

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

Present: Laura Backes, Dan Wessel, Tim Thornbloom

Absent: Randy Anderson, Alan Larson

Others Present: Angela Jacobson, Craig Dropik, Kaye Magnus, Steve Malz, Tim Greene, Bruce Magnus, Loir Koenig, Curtis Nagel, Stephanie Finnegan, Matt Kruse, Karen Kruse, Roxanne Malum, Terrance Malum, Cal Uhl, Cory Abers, Staci Helwig, Mike Helwig, Jim Stueve, Brad Zimmel, Tony Kettle, Amber Kral, Tony Fischer, David Gizinski, Jason Schultz, Amber Kral

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

Motion by Backes, seconded by Thornbloom, to approve the agenda as presented. Motion Carried  
Absent: Anderson, Larson

Motion by Larson, seconded by Thornbloom, to approve the general consent items, including the October city bills in the amount of \$478,471.73 and meeting minutes from October 10, 2022 with the change to include Al Larson's name. Motion Carried  
Absent: Anderson, Larson

**PROJECT #229: ELECTION**

Resolution 2022-35 was presented by Backes, seconded by Thornbloom, to approve designating the Ed Pollard Community Center at 20 Nokomis Street West the official polling place. When put to a vote, the resolution passed unanimously. Absent: Anderson, Larson

**PROJECT #56: INSURANCE**

The City of Osakis received a refund check from Lakes Country Service Coop in the amount of \$12,935.04. In 2021, the refund was \$14,480.96. The refund is because the group insurance usage is lower than projected for the plan we have.

Insurance rate for 2023 will not have an increase. Single rate is \$832.50 and the family rate is \$1,546.50. This will be the 4<sup>th</sup> year without an increase. Jacobson is asking the council to consider putting these funds aside to help defray an increase in premium costs in the future if the insurance rates were to increase and additional funds would be needed.

Council will discuss and consider this request at the December meeting with a full council.

**PROJECT #24: LIQUOR STORE**

Liquor Store profit for October was \$19,940. Total profit for the year is \$42,430.

Council was informed of the following:

- The digital sign is still being worked on.
- Inventory counting is being worked on to get ready for the inventory count in January.
- No update on the Booya Feed.

**PROJECT #73: FIRST RESPONDERS**

First Responder had 29 calls for October and 297 calls for the year.

**PROJECT #74: FIRE DEPARTMENT**

Fire Department had 12 calls for October and 59 calls for the year. Fire Department will have their monthly meeting on November 28<sup>th</sup>. Wessel will attend.

**PROJECT #76: POLICE**

Council received the October Police report and schedules for October and November. Also a letter from Chief Gulbranson appointing Officer Calvin Uhl as the acting chief until January 2023.

Motion by Backes, seconded by Thornbloom, to approve to accept the letter from Chief Gulbranson with changes to appointing Calvin Uhl as an interim chief until January 2023. Motion Carries Absent: Anderson, Larson

Council received Resolution 2022-08 that was approved in March determining 21 Main Street East as a hazardous building.

Matt and Karen Kruse were in attendance and stated the building is beyond repair and are looking for grants to clean up the property.

Backes said the Planning & Zoning has discussed the property and wanted to know what is going on with it.

Planning & Zoning will discuss what can be done to help tear down the structure and council will discuss this matter at their December meeting.

**OPEN FLOOR**

Mayor Wessel stated if you wish to speak to state your name and address and be respectful. Will be allowed to speak for 2 minutes. If all here for one reason, have only one person speak.

No comments were made.

**PROJECT #292: HAZARDOUS AND SUBSTANDARD BUILDING**

Council received information on the property at 407 Main Street West. This property was put on a Sheriff's Sale on April 21, 2022. The owners had a 6 month redemption period to purchase the home back. On October 21, 2022, the Minnesota Housing Finance Agency was awarded the property for \$65,321.78.

If the property is not fixed up, the council will discuss this property again in the future.

**PROJECT #360: EMPLOYEE**

Chad Gulbranson will be out of work until at least January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023. Gulbranson has used his sick, comp and vacation time. On November 1<sup>st</sup>, his vacation renewed and he received 200 hours.

In the past, when an employee has been on FMLA time off, the council has allowed the employee to carry over 40 hours of vacation when they are back to work.

