

LAKOTA CITY COUNCIL

REGULAR MEETING

MARCH 4<sup>TH</sup>, 2024

The Lakota City Council held its regular meeting on March 4<sup>th</sup>, 2024, at the City Hall. Mayor Brad Hooey called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. All Council Members were present. Member Fahey was in attendance via speaker phone. City Superintendent Josh Ulland, City Auditor Amie Vasichек and City Attorney Jayme Tenneson were in attendance. Kristi Hoffarth, Bob Hoffarth and Kelly Peters were in the audience.

The council stood and conducted the pledge of allegiance.

Member Mattern made a motion to approve the February 5<sup>th</sup>, 2024, regular meeting and February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024, Special meeting minutes, seconded by Member Solberg. Motion carried.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Supt. Ulland stated he received a revised bid for heating/cooling of the city hall of \$10,634 removing the electric plenum.

Member Solberg requested to receive a bid from Ohnstad Electric or another second company for comparison.

Auditor Vasichек provided a revised community center agreement and requirements. Member Vasichек stated he will bring the revision to the next community center committee meeting.

Auditor Vasichек stated a citation was served on the individual violating the trash nuisance and is still ongoing.

Supt. Ulland stated the fire department would like the city to gift one lot to the north of the current fire hall building for an expansion project. Mayor Hooey stated he did not feel that would be an issue.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Mr. Peters reviewed the bid to install additional cameras in the gym at the community center. Mr. Peters stated he felt there is a need to have more views from the crowd to resolve any issues as they arise.

Member Vasichек made a motion to approve installing additional cameras at the community center utilizing the shared maintenance fund with the school, pending school board approval, seconded by Member Mattern. On a roll call vote all members voting in favor. Motion carried.

Mayor Hooey stated he has not received estimates yet to replace the sidewalks by the school. Auditor Vasichек stated the State of ND TA grant funding are currently accepting applications for the 2027-2028 construction season. Member Vasichек stated although the council would like to complete this project this year, it would be a good idea to still apply for the funding.

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Mayor Hooey stated the council will need to vacate the current easements on Block 3 Sundeen's addition prior to re-platting the block. Mayor Hooey stated once that is completed the new utility easements can be established.

Member Solberg made a motion to approve the petition to vacate the current utility easements on Block 3, Sundeen's Addition, seconded by Member Nelson. On a roll call vote, all members voting in favor. Motion carried.

Supt. Ulland presented proposals to purchase or lease a mower for the city. Discussion was held about the pros/cons of leasing vs. purchasing. Member Solberg stated the council started the program of leasing to have the assurance of a new piece of equipment each year and not have to worry about maintenance issues.

Supt. Ulland stated at minimum the city would need to buy out the current lease. Member Mattern stated he is in favor of purchasing instead of leasing. Supt. Ulland stated Leading Edge would be providing \$5,000 as a trade in for the 2017 mower.

Member Mattern made a motion to trade in the 2017 John Deere Z930M and purchase Z930R Ztrak, seconded by Member Nelson. All voting in favor, except Member Vasichек who abstained. Motion carried.

Supt. Ulland stated the city needs to decide on the tractor lease and if we want to renew it. Member Mattern stated he thought the city could find a tractor to purchase around \$100,000 so it can be utilized throughout the entire year. Member Vasichек provided the council with a copy of John Deere's lease contract agreement.

Member Solberg made a motion to approve an 8-month government lease agreement with Leading Edge Equipment for a John Deere tractor, seconded by Member Fahey. On a roll call vote, all members voting in favor, except Members Mattern and Nelson who opposed and Member Vasichек who abstained. Motion carried.

Member Nelson stated the golf course fountain needs a new pump and aeration system and proposed an allowance of up to \$6,000 to replace the system.

Member Vasichек made a motion to allow up to \$6,000 budget to replace the aeration system for the golf course fountain, seconded by Member Mattern. On a roll call vote, all members voting in favor. Motion carried.

Mayor Hooey recognized Kristi Hoffarth.

Ms. Hoffarth stated last year she had hired Ashley Folven to complete bookkeeping and grant paperwork for the library. Ms. Hoffarth stated she took 30% of her own wages to hire Ms. Folven. Ms. Hoffarth stated Ms. Folven has not been performing her duties or showing up to work, but still receiving a wage. Attorney Tenneson stated Ms. Hoffarth is Ms. Folven's direct supervisor and can terminate her at anytime. Ms. Hoffarth thanked the council and left the meeting at 7:03pm. Member Nelson requested to re-instate Ms. Hoffarth's wage to what it was.

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**SUPERINTENDENT REPORT**

Supt. Ulland's provided the council with his written report and attached with the minutes.

Supt. Ulland stated the lift station pump on the north side of town has failed and needs to be replaced.

