

Osakis City Council – Regular Meeting
City Hall – 14 Nokomis Street East
September 12, 2022
7:00 PM

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

Absent: None

Others Present: Angela Jacobson, Chad Gulbranson, Jason Schultz, Craig Dropik, Reenie Goodwin, Darrin Hensley, Becky Hensley, JD Derring, Lori Koenig, Hattie Thorson, Stephanie Finnegan, Echo Press, Osakis Anchor, Rodger Larson (arrived 7:13 p.m.), Cal Uhl (arrived 7:13 p.m.), Greg Gottwald (arrived at 7:30)

Mayor Dan Wessel called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Motion by Backes, seconded by Anderson, to approve the agenda as presented with the addition of community meeting. Motion Carried

Motion by Anderson, seconded by Larson, to approve the general consent items, including the August city bills in the amount of \$271,235.55 and meeting minutes from August 9, 2022 and August 15, 2022. Motion Carried

PROJECT #174: OVERTIME REPORT

Backes asked for a schedule.

Gulbranson clarified overtime hours and callouts for the Police Department. Officers that get called out, even if for only 15 minutes, will get 4 hours per call as per contract.

Current schedule of what has been worked, will be given to the council.

PROJECT #22: CLERK

Jacobson presented fund balances for the end of August.

PROJECT #286: CLERK/DONATIONS

Resolution 2022-29, 2022-30, and 2022-31 were presented by Anderson, seconded by Larson, to approve donations to the City of Osakis for the purposes of the Osakis EMS, Bike Rodeo, Police, Fire, General Community, and Park Equipment and Improvements. When put to a vote, the resolutions passed unanimously.

PROJECT #24: LIQUOR STORE

Liquor Store profit for August was \$18,003.

Goodwin mentioned that the new employees are doing good and still waiting on the new sign for the Liquor Store.

PROJECT #468: SPECIAL EVENT

Motion by Larson, seconded by Anderson, to approve a Special Event License for the 2022 Liquor Store Booyah Fest. Motion Carried

PROJECT #73: FIRST RESPONDERS

First Responder had 36 calls for August and have 242 for the year.

PROJECT #74: FIRE DEPARTMENT

Fire Department had 4 calls for August and 39 calls for the year. Training and house burn was done at 112 Queen St W.

PROJECT #13: FIRE RELIEF

Council received the PERA report from July 2022.

PROJECT #76: POLICE

Council received the August Police report and schedules for August and September.

David Gizinski was in attendance with his family. Gizinski was sworn in for his duties of his position.

Gulbranson mentioned that the pedestrian signs are up at the school at all times. Taste of Osakis went well – no big issues.

PROJECT #205: PUBLIC WORKS

August Public Works report:

- Wastewater – reissued the old permit. 283 kg.
- Replacement of the Main Lift has been started.
- 1st Avenue West – storm/street repairs.

PROJECT #197/185: WATER PLANT/WATER TOWER

No update on the progress.

OPEN FLOOR:

Lori Koenig expressed concerns about the yellow curb at Osakis Public School.

A meeting was held with Randy Berquist regarding what the school would like for the curb.

A community meeting about pharmacy will be held on September 21, 2022 at 6:30 p.m. about the closing of the pharmacy.

The meeting will be with Kristie Giesler and a group from town to discuss keeping a pharmacy in town and available to the residents.

Motion by Anderson, seconded by Thornbloom, to take a five minute recess. Motion Carried

PROJECT #84: BUDGET

Council met on August 15th, 2022 to review the 2023 Budget.

Council wants to see what the percentage is that PERA needs to see and compare to other Fire Department amounts for PERA and wages.

Dropik commented PERA says 95% is a good number. Other departments pay per hour when called out.

Council discussed a 3% to 3.5% increase in the levy amount for the preliminary levy:

- Expenses is \$1,422,196 – Revenue is \$1,394,829. Difference of \$-27,367.
- Increases in the levy – 3% is \$23,480 and 3.5% is \$27,394.

Preliminary levy will be sent to the county by September 30th, 2022. Final Budget meeting will be in December with the Truth in Taxation meeting on December 12, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.

Resolution 2022-28 was presented by Backes, seconded by Larson, to approve the 2023 Preliminary Levy with a 3% increase and reduce the budget by \$3,914 out of capital outlay 42100-740. When put to a vote, the resolution passed unanimously.

PROJECT #312: OSAKIS BEAUTIFICATION TEAM

Council received the Beautification funds spreadsheet. Applying for a grant for a downtown mural in the amount of \$5,000 to 7,000.

Motion by Anderson, seconded by Larson, to approve \$7,000 for the Douglas County Mural Grant application. Motion Carries

PROJECT #441: PARK COMMITTEE

The Park Committee had a booth at Taste of Osakis. They will put together their information from this event for the council to review in October.

PROJECT #219: STATE MN DOT HWY 27

City portion of the project is complete – quantities have been sent to the state.

PROJECT #294: TRUCK TRAFFIC

Darrin Hensley was in attendance to discuss truck traffic on CO Rd 3 (1st Avenue East). Hensley feels it should stay the way it is but can change to use another route to lessen the traffic.

The I-94 sign move by the “No Truck Traffic” sign. Drivers turn on 1st Avenue East because they do not see the I-94 sign ahead at 2nd Avenue East.

Hensley mentioned that if the council wanted, a sign could be put up at Hensley’s Pallet Shop. Sign can read – Truck Route, Easy, Comfortable or Most Friendly Truck Route.