Gulbranson would like to use 16 hours a week until January 1<sup>st</sup>. This would leave him with 56 hours of time left. Gulbranson will end the 12 weeks of FMLA by the end of December.

Gulbranson has received his notice of approval for FMLA and he will be required to have doctor's orders to be able to return to active work.

Motion by Backes, seconded by Thornbloom, to approve to allow Gulbranson to use 2 days of vacation a week until January 1, 2023. Motion Carries Absent: Anderson, Larson

**PROJECT #205: PUBLIC WORKS**

Council received the October Public Works report.

**PROJECT #489: LIFT STATION – MAIN LIFT**

Motion by Thornbloom, seconded by Backes, to approve the bills from Nero Engineering in the amount of \$99,512 and Rice Lake Construction in the amount of \$244,720. Motion Carries Absent: Anderson, Larson

**PROJECT #441: PARK COMMITTEE**

Council received notice from the MN Active Transportation Grant stating they liked the project and recommend we continue to submit a full application due by December 30, 2022.

Jacobson spoke with Stuart Olson regarding a donation from Neumann Olson to the city for projects. Stuart Olson stated the family would like to donate \$250,000 to the bike trail/walking trail and \$20,000 to Central Park. The family would like something at Central Park and/or on the trail named after Neumann Olson.

**PROJECT #219: STATE MN DOT HWY 27**

Sheila Krohse was not in attendance. Council received an email from Krohse that the corner of Main and Central will not be done until spring. The council would like this in writing for fixing the curb in the spring and bridge repairs in the spring.

Motion by Backes, seconded by Thornbloom, to approve bills from Bolton and Menk in the amounts of \$9,762 and \$1,330. Motion Carries Absent: Anderson, Larson

**PROJECT #468: SPECIAL EVENT**

Council received a Special Event application for the Osakis Chamber Light Parade to be held on December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2023.

Corey Abers was in attendance and stated the Chamber will reimburse the city for the cost of the insurance fees.

Motion by Backes, seconded by Thornbloom, to approve the Special Event License for the Chamber Light Parade on December 2<sup>nd</sup> and to block streets for the parade route and Santa. Motion Carries Absent: Anderson, Larson

Motion by Backes, seconded by Thornbloom, to approve the fireworks display and insurance provided by the City of Osakis with 1/2 of the cost paid by the city and 1/2 of the cost paid by the Chamber. Motion Carries Absent: Anderson, Larson

**PROJECT #312: OSAKIS BEAUTIFICATION TEAM**

Amber Kral updated the council on the projects:

- A grant application for the Fall Legacy Funds was submitted for up to \$7,200 grant funds to paint murals downtown.
- Profit from the purse bingo will go to the fishing pier.
- Light up the beach for Christmas will be on December 2<sup>nd</sup>.
- Art Club will be painting windows at the Visitor's Center in December.

**PROJECT # 110: GAMBLING LICENSE**

Bruce Magnus and Mike Helwig representing the Osakis Lake Association were present to ask the council to consider them for the pull-tabs at the Liquor Store.

Osakis Lake Association has gambling at the Bowling Barn, Country Club and Head of the Lakes.

Net funds since May 1<sup>st</sup> is \$67,000 – proceeds go to Osakis.

Tony Fischer, Head of the Lakes Resort, stated it was a smooth transition and customers like that the profits goes to Osakis and the lake.

Reenie Goodwin had been talked to and she is happy where they are at. Goodwin and the Liquor Store staff are opposed to changing. It was mentioned that Nelson Community has donated \$13,500 to seven events in November.

Backes stated that the council makes the decisions but supervisors are in place to make decisions for departments.

Two council members are absent and the council will discuss this matter at a workshop. Council tabled this for further discussion.

**PROJECT #110: GAMBLING LICENSE**

Resolution 2022-34 was presented by Backes, seconded by Thornbloom, to approve a Gambling License for the Sportsman’s Club for April 29, 2023. When put to a vote, the resolution passed unanimously. Absent: Anderson, Larson

**PROJECT #260: COUNCIL MEMBER INFORMATION**

Council discussed the data request of council members at the workshop meeting. The council wants to only request information as part of the council and city if a council member has been given the job duty to gather information and bring it back to the council. If not given this job duty, the title of council member should not be used in personal requests.

Council will discuss this matter at the next meeting.

**PROJECT #60: ORDINANCE**

Council discussed the Cannabis Law at their last workshop. Jacobson asked the council what they want to see in an ordinance for this. Jacobson will reach out to the City of Austin and other cities that have passed it.