Supt. Ulland estimated around \$13,000 budget for this project.

Supt. Ulland stated he will place a dead-end sign at the end of the Hulstrand Addition road.

Member Mattern stated the crew needs to take inventory on black dirt and order if needed. Member Mattern questioned if the crew still anticipates moving the dirt/rock piles to the Beck property. Supt. Ulland stated the city might have access to clay from CHS.

Member Mattern questioned if anything was done with Roger Wheeler's land he wanted to forfeit to the city. Member Solberg stated he did not speak with Mr. Wheeler, therefore nothing has been completed.

Member Vasichek stated the city should start the process to transfer ownership. Attorney Tenneson indicated he could provide a quick claim deed for the property.

**ENGINEER REPORT**

No report provided.

**SHERIFF'S REPORT**

No additional report provided.

**COUNCIL REPORTS**

Member Mattern questioned how the housing meeting went last week. Auditor Vasichek stated the meeting was well received and will be ongoing to discuss the housing needs in the region.

Member Fahey stated he would like Supt. Ulland to provide a maintenance record for equipment.

Member Nelson reviewed the summer project list provided by Groundskeeper Karas.

Member Solberg asked for an update on the single family housing development project. Auditor Vasichek stated the HIF application has been submitted and the State Bank of Lakota has signed a letter of interest for the construction loan.

**ADVISORY REPORTS**

No report provided.

**MAYOR REPORT**

Nothing to report.

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**AUDITOR REPORT**

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

Auditor Vasichек reviewed the tree grant received for planting on the boulevards.

Auditor Vasichек reminded the council to promote the primary residency credit and offered to help anyone needing help to complete the application.

The council reviewed the financial and utility reports provided.

**ATTORNEY REPORT**

Attorney Tenneson had nothing in addition to report.

After reviewing the bills and vouchers, a motion was made by Member Mattern to pay all the bills presented for payment and those bills paid prior to the meeting. Member Vasichек seconded the motion. Motion carried, on roll call vote of 6-0.

|                           |    |          |
|---------------------------|----|----------|
| Advanced Business Methods | \$ | 239.84   |
| Aramark                   | \$ | 79.29    |
| BCBS                      | \$ | 7,878.55 |
| Computer Express          | \$ | 6,488.95 |
| Dept of Environmental     | \$ | 190.60   |
| EFTPS                     | \$ | 2,145.14 |
| EFTPS                     | \$ | 2,284.97 |
| Elan                      | \$ | 2,405.92 |
| Farmers Union Oil         | \$ | 1,204.91 |
| Ferguson Waterworks       | \$ | 3,190.22 |
| GF Utility                | \$ | 101.00   |
| Hawkins                   | \$ | 602.76   |
| Krabbenhof                | \$ | 138.48   |
| Lakota Hardware           | \$ | 283.80   |

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|                            |    |           |
|----------------------------|----|-----------|
| Lakota Municipal Utilities | \$ | 450.00    |
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| Lakota Sanitation Service  | \$ | 11,602.35 |
| Land Surveying Services    | \$ | 840.00    |
| Leach, Rick                | \$ | 2,540.00  |
| Leading Edge Equipment     | \$ | 3,000.00  |
| Mailfinance                | \$ | 600.00    |
| Mead & Hunt                | \$ | 13,400.00 |
| MRES                       | \$ | 83,272.18 |
| Nationwide                 | \$ | 290.00    |
| NDPERS                     | \$ | 3,619.46  |
| NC Sheriff                 | \$ | 3,415.00  |
| Nelson Electrical          | \$ | 786.12    |
| Neonlink                   | \$ | 41.20     |
| Nodak                      | \$ | 1,035.37  |
| ND Telephone               | \$ | 49.24     |
| Ohnstad Electric           | \$ | 188.16    |
| Quill                      | \$ | 68.47     |
| Renewed State              | \$ | 1,501.99  |
| Rough Rider Industries     | \$ | 62.60     |
| Till House                 | \$ | 2,500.00  |
| Ulland, Josh               | \$ | 187.60    |
| Verizon                    | \$ | 180.12    |
| Willert, Paul              | \$ | 250.00    |
| Witzel Construction        | \$ | 1,396.00  |

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|               |                     |
|---------------|---------------------|
| WSI           | \$ 2,930.87         |
| Zions Bank    | \$ 94,560.02        |
| City Salaries | \$ 11,981.62        |
| City Salaries | <u>\$ 12,751.86</u> |
| TOTAL         | \$ 289,151.29       |

Next regular meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024, at 6:00pm and the Tax Equalization will be held prior at 5:30pm the same day.

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:32 p.m.

APPROVED BY:

SUBMITTED BY:

Brad Hooey, Mayor

Amie Vasichek, Auditor