

Osakis City Council – Regular Meeting
Community Center
January 11, 2021
7:00 PM

Present: Dan Wessel, Tim Thornbloom, Alan Larson, Laura Backes, Randy Anderson

Absent: None

Others Present: Angela Jacobson, Reenie Goodwin, Mark Grinstead, Craig Dropik, Chad Gulbranson, Greg Gottwald, Eric Jacobson, Jason Schultz, Jolene Woodard, Richard Woodard, Lee Lueth, Ila Anderson, Dan Finnegan, Kyle Swenstad, Moli Swenstad, Jacque Sorensen, Rodger Larson, Jeremy Thorson, Jasmine Johnson, Kirsten Wessel, Dave Darrington, Kathie Darrington, Sam Converse, Bryan Danielson, Tonya Danielson, Brad Zimmer, Derek Lang, Darrin Quistorff, Calvin Uhl, Dirk Hagedon, David Pease

The January 11th, 2021 meeting was called to order by Acting Mayor Randy Anderson 7:03 p.m.

Oath of Office for Mayor Dan Wessel, Council Member Tim Thornbloom and Council Member Alan Larson were read.

Pledge of Allegiance was spoken.

Motion by Anderson, seconded by Thornbloom, to approve the agenda as presented. Motion Carries

Motion by Backes, seconded by Anderson, to approve the general consent items, including the December city bills in the amount of \$257,559.20 and the True Value bill in the amount of \$400.52, meeting minutes from December 14, 2020, December 29, 2020 and the Overtime Report. Motion Carries

Project #22: Clerk

Clerk Angela Jacobson was in attendance.

Council will received the final budget items in February after the year is finalized with the auditors.

Project #24: Liquor Store

Reenie Goodwin was in attendance.

Council received the following reports:

- Statement of Revenue & Expense
- Liquor Store 2 year Expenditures & Revenues
- Liquor Store Expenditures/Revenues for On/Off Sale
- Bullet Points
- Cycle Counts
- YTD Long/Short
- Off-Sale Profit of \$4,292
- On-Sale Loss of -\$4,397

- Total Loss for December if -\$105
- Yearend Profit of \$27,093

Goodwin informed the council of the following:

- Audit of the Liquor Store inventory was done on January 1st with only a \$200 difference.
- 3 employees are leaving and would like to hire 3 more employees. One new has a DWI but has been informed that things are being taken care of and has had nothing since. Council does not see any issue with hiring the individual as long as he meets standards.

Goodwin thank the community for support for the Liquor Store during Covid this past year.

Project #73: First Responders

Mark Grinstead was in attendance.

Council received the December report:

- 12 calls for the month, 1 no-shows (Friday at 9:43 a.m.)
- 3.5 average member response per call.
- 2 calls had a solo responder.
- 58% of the calls were between 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- 66% of calls were in town, 17% were in Leslie Twp.
- Top Response Members for the month were Cory Dierks with 8, Hatti Thorson with 7.

Council received the 2020 Year End Stats (November 2019 – November 2020)

- 230 calls year to date.
- 50% of the calls were in the city, 38% were in Osakis Twp, 40% were split between Leslie and Gordon Twps.
- Started 2020 with 14 members, lost one and gained 4 new members – ending with 17 members.
- There was a three way tie for 2020 Top Responder – Cory Dierks, Jason Moundson and Brenda Majerus all responded to 96 calls. New member Shannon Graff responded to 46 calls in 5 months and prevented many daytime no-shows.
- No meeting/training was held in December. Will be having the officer elections at the January 27th, 2021 meeting.

Project #74: Fire Department

Craig Dropik was in attendance.

Dropik informed the council of the yearly election of officers that was held at their December 28th, 2020 meeting.

