

LAKOTA CITY COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING  
UNAPPROVED  
JANUARY 3<sup>RD</sup>, 2023

The Lakota City Council held its regular meeting January 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2023, at the City Hall. Mayor Brad Hooley called the meeting to order at 6:08 p.m. All Council Members were present, except Member Vasichuk who was absent. City Attorney Jayme Tenneson, City Auditor Amie Vasichuk and City Supt. Josh Ulland were also in attendance; Sheriff Kurt Schwind and Chief Deputy Jesse Madche were in the audience.

Mayor Hooley called for additions to the agenda. Winter help was added to the agenda.

Member Fahey made a motion to approve the December 4<sup>th</sup>, 2022 regular meeting minutes and the December 4<sup>th</sup>, 2022 Planning & Zoning minutes seconded by Member Nelson. Motion carried.

Mayor Hooley recognized Schwind and Madche.

Mayor Hooley stated he has spoken to Sheriff Schwind about the snowmobile issues in town and the proper way to exit and enter town. Attorney Tenneson stated he doesn't see any issues with snowmobiles in town, other than the ones riding thru peoples private property. Sheriff Schwind stated his department has spoken with the juveniles who have ridden through yards and to their parents to provide a warning. Sheriff Schwind stated the next step would be to issue citations.

Chief Deputy Madche stated the department is working with the ND Parks and Rec to provide education classes on OTV's, UTV's and snowmobiles to the public. Sheriff Schwind stated he plans to attend council meetings quarterly and invited anyone wanting to participate in a ride along with his department to learn more about what occurs on a daily basis.

Member Fahey questioned about ticketing vehicles for being parked on the street for a long duration of time. Attorney Tenneson reminded that we would need to ticket all vehicles and not single out just one.

Schwind and Madche left the meeting at 6:24pm

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Member Nelson stated he will try to get the Ottetail Power policy on their cost share for work.

Supt. Ulland stated he is still waiting on the third pump install as they are waiting on the pipe to come in.

Attorney Tenneson stated he will draft his findings for dangerous buildings next week and have the document served to the owners.

Auditor Vasichuk provided the council with information on the cost of Globe Life insurance for employees as requested from the previous meeting. Member Solberg stated he felt employees could have the choice if they want to purchase this coverage on their own. Member Nelson stated he would like to know more of what is covered with the plan if it were to be coverage the city would provide to full-time

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employees as a benefit. Mayor Hooey stated he felt it could be something the employees could purchase on their own.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Auditor Vasichek stated evaluations were performed and are filed in each employee personnel file. Auditor Vasichek stated things are going well all around with the staff according to evaluations. Auditor Vasichek provided a spreadsheet showing current wages with a proposed increase of 8% for all. Auditor Vasichek stated for the 2023 budget provided a COL increase for wages at 8.9%. Mayor Hooey recommendations were on the spreadsheet showing 8% increase for all except employees Burkland, Schuh and Skogen who he recommended a little more than 8%. Mayor Hooey stated he felt the wages need to be more market value and his recommendation is to make it more enticing for the employees to stay and to increase part-time help starting out at \$17/hr. and after one year of service increasing it to \$18/hr. Member Solberg stated the school isn't increasing their wages and para's aren't making a lot of money. Member Ferguson stated we need to keep good employees and try to compete with neighboring employers and some employers are paying 100% health insurance along with good wages.

Member Solberg suggested changing the cost share of health insurance for employees from 85/15 split to 80/20 split. Member Mattern stated the cost share structure was changed last year from 75/25 to 85/15 in lieu of a wage increase for full time employees so that would take away from the employee.

Member Mattern stated he was in favor of Mayor Hooey's recommendation and to do what it takes to keep employees.

Member Nelson stated he was in favor of Mayor Hooey's recommendation on wages, but not changing health care cost sharing.

Member Nelson made a motion to give employees Ulland, Vasichek, Hoffarth and McLean an 8% wage increase; increasing wages of Burkland to \$28/hr., Schuh to \$24/hr. and Skogen to \$19/hr.; and changing the starting wage for summer help to \$17/hr., seconded by Member Fahey. On a roll call vote, all members voting in favor. Motion carried.

Auditor Vasichek stated the end of 2022 Supt. Ulland has 10 vacation days available, but by policy can only carry over 5 days. Auditor Vasichek stated during the month of December Supt. Ulland tried to use vacation time but was unable to do so during all the snow storms. Auditor Vasichek asked the council to allow the full carry over of 10 days for Supt. Ulland. Member Mattern questioned Supt. Ulland if he would like to be paid the 5 days or carry them over. Supt. Ulland preferred being paid the 5 days.

Member Mattern made a motion to pay Supt. Ulland his five earned vacation days in lieu of carrying over or losing them, seconded by Member Nelson. On a roll call vote, all members voting in favor. Motion carried.

