

LAKOTA CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
SEPTEMBER 9TH, 2024

The Lakota City Council held its regular meeting on September 9th, 2024, at the City Hall. Mayor Bill Solberg called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. All Council Members were present, except Member Vasichek who was absent. City Auditor Amie Vasichek and City Employee Joey Ross were in attendance. Sheriff Schwind and Kelly Peters were audience members.

The council stood and conducted the pledge of allegiance.

Sheriff Schwind went over the recent issues at the SunLac hotel and Lakes Bar. Schwind stated he contacted the owner of the hotel 6-7 months past to review the condition of the building and he felt nothing was done to correct the issues. Sheriff Schwind stated there have been a total of twenty-one calls for service, 8 violent or domestic situations, several calls about people with outstanding warrants and this last week alone had 3 separate calls about violent situations. Sheriff Schwind stated he also contacted the health department and requested an assessment of the accommodation within the hotel, which was completed, however no additional follow-up from the health department was provided.

Mayor Solberg questioned if the management is responsive to the complaints or calls of service to the site. Sheriff Schwind stated the management has not been good to work with in regard to providing surveillance footage when requested and often ask for a warrant when footage is requested.

Mayor Solberg stated the annual liquor licenses will be coming due January 1st, 2025, and will be on the agenda for approval at the December 2nd, 2024, meeting. Mayor Solberg stated he would like to invite the present management of the SunLac to the next city council meeting. Sheriff Schwind recommended speaking or inviting the owner of the facility as well. Member Fahey suggested inviting all the Lakota bar owners to the next city council meeting to discuss the current conditions.

Sheriff Schwind stated a deputy did review Timmy Hoffarth's property regarding the junk violation letter sent but would like to know how the lease is administered to Mr. Hoffarth and if he should be the one cited instead of the property owner. Auditor Vasichek stated she has only sent a violation letter to Janie Luehring regarding the violation.

Sheriff Schwind left the meeting at 6:19pm.

Mayor Solberg recognized Kelly Peters.

Mr. Peters stated he is offended by the previous mayor's comments in the June 3rd, 2024, city council meeting minutes that the school board stated they did not use the sidewalks between the high school and elementary school. Mr. Peters stated that was an incorrect portrayal of how the conversation went and what was stated is the school would not use taxpayer funds to improve a private property sidewalk. Mr. Peters stated sidewalks are usually paid for by special assessments and that is how it should continue.

Member Ferguson stated that he does understand where property owner Gen Strand is coming from when her sidewalk is wider than others in town and should not be obligated to pay for it. Member Ferguson also pointed out that the school's large equipment has been used to move snow, which caused damage to her driveway/sidewalk. Mayor Solberg stated he does recall when the sidewalk was damaged a couple of

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years ago and Mrs. Strand was under the impression the school would be repairing it the following construction season. Mr. Peters stated if it were brought up to the school it would have been dealt with.

There was conversation about applying for the TA funding to replace sidewalks and the steps selecting sidewalks.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Auditor Vasichек stated Supt. Ulland had contacted Wayne Maixner regarding the engine noise signage and the status of moving it. Mr. Maixner indicated to Supt. Ulland that he was in Bismarck at the time of the call and would try to contact someone for answers.

Auditor Vasichек stated Supt. Ulland is wanting clarification on what the council would like to see with the 4 properties who were issued letters for violation of junk on their property.

Member Ferguson stated everything that is not attached to the ground at Janie Luehrings property needs to be removed and the grass needs to be mowed back to the house. Member Ferguson stated Doroty Luehring's property has improved, but it needs more work. Member Ferguson stated the bus is still on Malia Young's property and needs to be moved as well and should be dealt with between the property owner and the owner of the abandoned bus.

Mayor Solberg reviewed city crew vehicle options. Member Fahey stated there is a vehicle at McVilIe Motor of interest. Mayor Solberg stated he does not feel a new vehicle is necessary nor should we trade in the 2014 pickup; but rather look at replacing the 1997 truck.

Employee Ross stated the reason for the ¾ ton, or 1 ton truck was to pull the street patching trailer.

Member Vasichек entered the meeting at 6:53pm.

Mayor Solberg stated he would like to table the vehicle discussion until members of the council can review the vehicles.

Member Ferguson stated he has the pump listed with Steffe's Auction and will be complete next month.

NEW BUSINESS

Auditor Vasichек presented a storefront improvement application from Valkyrie Fitness for a total project cost of \$3,531. NCJDA has already approved their share of the 50% match, and it would be up to the city council to approve the city's match.

Member Fahey made a motion to Valkyrie Fitness storefront improvement application and the city's share of \$882.75, seconded by Member Vasichек. On a roll call vote, all members voting in favor. Motion carried.

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Auditor Vasichек presented the 2025 budget for final approval.

Member Nelson made a motion to approve the 2025 budget as presented, seconded by Member Fahey. On a roll call vote, all members voted in favor. Motion carried.

Auditor Vasichек stated there was a request to update the abstracts for the Hulstrand addition as two lots have been sold. Auditor Vasichек reached out to Nelson County Abstract and received an estimate for \$1,600 to update each abstract. There was discussion on if it was \$1,600/lot or \$1,600 total. Auditor Vasichек stated she will clarify with Ms. Murchie.