Fire Department Officers are as follows:

- Chief – Craig Dropik
- 1st Asst. Chief – Travis Middendorf
- 2nd Asst. Chief – Kyle Kostrzewski
- Training Officer – Adam Trisco

Relief Association Board:

- President – Kyle Kostrzewski
- Vice-President – Ryan Larson

- Treasurer – Bob Kallstrom
- Secretary – Craig Schultz
- Board Member 1 – Adam Trisco
- Board Member 2 – Matt Kral

Council received the December Fire Department report. The department had 1 call for the month for a house/chimney fire and used 3,000 gallons of water.

Water usage for 2020 was 174,250 gallons:

- Fire calls – 109,250 gallons
- Training – 25,000 gallons
- Pumps & hose testing – 25,000 gallons
- Washing trucks and cleaning the fire hall – 15,000 gallons

Meeting with the townships will be February 10th, 2021.

Project #76: Police

Chad Gulbranson was in attendance.

Council received the December/Year End 2020 Report:

- 192 calls for service for the month – 2769 for the year.
- 20 citations for the month – 117 for the year.
- 3 arrests for the month – 29 for the year.
- 60 warnings for the month – 776 for the year.
- 2 call outs for the month – 38 for the year.

Gulbranson informed the council of the following:

- Updating policy for mandates for police requirements per state.
- TZD paid is for the time for extra enforcement. All is reimbursed from the state.

Project #205: Public Works/City Crew

Greg Gottwald was in attendance.

Council received the Public Works report for December:

- Continue working on PER and Rural Development application for the water plant and tower.
- New permit to submit comments based on attorney recommendation and can use cattle exclusion.
- Get actual levels for the permit case to see what we can hold.
- Aeration trailer project to start in the ponds. Looking at more items that can be made before spring. The cost will be around \$50,000. This is used for pumping and for the wastewater ponds.
- Worked on the backup white truck. Did lots of work to get it back to DOT specs.
- Ice rink has been installed and is being used.

Gottwald is requesting approval for the purchase of a pump in the amount of \$11,420 from Quality Flow. The existing pump has been in service since 1984. A new pump was put in and 2 backup pumps.

Council would like to have another quote to compare pump options to see if the costs are comparable

Items for the Council to Consider / Open Floor

Wessel read the open comments – to respect all people and keep it civilized.

Rodger Larson had comments on Facebook regarding Covid funds the city received. Funds the city received was \$134,407. \$66,000 was allocated for city hall.

Comment was made that we the council are approachable if you need to talk to all of us. We are available to listen and not go on social media to discuss or rally the troops.

Backes spoke – Thanked Tonya Danielson for her questions and concerns regarding spending the funds. Backes appreciates having a face to face conversation.

Backes commented that as a board we sit up here and make the best decisions we can. We are not trying to do anything on the sly, we are trying to do our best with the information we receive. We gather and do what we can.

The October 29th, 2021 meeting minutes stated – remodel area and garage.

Offices would offer privacy and protection for what is needed.

Backes explained that we have three new council members and this is their first meeting. It is not right to come down on them at this meeting for something they did not have a part of.

Backes said that Osakis is better than this – we are better than this.

Larson stated that funds were used and not for local businesses. The city should be aware for that.

Bryan Danielson spoke and was concerned about help and funds for businesses since they are struggling.

Jason Schultz asked about notification of the meetings not on the website.

Covid did not help in getting people involved. It was hard to do with the Covid situation.

Wessel said – What we want to do is a meet the council night. The council wants to get people involved so people can come to talk.

Dirk Hagedon stated there is transparency out there – for input and to get input. Discussion about a quarterly newsletter was had.

O-Town Tavern is asking for a refund for the Liquor License.

It was explained that the Covid funds were received in September and had to be spent by November 15th.

It was asked about the minutes on the website.

A new website is coming and will be better and more helpful.

Lee Lueth stated that the Chamber should help out for funding for businesses.

Jacobson replied that the EDA will help any business that needs help with funds.

Tonya Danielson – Think about and consider helping businesses in the future. We don't want to beg for it and want the city to at least put a thought into those struggling.

It was explained that there is an application and process for requesting funds from the business relief funds from the county – all should apply. This is a new round of funds. The EDA has funds if businesses need assistance. They want to help.