Google maps send drivers to 1st Avenue East and would need to change those directions to change the traffic.

Hensley also mentioned that a yellow parking sign for the hours of no parking could be put up only during school hours.

PROJECT #160: OSAKIS PUBLIC SCHOOL

Wessel, Thornblom and Jacobson met with Randy Bergquist and the school board members to discuss safe routes to the school.

The group discussed the yellow painted curb on County Rd 3. The area that is painted yellow is the entire curb of the Osakis Public School property. The discussion was that we would look to reduce the amount of yellow area, to be the area in between the entrances to enter the school parking lot and also to reduce the area of yellow to the last pole on the street.

Jacobson visited with Tim Erickson (Douglas County Public Works) and he stated that after it has been painted it would be a good idea to leave it yellow for a few months to see how traffic is and how it goes before changing it.

Council discussed the following and how to move forward:

- Times for Public School use.
- Parents are not taking care of being present.

Backes commented – we did not give enough time to make a decision on the topic. We should take time to see how it works.

Larson – motion for yellow on the west side in front of the school for no parking.

Police need to be present each day in the morning and afternoon.

Hattie Thorson asked – Why are two crossing guards on one crosswalk? Why not move one guard to the other crosswalk?

Motion by Backes, seconded by Thornbloom, to approve to make no decision until a community meeting is setup. Motion Carries

The school is meeting to discuss dismissal times – try different things.

Thornbloom will look into the date and time for a meeting to meet with the school and neighborhood.

PROJECT #249: PLANNING & ZONING

Council reviewed the Erosion Control Agreement updated by the Planning & Zoning.

Motion by Anderson, seconded by Thornbloom, to approve the updates to the Erosion and Sediment Control ordinance. Motion Carries

PROJECT #69: INFORMATION TO THE COUNCIL

Mayor Wessel discussed with the council:

1. Builders FirstSource – building on the road right-of-way on Main Street East. A Conditional Use Permit was granted to allow building on the property beside the trail with the conditions that the area needs to be clean.
2. The sign for Larson Insurance is not being taken care of. Look into who is responsible for cleaning it up.

Motion by Backes, seconded by Larson, to approve to send letters to Stan Kirkoff and Myron Larson for their response for fixing the sign within 30 days and who will be taking care of it. Motion Carries

PROJECT #491: MAYOR TERM

Mayor Wessel asked to look into the reason why Osakis has a two year term for Mayor.

Council received a letter from the city attorney regarding a change to the Mayor's term from two years to four years.

Council will discuss this at the next workshop.

PROJECT #310: BLACKS RESORT BLOCKING LAKE STREET

Neil Mierhoffer is requesting to block Lake Street on October 1st to remove docks for Black's Resort.

Council was informed that the Hwy 27 project will not be finished until October 30th so those wanting to travel on Hwy 27 must use the detour which is Lake Street East to get around the construction.

Mierhoffer has concerns about the safety of those removing the docks if the street cannot be blocked.

Motion by Larson, seconded by Thornbloom, to approve to close Lake Street East if an alternate route for Hwy 27 can be used or Hwy 27 is open for traffic. If Hwy 27 is not open, then Black's Resort will have to allow traffic through during the removal of the docks. Motion Carries

PROJECT #7: COMMUNITY CENTER

The council was updated on the Community Center:

- The new ceiling tiles would be paid for by Al Neumann and the Senior Club.
- City Crew install the tiles. Gottwald stated he feels they can take care of installing the ceiling tiles this winter. City will need to pay for the lift to install the tiles and the dumpster.

Al Neumann will get a cost of the projects to move forward.

PROJECT #146: LODGING TAX

Brad Forsell attended the June Council meeting to discuss the Lodging Tax ordinance and Joint Powers.

Jacobson had heard from Leslie Township and they have no reason not to make a change to the Joint Powers agreement, but they did not have anyone on the board that wanted to be on the Tourism Board.

The only concern they had was that they wanted to know if each resort would be able to have a say in where the funds are spent if they are the ones collecting the fees.

PROJECT #296: FILING MAYOR/COUNCIL

Daniel Wessel has filed for Mayor.

Stephanie Finnegan, Laura Backes and Randy Anderson have filed for Council Members.

PROJECT #415: MEMBERSHIP

Council received a letter from the Coalition of Greater MN Cities requesting membership for 2023 at a cost of \$3,997.

Motion by Anderson, seconded by Larson, to approve the membership to the Coalition of Greater MN Cities for 2023 in the amount of \$3,997. Motion Carries

PROJECT #444: WASTE WATER PROJECT – MPCA

Council received an email from Daniel Marx regarding the follow up to the hearing.

Motion by Anderson, seconded by Larson, to approve the bills from Flaherty & Hood in the amounts of \$1,065 and \$1,260. Motion Carries

CLOSED MEETING

Meeting is closed pursuant to state statute 13.D.05.

Motion by Anderson, seconded by Larson, to suspend the regular meeting and open a closed session to discuss the litigation strategy with Daniel Marx at 10:00 p.m. Motion Carries

Present: Backes, Anderson, Wessel, Thornbloom, Larson, Jacobson, Gottwald and Daniel Marx.

Mayor Wessel read the opening script for the closed meeting.

Motion by Anderson, seconded by Larson, to close the closed session and open the regular meeting.
Motion Carries

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:36 p.m.

Mayor – Daniel J. Wessel

City Clerk/Treasurer – Angela A. Jacobson