

Osakis City Council – Regular Meeting
City Hall – 14 Nokomis Street East
July 12th, 2021
7:00 PM

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

Absent: Randy Anderson

Others Present: Lynnette Swenstad, Reenie Goodwin, Greg Gottwald, Jason Schultz, Craig Dropik, Chad Gulbranson, Sheila Krohse, Kimra Boogaard, Corey Abers, Travis (Echo Press) & Celeste Edenloff (Echo Press)

The regular meeting of the city council was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Mayor Dan Wessel.

Backes commented to move Project #468 to the start of the projects and change the heading of the agenda from Ed Pollard Community Center to City Hall.

Motion by Larson, seconded by Thornbloom, to approve the agenda as presented with the two changes as stated above. Motion Carries Absent: Anderson

Motion by Backes, seconded by Thornbloom, to approve the general consent items, including the June city bills in the amount of \$391,088.83, meeting minutes from June 14, 2021, June 24, 2021, Overtime Report and EDA meeting minutes from June 28, 2021. Motion Carries Absent: Anderson

Project #22: Clerk

Council receive the 1st half of 2021:

- Cash Balance
- Savings Balance
- Expenditure Budget Worksheet
- Revenue Budget Worksheet

A budget meeting will be scheduled with Clerk Jacobson in August.

Project #24: Liquor Store

Reenie Goodwin was in attendance.

Council received the following reports:

- Statement of Revenue & Expense
- Statement of Revenue and Expense (70% to 30% split in labor and utilities)
- Liquor Store 2 year Expenditures & Revenues
- Liquor Store Expenditures/Revenues for On/Off Sale
- Liquor Store Sales
- Bullet Points
- Inventory
- Session Summary – 6/1/21 to 7/1/21
- Session Summary – 1/1/21 to 7/1/21
- Sales by Group Type
- Cycle Counts

- Off-Sale Loss of \$11,448.19
- On-Sale Profit of \$1,712.19
- Total Loss for June \$9,736.00

Goodwin first thanked Mayor Wessel for helping with the wrist bands at the Booyah Feed. Next time may do towards the fall.

Other items Goodwin informed the council of:

- Loss for June but the inventory is up.
- Paid for the air conditioners which are up and running smoothly.
- Sales for July 1st to July 4th were up by \$3,000 compared to last year.

Project #73: First Responders

Jason Schultz was in attendance.

Council received the June report.

Schultz reviewed the following:

- 27 calls for the month of June.
- 20 calls already for the month of July.
- 71% of the calls were in Osakis for the month.
- 60% were in city limits.
- Would like the council to approve three new members –
 - Cindy Halbur – start immediately
 - Preston Oeterer – start immediately
 - Colton Thieschafer – start this fall
- Went to the Osakis and West Union parades.
- Will be doing standby at the Taste of Osakis event and home football games this year.
- National Night Out – Will be having a dunk tank if anyone is interested. Also having bouncy houses for the kids.

Motion by Backes, seconded by Thornbloom, to approve the new First Responder members at the suggested start dates as stated above. Motion Carries Absent: Anderson

Project #74: Fire Department

Craig Dropik was in attendance.

Dropik reviewed the June Fire Department report.

Dropik also informed the council of the following:

- Had 6 calls for the month of June.
- 28 calls for the year.
- 1500 gallons of water for June.
- The city crew helped with the garbage truck fire.

Dropik said that the fireworks went well. Lasted about 22 to 23 minutes. Had a lot of positive comments – people liked having the National Anthem at the start of the event. The Fire Department would like to work with one of the radio stations for next year to broadcast the event. Also had no grass fire due to the fireworks.

Project #76: Police

Chad Gulbranson was in attendance.

Council received the June Police report.

Backes questioned the call out of 9 hours.

Larson said it is part of the contract.

Uhls' call out was for the 4th of July weekend vandalism. 4 juveniles were involved.

Gulbranson informed the council of the following:

- Went to the Osakis and West Union parades.
- August 3rd is National Night Out.

Wessel asked if the new officers are working out.

Gulbranson said that the new part-time officer will be starting in a week or so.

Project #205: Public Works / City Crew

Greg Gottwald was in attendance.

Council received the June Public Works report at the meeting.

Gottwald reported the following:

- Hydrant flushing went good. The ad in the paper and on Facebook helps.
- Water leak by the Osakis Lutheran Church was fixed. Only 3 houses were shut down for the repair.
- Team Lab came to do a sludge survey. Ponds are pretty good but the report has not been received yet.
- Sampling at Faille Lake again.
- Weekly cleanup at the beach.