Wessel spoke – Don't blame others for the fault. Sometimes it is our own fault. We need to take ownership and do what we do best as Americans and that is get to work.

Dave Pease spoke – said he lives at 505 Main Street East and wants the ordinance for vehicles that are not running to be enforced.

Wessel thanked everyone and stated that we are making steps in the right direction.

Project #3: Elected Officials Conference Training

Council received information on the Elected Officials Training. Clerk Jacobson recommended that all new elected officials take the training. The training is good for understanding the role of the city government and council.

The fee for the training is \$175 which the city pays for if the new council attends. Deadline for registration is January 13th, 2021. The training program begins January 19th, 2021.

All new elected officials will sign up.

Project #451: Council Meetings

Each year at the January council meeting, the council sets the location, day and time of the council meetings.

- Location – City hall but council meetings will be held at the Ed Pollard Community Center until further notice.
- When – 7:00 p.m. on the second Monday of the month. The only holiday that falls on a second Monday is Columbus Day (October 11th). Columbus Day is an optional holiday and the city employees work the holiday and we would be allowed to hold a public meeting on that day.

Motion by Backes, seconded by Anderson, to approve the city council meetings to be held at the Ed Pollard Community Center on the second Monday of the month at 7:00 p.m. to allow for social distancing at this time. Motion Carries

Project #196: Fee Schedule

Council received the 2021 Fee Schedule. The council reviewed these fees in November and December and made suggested changes.

Motion by Anderson, seconded by Backes, to approve the 2021 Fee Schedule as presented. Motion Carries

Project #109: Licenses

Council received a list of the city licensing renewals for January 15th, 2021.

In June of 2020, the council approved a discount for the liquor establishments that were closed due to Covid. The council was asked if they want to give a break on the license fees for 2021.

Motion by Backes, seconded by Thornbloom, to approve the licenses and a lenience option for the liquor license payments and will revisit this matter in February. Motion Carries

Project #237: Grants

Council received a flyer that Jacobson received for another round of business grants that will be available through Douglas County. Douglas County has received \$754,000 for the program.

Letters will be sent to all businesses notifying them of the available funds to apply for.

Project #415: Membership

Council received a letter from the Coalition of Greater MN Cities (CGMC). The membership dues are \$3,944. The city has been a member for the last few years and the coalition is in big support of our MPCA case.

Motion by Anderson, seconded by Larson, to approve the CGMC membership dues for 2021 in the amount of \$3,944.00 Motion Carries

Project #110: Gambling

The Sportsmen's Club is requesting approval for a gambling license for their banquet in Osakis at the VFW on March 27th, 2021.

Resolution 2021-01 was presented by Anderson, seconded by Thornbloom, to approve the gambling license for the Sportsmen's Club on March 27, 2021. Motion Carries.

Project #122: Cemetery

Mike Didier has been the cemetery sexton since 1999. Didier agreed on \$5,000 per year to be the sexton and maintain the Lake Side Cemetery. Since that time, a job duty of being the weed inspector assistant for the summer months was added.

Didier received a raise in 2017 to \$6,000 and is requesting the council to consider a raise for 2021.

Clerk Jacobson suggested a \$500 raise for his job duties.

Motion by Anderson, seconded by Backes, to approve an additional \$500.00 to Mike Didier for cemetery maintenance and sexton for a total of \$6,500 for 2021. Motion Carries

Project #484: Logo – City of Osakis

Council received some color samples of the log that was chosen at the December meeting.

Council reviewed the choices and would like to have some silver in the design for accent. Wessel will work on the logo with the color change.

Project #43: Board of Review

Council received a notice of the Board of Review training that is held online. Deadline is February 1st.

The Board of Review is held in April each year and the counties will set the date of the meeting.

The council is required to hold this meeting with a quorum and one member must be trained. Larson will sign up and take the training.

Items for Future Meetings

Garbage Cleanup in the spring.

Meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Mayor – Daniel J. Wessel

City Clerk/Treasurer – Angela A. Jacobson