Member Vasichек made a motion to update the abstracts for the Hulstrand Addition, seconded by Member Ferguson. On a roll call vote, all members voting in favor. Motion carried.

Member Nelson stated the golf course storage shed is tabled at the moment.

Auditor Vasichек provided the council with a water operator job advertisement in preparation for employee Kim Burkland's future retirement. There was discussion on whether the search should be for a water operator versus a general laborer. The council decided to advertise a water operator and if no applicants come in, then try for a general laborer.

Member Nelson made a motion to approve a special events application from Till House Saloon & Grill for September 21st, 2024, seconded by Member Haugland. All voting in favor. Motion carried.

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

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

Mayor Solberg questioned if the weeds were sprayed between the sidewalk and buildings. Employee Ross stated he picked up the weed spray last week and will get to it soon. Mayor Solberg suggested spraying the weeds first and then cutting them back.

Mayor Solberg stated he has asked a few times but would like the street cracks to be filled as soon as possible.

Member Ferguson requested to have the splash pad features tarped for winter.

Member Ferguson stated the alley's need to have the trees trimmed back.

ENGINEER REPORT

No report provided.

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SHERIFF'S REPORT

No additional report provided.

COUNCIL REPORTS

Member Nelson stated Randy Karas would like to take out the sand traps at the golf course as they are labor intensive to maintain and not really used. Member Nelson stated Mr. Karas would like to replace them as a rough grass hazard. Member Nelson is not in favor of removing them. Council agreed.

Member Fahey stated he would like to review the chip sealing proposal and complete what the city can afford.

Member Haugland stated he was approached by Jon & Tessa Varnson regarding a previous agreement with Mayor Hooey on behalf of the city to remedy the water issue in front of their driveway. Mayor Solberg stated he knows a little of the situation and spoke with Supt. Ulland about installing drain tile at the driveway.

Member Ferguson questioned when the dilapidated buildings would be taken down. Auditor Vasichек stated it is scheduled for October.

Member Vasichек stated the community center committee will plan to meet this Friday morning with the new committee members.

ADVISORY REPORTS

No report provided.

MAYOR REPORT

Mayor Solberg requested to have crack sealing completed before temperatures get colder.

AUDITOR REPORT

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

Auditor Vasichек stated Bob Walford would like a letter from the city allowing a variance for the soil conservation to plant a row of lilacs 6-8' from his property line. Auditor Vasichек stated the soil conservation's policy is to plant at least 16' from the property line. After discussion of the council, it was decided to not approve the request and follow the soil conservation's policy.

Auditor Vasichек requested for the previous minutes to be approved.

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Member Nelson made a motion to approve the minutes from the August 5th, 2024, regular city council meeting, seconded by Member Fahey. All voting in favor. Motion carried.

After reviewing 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 Vasichek seconded the motion. Motion carried, on roll call vote of 5-0.

Advanced Business Methods	\$	239.84
Auto Valve	\$	274.14
BCBS	\$	8,125.79
CHS-Lakota	\$	472.71
Dakota Implement	\$	109.99
Dept of Environmental	\$	410.56
DLL Finance	\$	785.28
EFTPS	\$	3,237.15
EFTPS	\$	3,465.37
Elan	\$	958.50
Farmers Union Lumber	\$	341.95
Farmers Union Oil	\$	2,539.30
Fastenal	\$	56.75
Ferguson Waterworks	\$	10,347.52
GF Utility	\$	302.00
Hauling Grass Lawn Care	\$	550.00
Hawkins	\$	2,673.37
Helms & Associates	\$	5,000.00
Lakes Area Turf	\$	8,002.60
Lakota American	\$	465.15
Lakota Auto Truck	\$	65.19
Lakota Community Club	\$	300.00

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Lakota Farm Services	\$	25.00
Lakota Feed	\$	124.36
Lakota Hardware	\$	1,621.56
Lakota Municipal Utilities	\$	150.00
Lakota Municipal Utilities	\$	756.35
Lakota Municipal Utilities	\$	8,176.13
Lakota Sanitation	\$	11,805.71
Mack Repair	\$	258.14
Menards	\$	1,615.57
MRES	\$	41,251.79
NDAMP	\$	125.00
NDPERS	\$	3,547.48
Nelson County Recorder	\$	60.00
Nelson Co. Sheriff	\$	3,415.00
Neonlink	\$	39.20
Nodak	\$	1,342.89
ND One Call	\$	12.00
ND Telephone	\$	98.42
Petty Cash	\$	9.50
Polar	\$	1,287.68
Pomp's Tire	\$	55.77
QTPOD	\$	480.00
Quill	\$	188.53
ReNewed State	\$	2,800.00
Ryan's Welding	\$	3,871.76
Rysavy Plumbing	\$	76.40

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Skips Napa	\$	119.88
Sundeen, Alma	\$	259.87
Ulland, Josh	\$	29.99
United Laboratories	\$	3,146.30
Verizon	\$	180.12
Wells Fargo	\$	1,442.28
Zions Bank	\$	6,065.02
City Salaries	\$	18,427.12
City Salaries	\$	<u>17,405.54</u>
TOTAL	\$	178,993.52

Next regular meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 7th, 2024, at 6:00pm.

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:32 p.m.

APPROVED BY:

SUBMITTED BY:

Bill Solberg, Mayor

Amie Vasichek, Auditor