Wessel commented that he has talked to the YMCA and they are trying to condense the hours of classes for the lifeguard training. Still having trouble finding lifeguards.

Gottwald also informed the council of the following:

- Seasonal help is doing well.
- We may have to do more spraying for invasive weeds. Will check with the council for compensation.

Backes complimented the city crew on the hanging baskets.

Items for the Council to Consider for Future Meetings (Open Floor)

Kimra Boogaard was in attendance to discuss dog licenses. Boogaard explained that cats from the neighbor's property comes into her yard and wants to know why cats do not have to be licensed.

Gulbranson explained that dog licenses have been an annual license for as long as he has been with the city. The purpose of the ordinance for the licenses are to keep track of rabies vaccinations and have tags. If the dogs are picked up and have tags, the owners can be contacted. The city has never picked up cats.

Boogaard asked why cats do not have to be picked up.

Gulbranson stated that the council did not choose to do cats.

Boogaard explained the situation in her neighborhood and asked if it has been discussed.

Backes said that they have discussed this matter in the last 2 to 3 years.

It has been looked at and then we use the tags that we have purchased for the year.

Wessel explained that there is a strong push to go with a lifetime license. The fee may go up a bit but details will be discussed.

Cory Abers asked how the city would verify the rabies vaccination if the license are for lifetime.

Wessel stated that this will be part of the discussion. This matter will be put on the August agenda.

Gulbranson will contact other cities for information regarding lifetime licenses.

Project #468: Special Event for Taste of Osakis

Corey Abers was in attendance to discuss Taste of Osakis:

- This is a 2 day event – Friday, September 10th and Saturday, September 11th.
- Asking for road closures for the entire event – on Main Street East from 1st Avenue East to Central Avenue.
- The stage for the bands will be setup by the Bowling Barn. The bands start at 7:30 p.m. to 1:00 a.m.
- Vendors come in on Saturday from 6 a.m. to 7 a.m. to set up for the day.
- Bull Riding is Saturday at 2 p.m. at Panther Distillery.

Backes commented that it is wise that the street is closed down during the duration of the event. Saves a lot of headaches.

Gulbranson sees no problems with the street closure.

Nicol Neumann is taking the lead on the plans for the bars.

Abers stated that this is a Chamber event and others can be a part of it.

Council commented that it is good to see so many organizations working together.

Project #197: Water Plant Improvements

Council received the engineering services agreement with NERO Engineering.

Motion by Backes, seconded by Larson, to approve the engineering services agreement with NERO Engineering for the water system improvements. Motion Carries Absent: Anderson

Project #435: MN DOT / Hwy 27 Project

Sheila Krohse was in attendance.

Council received the preliminary utility layout, preliminary quantity and cost estimate sheets.

Krohse updated the council:

- The project is 95% complete.
- The project requires an easement with the golf course. Krohse has talked with Paul Hartmann to get some conversations going and to get some details.
- Assessments will need to be figured out.

Larson asked if there were any grants available.

Krohse said this project would not qualify.

More will be discussed at the next council workshop. Need to move forward and make decisions for this project.

Project #249: Planning & Zoning

Council received the June 24th, 2021 Planning & Zoning minutes.

Council received Resolution 2021-06 approving a variance permit for Darlene Fraser at 310 King Street West and the staff report for the reasons of recommendation to the council for approval.

Backes explained the Planning & Zonings recommendation on the variance. The variance is for 29% impervious to allow for an addition to the existing dwelling. The owners were more than willing to work with the Planning & Zoning and make adjustments from the DNR comments.

Resolution 2021-06 was presented by Thornbloom, seconded by Backes, to approve the variance permit for 29% impervious coverage for Darlene Fraser at 310 King Street West. When put to a vote, the resolution passed unanimously. Absent: Anderson

Motion by Backes, seconded by Thronbloom, to approve the Planning & Zoning minutes from June 24th, 2021. Motion Carries Absent: Anderson

Project #124: I-94 Sign

Council received the I-94 lease agreement with Pat & Patty Marthaler. The lease for the sign is for 3 years. Jacobson sent a letter to Marthalers for the same terms as the last contract but for an additional 3 years (2022, 2023 and 2024).

Pat Marthaler contacted Jacobson is requesting the lease be increased from \$1,000 per year to \$1,200 per year.

Council also received information regarding when the agreement was put in place:

- Agreement was put together in 1994.

- The Chamber and Lake Osakis Resort Association agreed to pay half plus \$100 for maintenance per year.
- The lease is paid annual in August.
- The city sends statements to the Chamber and LORA – each for half plus \$100 for the maintenance.
- The remaining amount goes to the I-94 fund for future maintenance.

Larson asked what the reason for the increase is.