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Attorney Tenneson recommended changing policy to allow at least 10 days to be carried over. Mayor Hooey requested it to be an agenda item in February.

Auditor Vasichек provided the council with the updated pledge list for the community center fundraiser. Auditor Vasichек stated she was approached by one of the donors wanting a key for the community center after their donation. Mayor Hooey stated the donation does not give unlimited access to the community center. Member Ferguson stated he also was approached by a donor wanting a key. The council had some discussion on a key fob and scheduling of events and decided to have the community center committee meet together to discuss the request.

Mayor Hooey stated he and Member Fahey thought the design of Block 3 in the Sundeen's Addition should be replatted as 3 large residential lots. Supt. Ulland suggested making the single southeast lot into a small park.

Mayor Hooey stated he would like to hire Cole Haugland to help move snow for the winter season. Attorney Tenneson stated the city is required to post all job opportunities. Auditor Vasichек will publish the ad for winter help in the Lakota American.

**SUPERINTENDENT REPORT**

Supt. Ulland's report was provided to the council.

Supt. Ulland stated the state is requiring weekly water samples which requires backwashing each time. Supt. Ulland stated there have been a couple water breaks where Witzel Construction has fixed; but will need to return for other improvements.

Supt. Ulland stated he would like to purchase the remainder of the electrical meters to work with the new AMR water meters. Supt. Ulland will have a price for next meeting.

**ENGINEER REPORT**

Engineer Glienke was not in attendance.

**SHERIFF'S REPORT**

No additional report provided.

**COUNCIL REPORTS**

Member Mattern stated there are intersection areas where the snow is piled up and needs to be knocked down.

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Member Fahey stated something needs to be done with the cars piling up on the street behind the city shop.

Member Nelson questioned who will be financially responsible for the electrical meter sockets if one gets broken during change outs. The council was in consensus that the city will be financially responsible if any damage occurs.

**ADVISORY REPORTS**

No report provided.

**MAYOR REPORT**

Mayor Hooley had no additional report.

**AUDITOR REPORT**

Auditor Vasichek's written report was provided and attached with minutes.

Auditor Vasichek reminded the council about visiting Kenmare.

Auditor Vasichek provided the council with a preliminary drawing for the wading pool project this summer.

The council reviewed the financial and utility reports provided.

**ATTORNEY REPORT**

Nothing in addition to report.

After review of the bills and vouchers, a motion was made by Member Fahey to pay all the bills presented for payment and those bills paid prior to the meeting. Member Solberg seconded the motion. Motion carried, on roll call vote of 5-0.

Advanced Business Methods	\$	311.77
Aflac	\$	127.02
Agcom	\$	3,639.77
Aramark Uniform	\$	43.35
BCBS	\$	5,996.66

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Border States	\$ 740.74
Cardmember Services	\$ 361.79
City of Lakota	\$ 100.00
Dakota Implement	\$ 604.13
Dept of Environmental	\$ 45.00
EFTPS	\$ 2,052.08
EFTPS	\$ 2,652.79
Farmers Union Oil	\$ 371.80
GF Utility Billing	\$ 52.00
Hanson, Jاليا	\$ 50.00
Interstate Billing Services	\$ 920.76
Job Service ND	\$ 403.74
Kouba, Don	\$ 1,500.00
Lakota American	\$ 369.65
Lakota Farm Service	\$ 14,167.36
Lakota Municipal Utilities	\$ 310.00
Lakota Municipal Utilities	\$ 614.41
Lakota Municipal Utilities	\$ 10,108.54
Lakota Sanitation Service	\$ 7,756.41
McLean, Gary	\$ 50.00
Mead & Hunt	\$ 10,080.00
MRES	\$ 57,157.94
MMUA	\$ 495.00
Nationwide	\$ 290.00
NDPERS	\$ 3,220.01

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Nelson County Sheriff	\$ 2,318.40
Nelson County Treasurer	\$ 24,963.17
Neonlink	\$ 31.20
Nodak	\$ 615.25
ND Telephone	\$ 48.50
North-Holt Electric	\$ 34,513.00
Northstar Aviation	\$ 1,624.00
Office of State Tax	\$ 345.24
Polar	\$ 1,269.55
Quill	\$ 34.98
T & R Electric	\$ 7,411.10
United Laboratories	\$ 1,587.80
Verizon	\$ 179.64
Witzel Construction	\$ 1,139.50
City Salaries	\$ 10,971.91
City Salaries	\$ <u>14,509.54</u>
TOTAL	\$ 226,155.50

Next regular meeting is scheduled for Monday, February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2023, at 6:00pm.

Mayor Solberg made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Member Nelson.

Meeting adjourned at 7:34 p.m.

APPROVED BY:

SUBMITTED BY:

Brad Hooey, Mayor

Amie Vasichek, Auditor