

Osakis City Council –Workshop Meeting
October 29, 2020
3:30 pm

Present: Keith Emerson, Randy Anderson, Jerry Olson, Laura Backes, Justin Dahlheimer

Absent: None

Others Present:

Meeting was called to order at 3:30 p.m.

Project #179: Building Inspection

Discussion was held regarding the Building Inspections.

Backes has concerns about how hard it is to get a permit and answers for businesses that want to invest into their business. They have a hard time getting things done.

Mark Harren stated they are hired to do code enforcement and require projects to be built to code standard.

The city staff take care of zoning code matters.

Backes read a text message from a business – Bad attitudes and bad temper things that could be fixed.

Dahlheimer said that the Building Inspectors need to be willing to explain why there is a need for a zoning permit or why it needs to be done and if the person has questions or doesn't understand.

Discussion was held that a sheet could be set up for the types of permits needed and the plans and process for each.

The city staff could have something simple on what they need to do.

Harren stated that it is hard to set that up because it changes for different requirements for offices/residential/daycare/bank depending on what is being done or remodeled from what it was to what it will be used for.

It is needed to get some information down for commercial projects to try to keep them on schedule and moving on their projects.

People try to find information on line and do not call so information should be written down to find so they can get their questions answered.

Dan Marthaler knew people and how the contractors work.

The new inspectors need to get to know the contractors and how they do their work. Take time to build relationships so they know who they can have more leeway with.

Project #24: Liquor Store / Project #482: COVID-19

Discussion was held if we should enforce wearing masks or shields to serve the customers and work at the Liquor Store.

Discussed on-sale open or if we only need off-sale open if we can't get the employee's to wear masks or shields.

The consensus of the council is to keep it open and the employees are to wear a mask or shields.

Goodwin was quarantined for 14 days. Jeff Lund stepped up and did invoices and items that needed to be worked on before end of month.

Discuss in January a head bartender position and can be for someone that has time into the position and has shown to take on responsibility of the position.

Dahlheimer commented that Lund stained the deck this fall and could have been done during the shutdown.

We don't want to be in a situation where employees are doing a bid for contractors. Lund could have done the staining in the spring so the city did not have to pay the extra money.

Goodwin said that one bid was received for \$1,200.

Council said he should have done it as part of his job during the shutdown and not hire as a contractor. No employees were laid off and should have found things to do for them.

Project #205: Public Works / Project #482: COVID-19

Gottwald discussed the two snowfalls – No equipment was broken but did break two manholes and eight gate valves.

For the city crew COVID– recommended to have minimal contact and do not talk to anyone we don't need to. Masks are not worn in the shop. Guys keep separate jobs there.

The plan is to do weekly rounds in town if all were in quarantine and treat it like a weekend and do what needs to be done.

Anderson said that to keep each person protected, each person should be wearing a mask and drive in separate vehicles if possible. Also to stay 6 ft apart. Want you to look at what you can do to separate jobs as much as possible. Do the best you can.

Project #76: Police / Project #482: COVID-19

Gulbranson stated that Calvin Uhl tested positive and was quarantined for two weeks. He is back to work now.

For COVID compliance – recommended guide to a medical call is to wear a mask and gloves. While working, wear a mask when by people and sanitize the squads.

Wear a mask when in close proximity of people, in the office or on calls together.

Council asked Gulbranson how the time keeping system was going.

Gulbranson said there were issues with errors.

Jacobson stated Grinstead had some change requests that were not put in order when approved so was a problem. Need to be requested in sequence and approve in sequence or the system gives an error.

Anderson - Keep working with the officers to use it and use Jacobson as a resource. If you have questions, that is what she is there for.

The council would like to have an officer stop in as needed at the community center on Election Day.

Gulbranson mentioned the Cares Funds – If we are going to remodel, he would like the council find a way to get a garage for police to use to thaw out the squad cars or get the evidence from the garage to the evidence room.

Project #309: City Hall / Project #482: COVID-19

Council received a price for remodeling city hall in the amount of \$66,681.60.

This includes offices for employee separation, a window for public access and waiting and a council area large enough to meet via zoom or conference.

For COVID compliance now – wear a mask in city hall when someone comes in or if working together. Keep working remotely to protect employees. Also, keep wall shields up and everything sanitized each day we are open.

Project #360: Employee Arbitration / Mediation

Information will be sent to the attorney to review and make recommendation.

Arbitration is where we will head.

Project #373: Timekeeping Policy

The timekeeping policy was presented with changes and put into policy setup for future policies.

Motion by Dahlheimer, seconded by Anderson, to approve to send to the unions and employees. Motion Carries

Project #382: Union / AFSCME Council 65

The professionals have started their negotiations. Some language cleanup was presented.

For budgets in the future there could be revenue issues and the state does not know about LGA.

Dahlheimer stated negotiations are hard to communicate with staff and the rep will say the way it is to get what they want. Don't have a good conversation and don't feel good about it.

When done, it is like we don't appreciate them but is the way it is set up to meet.

Project #477: Haglund Lawsuit

Is in settlement but no final sign off.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Mayor – Keith E. Emerson

City Clerk/Treasurer – Angela A. Jacobson