioned why it became a topic. Gooss stated it was his idea and that the Police Chief should be a salaried employee as an administrator in the

ordinance. He commented that each community is unique. The industry standard is that administrators in law enforcement are salaried employees. He commented employees in the police department would like to have more overtime. If the Chief is taken out of the equation, the Chief will be able to coordinate overtime for the officers. Discussion followed. Employee wage increases for 2023 were discussed, and it was stated that all employees should be brought to an industry standard. Employee retention is a big issue. Employee Relations agreed to review the Police Chief salary again in July of 2023. It was stated that the city cannot set a limit of hours per week as a salaried employee. Roll call vote found Cheatley, Lenzen, Hoffer, Biles, Isaak, Czywczynski and Mohl in favor. Miller opposed. Motion passed. The hours are interpreted as 90 hours per two-week period. This will begin October 1, 2022. Gooss stated he is in support of the Chief and is glad this was resolved.

Council Member Miller

It was questioned what the procedure is regarding dilapidated buildings. The ordinance states the building inspector is to begin the process. Hankins stated it should start with the city from the Building Official and Interstate Engineering can then help with condemnation as the Building Inspector. Jennifer Gooss recommended it be changed to the Building Official. Gazur stated it would need to be changed in the Property Maintenance Code.

City Cleanup is September 17-24.

Council Member Mohl

The Garden Mill provided the hanging flower pots this year and there were many comments on the beautiful flowers. The slide project at the Beulah Waterpark was completed. There was a repair made to the small slide as a change order. The city needs a certified pool operator for maintenance. Maintenance and repairs at the pool will need to be addressed.

Council Member Hoffer

Applications have been received for the Water/Wastewater Operator position. Gary and Marlin recently passed certification tests for the Water Dept. Regarding the equipment portfolio, a contract was signed to receive a police vehicle next year. The quote was \$38,500 for a vehicle. Senn commented an F-150 is \$42,000. It was questioned if a Chevy is an option.

Council Member Isaak

Jennifer Gooss commented there is nothing in the ordinance that states the owner is responsible for trees in the right-a-way. Isaak moved to approve a one-time cost share of 50/50 split with NY Life for tree removal with the understanding that moving forward the trees in the right-a-way are the responsibility of the city. Cheatley seconded. Roll call vote found Isaak, Cheatley, Miller, Lenzen, Mohl, Biles, Czywczynski and Hoffer in favor.

CITY PERSONNEL

Economic Development Director

There will be an EERC tour before the NDLC Conference. The Bornsen project is complete, and the grant final will be sent in.

City Assessor

The Text Amendment application was provided to Solem Law.

City Engineer

Pay estimates were presented for M Construction in the amount of \$84,636.55 for concrete and Roadway Services in the amount of \$33,264.00 for crack sealing. Concrete work is over budget. Patching was hard this year as more could have been done. Czywczynski moved to pay M Construction and Roadway Services as presented. Mohl seconded. Roll call vote found Czywczynski, Mohl, Cheatley, Miller, Lenzen, Biles, Isaak and Hoffer in favor.

Murray Addition surveys are being returned regarding the information mailed out. Jennifer Gooss stated the number of votes matters more when you get to the special assessment process. The letters are to get a feel for if there are enough people interested in moving forward.

Interstate Engineering will take council and employees out to supper on Thursday of the NDLC Conference.

Police Chief

Bodycams will need to be purchased. It was relayed to Senn that it will be approximately \$3,700 per year to lease the cameras and the video will be stored in the cloud. This would eliminate the need for a server and NRG contract for the video storage. The PD just completed an auction of impounded vehicles. It was questioned if the \$5,500 can go towards the Equipment Fund to cover some of the bodycam cost. The Concealed Weapons class will bring in revenue and this could also supplement the funding of the cameras. Biles moved to approve a new fund called Specialty Equipment for revenue to fund special police equipment. Cheatley seconded. Roll call vote found Biles, Cheatley, Miller, Lenzen, Mohl, Isaak, Czywczynski and Hoffer in favor.

Water/Wastewater Superintendent

The record keeping has been improved which allows them to only have to flush hydrants once per year. This saves 250,000 gallons per year. Hydrant pressures can be added to the GIS system.

City Auditor

Hoffer moved to approve the August Financial Reports. Cheatley seconded. Roll call vote found Hoffer, Cheatley, Miller, Lenzen, Mohl, Biles, Isaak and Czywczynski in favor.

Cheatley moved to approve the local permit for a calendar raffle for Knife River Pheasants Forever at the MAP building on the first Monday of each month in 2023. Hoffer seconded. Roll call vote found Cheatley, Hoffer, Miller, Lenzen, Mohl, Biles, Isaak and Czywczynski in favor.


Cheatley moved to approve the local permit for a raffle for Zion Lutheran Church WELCA at the church on December 3, 2022. Biles seconded. Roll call vote found Cheatley, Biles, Miller, Lenzen, Mohl, Isaak, Czywczynski and Hoffer in favor.

