

Osakis City Council – Regular Meeting
City Hall – 14 Nokomis Street East
October 10, 2022
7:00 PM

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

Absent: None

Others Present: Angela Jacobson, Chad Gulbranson, Calvin Uhl, Craig Dropik, Jason Schultz, Greg Gottwald, Becky Kraenow, Sheila Krohse, Mike Nienaber, Amber Kral, Stephanie Finnegan, Teri Haburn, Doug Kaiser, Echo Press, Osakis Anchor

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

Motion by Wessel, seconded by Anderson, to approve the agenda as presented with the addition of Gambling, Media, Polices and City Hall. Motion Carried

Motion by Larson, seconded by Thornbloom, to approve the general consent items, including the September city bills in the amount of \$484,525.13 and meeting minutes from September 12, 2022. Motion Carried

Wessel mentioned to the media at the meeting, to make sure stories are accurate. Last month, names and information were wrong and the media needs to make sure things are correct.

PROJECT #22: CLERK

Jacobson presented the 3rd quarter fund balances for savings and checking. Will continue to work on the budget with changes as we move into union negotiations.

PROJECT #24: LIQUOR STORE

Liquor Store loss for September was \$-6,939.

Council was informed of the following:

- Labor for reshingling the Liquor Store was paid in September.
- Sign should be installed by the end of October.
- Would like to have a fire ring for the Booyah Fest. This would be in the alcohol serving area until 9 p.m.
- Gambling – a shortage of cash is increasing. Goodwin will meet with Wessel and Jacobson to go over the pull tab box process.

PROJECT #73: FIRST RESPONDERS

First Responder had 23 calls for September and 266 for the year.

PROJECT #74: FIRE DEPARTMENT

Fire Department had 8 calls for September and 47 calls for the year.

Fire Prevention will be at Osakis Public and St. Agnes schools on October 12th. An open house will also be held on this day at the fire hall from 3:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Dropik will be attending the Fire Chiefs Conference in Duluth.

PROJECT #76: POLICE

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

Uhl updated the council on the concerns with overtime hours from last month:

- Gulbranson is only on days and has had a family member in hospice.
- Uhl has been on and has received call outs.

Uhl submitted 3 bids for a new squad:

- Chevy Tahoe – \$42,000 (4 to 6 months to get)
- Dodge Durango – \$54,000 (6 months to get)
- Ram – \$42,000 (6 months to get)

Council will discuss at the workshop.

Resolution 2022-32 was presented by Anderson, seconded by Larson, to approve to enroll David Gizinski into the Police PERA. When put to a vote, the resolution passed unanimously.

Gulbranson informed the council that he found out why his hearing was lost and will be out for 12 weeks.

Gulbranson stated he has to have surgery and will be done in November or December. It is the recommendation of the doctor that Gulbranson can work 2 hours of light duty per day. Gulbranson will give an update every 2 weeks on the progress or changes.

PROJECT #205: PUBLIC WORKS

September Public Works report:

- Wastewater ponds – isolation valves were installed. Have a by-pass pipe if something goes down.
- Will be cleaning branches and trees for the fishing pier at the beach and cemetery.
- Installing parks and street signs this week.

OPEN FLOOR:

Stephanie Finnegan (110 Pike Street East) would like the council to discuss live streaming the council meetings. Meeting discussion for the public to view.

PROJECT #492: MAYOR COMMENTS

Mayor Wessel discussed thoughts on plans to improve our city:

- In our city, a lot of things need a lot of improvement. Doesn't see it getting better unless things are changed.
- Wessel picked 5 ordinances to review and some are not being taken care of – a downtown awning, back wall falling down on the building by the grocery store, a guy has a used car lot on Nestor Street.
- Wessel mentioned that our consultant from Sourcewell said in his towns they are delivered a letter, have 30 days, then 60 days or a \$75.00 per day fee if not taken care of. Have to sign for the letter sent and they would usually take care of it.

Wessel will be leading the charge to clean up the town.