Backes commented – could be a property tax increase.

We should continue to ask LORA and the Chamber to contribute with the increase.

Motion by Backes, seconded by Thornbloom, to approve the lease agreement with a \$200 increase with the intent that we increase the amounts to LORA and the Chamber. Motion Carries Absent: Anderson

The council requests more time to review when the lease is up again.

Project #60: Ordinance – Rental

Council will wait to discuss this matter when Jacobson is back.

No other discussion.

Project #373: Policies

A draft copy of the personnel policy was sent to the city attorney for review.

No comments have been received from the city attorney regarding the personnel policy.

Wessel feels we should look at a policy for the Liquor Store part-time employees working the holiday weekends. Jeff Lund and Goodwin worked the whole 4th of July weekend because all the part-time employees requested it off.

A policy will be worked on and discussed at the August council meeting.

Project #487: Mission Statements

Council like Wessel’s mission statement as presented.

Motion by Larson, seconded by Thornbloom, to approve Dan Wessel’s mission statement “To Make a Positive Impact in Our Community Where We Live and Work. Motion Carries Absent: Anderson

Project #197: Water

Council received information for past due utility bills. Since April of 2020 (beginning of Covid-19) the residential and commercial past due utility bills have not been charged any late fees.

Council discussed this matter and feels it is time to start charging the late fees – everything else is starting to get back to normal.

Motion by Backes, seconded by Larson, to approve to begin charging late fees for past due utility bills beginning August 1st, 2021. Motion Carries Absent: Anderson

Project #185: Water Tower Maintenance

Council received information regarding the water tower painting contest. Jacobson has received 10 designs so far. Deadline is August 1st.

Council will talk with Jacobson regarding this when back.

Project #485: Mural

Council received information and emails regarding a mural for Osakis.

- Lili Lennox Mural – email and photo received.
- Greg Preslicka – email and photos received.

Council will discuss the mural at the budget meeting and see if they want to fit it in the budget at that time.

Council may have more conversations regarding this when discussing construction project plans.

Project #389: Trail

Council received information regarding the Rail Trail 100 which will be held on Saturday, August 7th. The ride will begin in Fergus Falls at 8:00 a.m. and stopping in Osakis for lunch between 11:00 to 1:00 by the Bowling Barn & Grill.

Project #319: Website

The council was informed that the new city website is up and running. The website is cityofosakis.com. We have a few items we are updating and will add pictures when more are received from what were taken for the Comp Plan update.

Council likes the new website – looks updated.

Project #468: Special Events

Council received a Special Event application from manager Nichol Newmann for the 75th Anniversary of the VFW. The event date is August 21, 2021.

Application was received 7/8/21. Gulbranson and Clerk Jacobson will need to review.

Motion by Backes, seconded by Larson, to approve the Special Event for the 75th Anniversary of the VFW on August 21st, 2021 with review by Gulbranson and Jacobson. Motion Carries Absent: Anderson

Project #468: Special Events

Council received a Special Event application from Corey Abers for Taste of Osakis. The event dates are September 10 & 11, 2021.

Application was received 7/9/21. Gulbranson and Clerk Jacobson will need to review.

Council also receive applications for a 1 Day to 4 Day Temporary On-Sale Liquor License for the event from the following:

- Osakis VFW Post #7902
- O-Town Tavern
- The Bowling Barn & Grill

Motion by Larson, seconded by Backes, to approve the Special Event for Taste of Osakis and the 1 Day to 4 Day Temporarily On-Sale Liquor License for Osakis VFW Post #7902, O-Town Tavern and The Bowling Barn & Grill with on September 10 & 11, 2021 with review by Gulbranson and Jacobson. Motion Carries Absent: Anderson

Project #444: Waste Water Project / MPCA Lawsuit

Council received a bill from Flaherty and Hood in the amount of \$11,653.75

Gottwald updated the council – we need to schedule a special meeting. Our lawyers want to meet in person to go through the details of what our options are.

Wessel commented that things are looking good for us – pretty positive.

Motion by Backes, seconded by Larson, to approve the bill from Flaherty and Hood in the amount of \$11,653.75. Motion Carries Absent: Anderson

Project #376: Capital Improvement

Wessel commented that we need to keep moving forward.

No other discussion.

Other Items for Council Review

Wessel wrote a letter to the editor regarding some banners and signs with profane language written on them.

Council reviewed and made one change. Letter will be sent to Council Member Anderson for review also.

Motion by Backes, seconded by Thornbloom to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 p.m. Motion Carries Absent: Anderson

Mayor – Daniel J. Wessel

Deputy City Clerk– Lynnette Swenstad