The Fire Department pancake event is October 2. Biles moved to waive the kitchen fee at the Civic Center for the Fire Department pancake fundraiser. Mohl seconded. Roll call vote found Biles, Mohl, Miller, Lenzen, Isaak, Czywczynski and Hoffer in favor. Cheatley abstained. Motion passed.

APPROVAL OF BILLS

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:54 pm.



Jeff Gooss, Mayor



Heather Ferebee, City Auditor

The following bills were approved and paid in August:

Check Range: 42055 to 42166, 42169, -99726 to -99722

Payroll Check Range: -74724 to -74595, 42088, 42089, 42167

Employees	110115.58	Justin Van Berkom	50.00
FIT	17811.86	Bill Kirk	25.00
NDPERS 457	297.50	M Construction & Landscape	56575.00
HEALTH INS	33082.75	Perkins Manufacturing	1146.35
METLIFE	826.19	Nancy Bickerstaff	58.47
NDPERS 457	297.50	ND League of Cities	225.00
FIT	15578.79	Schirado Boys Lawn Care	225.00
NDPERS Main	5500.17	Coal Country CHC	598.00
NDPERS Main 2020	2162.96	Haag Signs Inc.	135.00
NDPERS PD	3446.24	Powerplan	857.78
MN Child Support	187.81	Mercer County Treasurer	7183.20
NY Life Insurance Company	3861.30	North Dakota One Call Inc	35.10
NY Life Insurance Company	3861.30	NDDEQ	1414.02
Sage Lindeman	353.14	Beulah JDA	237.44
Bank of North Dakota	35000.00	Roughrider Electric Coop	5973.98
Bank of North Dakota	23450.00	West River Telephone	1620.61
Bank of North Dakota	9520.00	Beulah Airport Authority	237.44
Bank of North Dakota	14790.00	Mark A. Kaffar	600.00
Principal Life Insurance Co	336.15	Information Tech Dept	263.20
Downtown Gas & Auto	7414.38	InterOffice - Fargo	23402.12
AE Operations, LLC	3578.65	City of Beulah	434.23
MDU	14125.61	MicroMarketing LLC	158.46
City of Beulah	97.50	Baker & Taylor	238.53
Kasey Koepplin	11.25	Junior Library Guild	794.08
Dara Mathias	30.63	Productivity Plus Account	1980.42
New Life Worship Center	25.00		

US Bank	189.82	Lucky's Towing & Repair	900.00
NAPA Auto Parts	180.11	James Wenning	250.06
Millennium Express	86.09	Stein's Inc	128.70
Waste Management	702.88	DTE, Inc	3311.00
J & M Hardware Inc	575.98	Beulah Park District	44478.71
Aramark	408.56	Western Dakota Energy	200.00
USA Blue Book	720.77	Solem Law Office	12499.52
Hawkins Inc.	13667.37	Interstate Engineering, Inc	3315.00
The Beacon	605.66	Beulah Park District	5915.04
Farmers Union Oil Co	6111.40	Beulah Senior Center	1137.51
AT&T Mobility	777.42	Beulah Airport Authority	1592.51
Eggers Electric Motor Co	139.85	Interstate Engineering, Inc	25000.19
Beulah Quarterback Club	50.00	Interstate Engineering, Inc	4246.00
Coal Country CHC	26.00	Interstate Engineering, Inc	9903.58
Sanford Health Occup Med	35.00	Alexus Foss	119.75
J & J Nelson Spraying	2840.00	Granville Brinkman	231.25
Core & Main LP	711.09	Adam Baker	121.39
Ternes Tree Service	1350.00	Uniform Center	126.29
MARC	1771.08	NDACo Resources Group, Inc.	238.24
Ferguson Enterprises	135.50	Clay's Plumbing & Heating	20162.90
Hirshfield's Bismarck	560.57	Solem Law Office	41387.48
Systems Technology	669.00	Mandate Truck Center	1510.24
Colonial Research Chem Corp	904.24	J & J Nelson Spraying	1810.00
Minnesota Valley Testing	191.12	Hawkins Inc.	778.76
Recreation Supply Co	379.18	Millennium Express	16.23
Stein's Inc	396.30	West River Telephone	97.46
Faith Koch	1082.02	Marco Technologies LLC	159.66
Alexus Foss	866.35	Dakota Concepts, LLC	63378.75
Convention & Visitors Bureau	7515.00	The Beacon	155.00
West Dakota Utility Services	3664.37	KFYR TV	14.95
Mercer County Auditor	296.15	Solem Law Office	225.00
North Dakota Dept of Health	48.00	Penworthy	348.47
Beulah Lumber Company	85.40	Cengage Learning	257.41
Sanitation Products	298.88	MicroMarketing LLC	86.06
Heidi Hamelton	300.00	Chelsea Stockwell	80.00
Aramark	53.68	J & J Nelson Spraying	400.00
Bronson's Marketplace	761.74	Postmaster	410.94
American Express	512.13		
AT&T Mobility	25.90		
Bronson's Marketplace	132.30		
The Hub Convenience Stores	10.99		
STREICHER'S	1265.76		

9/14/22