Wessel stated that he asked Larson to meet and discuss if he helped orchestrated the attack at the last council meeting. It was an embarrassment to the city council.

Wessel asked – who can call our city attorney and the city gets the bills? Lori Koenig called the attorney and we get the bills.

Backes commented that she learned in Council Orientation 101 training that council members never blindsides another council member.

Motion by Wessel, seconded by Backes, to approve to remove Alan Larson from police liaison and replace with Dan Wessel. Ayes: Thornbloom, Backes, Wessel Opposed: Larson, Anderson Motion Carries

PROJECT #312: OSAKIS BEAUTIFICATION TEAM

Council received the Beautification funds spreadsheet.

The Beautification team will be working at the Visitor’s Center. They want to use the facility to do some work and use the copier, etc.

A grant for the Fall Legacy Funds was submitted for up to \$7,200 to paint murals on Laura and Jon Backes’ building on Nokomis Street and on the Visitor’s Center building.

Motion by Thornbloom, seconded by Anderson, to approve to paint a mural on the back side of the Visitor’s Center building. Motion Carries

PROJECT #441: PARK COMMITTEE

Council received a final park plans the city will move forward with and apply for funding to start the process. Phase I will include walking/biking paths, signs, street biking, and walking lanes.

The city will be applying for the Active Transportation Grant for phase one with a letter of intent sent in October. This grant would be used for biking trails, paths, painting of bike lanes and trail connections to connect the community to the trail and school.

Looking at applying for a grant project. Jillian Reiner will work with Widseth for grant services up to \$5,000.

Motion by Backes, seconded by Thornbloom, to approve Jillian Reiner to contract with Widseth for grant services not to exceed \$5,000 for the contract for biking trails. Motion Carries

PROJECT #468: SPECIAL EVENT

St. Agnes is putting on a Boo Fest in the downtown area on October 31st. They are encouraging anyone that wants to do a trunk & treat for the event to participate.

Motion by Backes, seconded by Anderson, to approve to close Central Avenue from County 82 to Main Street and close Main Street East from Central Avenue to 1st Avenue East and approve a Special Event Permit for Boo Fest. Motion Carries

PROJECT #146: LODGING TAX

Leslie Township and Gordon Township have discussed an ordinance change with Jacobson. Both townships are willing to look into a change to the Joint Powers Agreement and would like to be involved in the process to create it.

Mike Neinaber – Gordon Township has Linwood Resort and Sunfish Resort. Doug Keiser has four resorts in Leslie Township. Resorts on the committee should hear and have a say on how the funds are spent.

A meeting will be scheduled with Leslie and Gordon Townships to discuss a Joint Powers Agreement and how to move forward. Others will be contacted to attend as well.

PROJECT #219: STATE MN DOT HWY 27

Sheila Krohse updated the council. Total work completed to date is \$215,005. Casting assembling for manhole is left.

Discussed the curb cut on Central and Main Street – it was fixed but not fixed right. C & L Excavating were to do the warrented list, but missed that curb cut.

Wessel will talk to the owner of C & L Excavating. Krohse will send the contract.

Motion by Anderson, seconded by Thornbloom, to approve the bill for Bolten & Menk in the amount of \$1,330. Motion Carries

PROJECT #7: COMMUNITY CENTER

Al Neumann will pay for the new ceiling tiles in the Community Center and would like the city crew to install them.

Council has no issues with the city crew installing the ceiling tiles. Neumann will move forward to purchase the ceiling tiles and city crew will schedule a time to install.

PROJECT #160: OSAKIS PUBLIC SCHOOL

Wessel met with Tim Erickson, Randy Bergquist and Shad Schmidt to review the recommendations from Douglas County.

Council received a map showing barricades by the entrances and those that are exiting the elementary can only turn right.

Erickson informed Wessel that the road can be taken over by the city if the city wants to.

A joint meeting with school board members and residents needs to be scheduled to discuss this matter.