Council discussed the enforcement of four ordinances. The Planning & Zoning will discuss this matter at their next meeting.

**PROJECT #243: CANVASS VOTES**

The Council Canvass Board reviewed the results of the local officials from the 2022 General Election.

Resolution 2022-33 was presented by Backes, seconded by Thornbloom, to approve to canvass votes for the 2022 General Election held on November 8<sup>th</sup>, 2022 and abstract of votes cast. When put to a vote, the resolution passed unanimously. Absent: Anderson, Larson

**PROJECT #124: SIGN / BILLBOARD**

Mayor Wessel discussed the billboard located on Stan Kirckof’s property on the west entrance of town:

- The billboard would be split with the Galeon and the Chamber.
- Kirckof wants the Galeon and Chamber to pay the light bill.
- Will work to get something on the billboard. Mayor Wessel will attend a Chamber meeting to discuss.

**PROJECT #146: LODGING TAX**

The council met with Osakis Lake Association, Leslie Township and Gordon Township regarding the Lodging Tax Ordinance.

Since the meeting, Leslie Township has provided to the city, their motion to disband the Joint Powers Board for the Lodging Tax.

Jacobson contacted the city attorney on how to move forward if all the townships opt out. Council will wait to see what Gordon Township does.

**PROJECT #160: OSAKIS PUBLIC SCHOOL**

Mayor Wessel and Jacobson met with representatives from the school to discuss the application for safe routes to school. The application is due in January and the school is looking for letters of support to include with their application of the safe route to school grant.

The school continues to work on options for the drop off/pick up area and improvements to the school. An informational vision meeting with the public will be held on November 22 at 6 p.m. in the auditorium.

The city will wait for the public meeting so the school has time so the school has time to discuss their options.

The Truck Route/I-94 sign will be moved before Co Rd 3 on Nokomis Street. Also, by the turn lane on Co Rd 3 at the stop sign onto Hwy 82.

City representatives will attend the school meeting on November 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**PROJECT #196: FEE SCHEDULE**

Council received the Fee Schedule with changes. Will be reviewed at the December meeting.

**PROJECT #79: AUDITORS**

Council received two audit letters from Carlson SV for the general audit and enterprise fund audit. The cost for the 2021 Audit was \$18,000. Proposed cost for the 2022 Audit is \$19,800.

Motion by Thornbloom, seconded by Backes, to approve Carlson SV for the 2022 Audit for \$19,800. Motion Carries Absent: Anderson, Larson

**PROJECT #97: DELINQUENT BILLS**

Council received the list of delinquent bills for 2022. The deadline for payment is November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2022 and certified to the county by November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2022.

Motion by Backes, seconded by Thornbloom, to approve to certify the delinquent list of bills per parcel for 2023 taxes. Motion Carries Absent: Anderson, Larson

**PROJECT #373: PERSONNEL POLICY**

Council reviewed half of the policy.

Backes commented – she does not feel the policy should apply to the Fire Department and First Responders. Their policy will take care of their department. If the issue cannot be taken care of within their department, then it would go to the city policy.

Motion by Backes, seconded by Thornbloom, to approve to review the seconded half on December 12, 2022 at 6 p.m. Motion Carries Absent: Anderson, Larson

**PROJECT #444: WASTE WATER PROJECT – MPCA**

Gottwald updated the council on progress with the MPCA case. Council received the proposed response from Dan Marx to the MPCA to try to negotiate before going into the court process.

Motion by Backes, seconded by Thornbloom, to approve the bills for Flaherty and Hood in the amounts of \$630 and \$5,127.50. Motion Carries Absent: Anderson, Larson

**OTHER DISCUSSION**

Lori Koenig asked Mayor Wessel about the conflict of interest and blowup at the last meeting. Koenig said that Tim Thornbloom is the liaison and he should be attending school meetings.

Koenig behavior became overwhelming and the police were asked to remove her from the meeting.

Backes commented that anyone can come to council members to get information. The council is trying to do what’s best and talking in person doesn’t single out someone at a meeting to get answers.

Motion by Backes, seconded by Thornbloom, to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 p.m. Motion Carries Absent: Anderson, Larson

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Mayor – Daniel J. Wessel

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City Clerk/Treasurer – Angela A. Jacobson