After the road is milled and overlaid, other proposed ideas and solutions from the school board for pickup locations will be done. There will be an increased presence at the school with the extra traffic from the police officers.

PROJECT #196: FEE SCHEDULE

Council received the 2022 Fee Schedule. Council will review and make suggested changes for 2023.

Wessel discussed the \$1,000 fine. Council clarified that the fine doubles if a permit is not received before starting, but \$1,000 fine if they did not receive a permit when they knew they needed to get one.

PROJECT #249: PLANNING & ZONING

Backes reviewed the Planning & Zoning Minutes for the council.

Motion by Anderson, seconded by Backes to approve the September 15, 2022 Planning & Zoning minutes. Motion Carries

PROJECT #360: EMPLOYEE – FMLA

On September 20, 2022, Chad Gulbranson informed the city that he will need FMLA leave and would qualify for the leave of up to 12 weeks of unpaid leave. The time can be supplemented with vacation,

sick and comp time. Currently, Gulbranson is utilization vacation and comp time. Then he will use the sick time he has left.

Per the requirements of FMLA Leave, Gulbranson’s leave would be approved unless the council has a concern. FMLA Leave will follow the requirements of the doctor’s orders for time off and if the full 12 weeks are needed.

Suggested that Gulbranson may work school patrol if he can with light duty. Council will revisit if Gulbranson is gone more than 12 weeks.

PROJECT #213: LIFEGUARD/BEACH

This past summer, the city had two lifeguards for the beach. The beach was open from June 28, 2022 to September 1, 2022 with total wages of \$8,326 paid.

It was suggested to have more things at the beach. A suggestion mentioned was a trampoline dock.

PROJECT #321: VISITOR’S CENTER

Council received the yearly report of activity at the Visitor’s Center. The center was open from June 6, 2022 to August 28, 2022. Total wages paid was \$4,514.

PROJECT #229: ELECTION / ELECTION JUDGES

The General Election will be held on November 8, 2022 from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. Council received a list of election judges and scheduled a date to canvass the official votes for the General Election.

Motion by Backes, seconded by Thornbloom, to approve the election judges for the November 8, 2022 General Election. Motion Carries

Motion by Backes, seconded by Anderson, to approve the date of November 14, 2022 at 7 p.m. to canvass the official votes for the General Election. Motion Carries

PROJECT #263: UNION – POLICE

Mayor Wessel received a letter from the Police Union to open negotiations for the 2023 and 2024 contract.

PROJECT #382: UNION – CITY

Mayor Wessel received letters from AFSCME and MAPE unions to open negotiations for the 2023 and 2024 contract.

MAPE union will meet on October 26, 2022 and AFSCME union on October 27, 2022.

PROJECT #444: WASTE WATER PROJECT – MPCA

Gottwald updated the council on the process with the MPCA case.

PROJECT #309: CITY HALL

Mayor Wessel mentioned that he smells a stale smell when he comes into city hall. Wessel went downstairs has saw some mold that he wants to look into.

Wessel said both Jacobson and Swenstad mentioned they were not feeling well.

Wessel will look into the mold issue and see if we need to do something.

PROJECT #373: POLICES

A revised policy was received from the city attorney. Council will review and discuss changes at the November 2, 2022 workshop.

PROJECT #110: GAMBLING LICENSE

The Sportsman’s Club submitted an application for a Gambling Permit on April 29, 2023 at the VFW.

Council will receive the information for approval at the next meeting.

PROJECT #427: RESIDENT LETTER

Council reviewed the fall resident letter that will be sent out in October. We added a Council Comments section to the letter and asked the council for comments and/or a picture.

Council said the Resident Letter looks great and took a group picture after the meeting.

Additions to the letter:

- Applying for Habitat of Humanity housing in Osakis.
- Building code fee of \$1,000 and fines double if no permit is submitted and paid for before starting.

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:40 p.m.

Mayor – Daniel J. Wessel

City Clerk/Treasurer – Angela A. Jacobson