

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

Present: Laura Backes, Dan Wessel, Tim Thornbloom, Randy Anderson, Alan Larson
Others Present: Angela Jacobson, Reenie Goodwin, Greg Gottwald, Calvin Uhl, Craig Dropik, Jason Schultz, Brad Zimmer, Sheila Krohse, Amber Kral, Curtis Nagel, Stephanie Finnegan, Lori Koenig, Jillian Reiner, Tony Kettle, Jed Gulbranson, Jeremy (Osakis Anchor)

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 with the addition of council member recognition. Motion Carried

Motion by Larson, seconded by Anderson, to approve the general consent items, including the November city bills in the amount of \$400,562.14 and meeting minutes from November 14, 2022. Motion Carried

PROJECT #192/84/358: TRUTH-IN-TAXATION/BUDGET/TAX LEVY

Motion by Backes, seconded by Thornbloom, to open the public hearing at 7:14 p.m. Motion Carries

Council received:

- 2023 Revenue and Expenditure Budget.
 - Tax extension rates for Douglas County – city tax compared to other cities in Douglas County.
- Budget – Final levy proposal:

- Council member per meeting stipend of \$150.
- Mayor monthly salary of \$300.
- Health insurance increase of \$50 per month *union contract unsettled.
- HCSP increase of \$10 per check *union contract unsettled.
- Wage increase of 5% *union contract unsettled.
- Splitting the Liquor Store cost of labor to 60% for On-Sale and 40% for Off-Sale.
- Water rate increase of 3%
- Sewer rate increase of 5%

Final Budget for the General Fund:

- Revenue – \$1,424,509
- Expense – \$1,426,532
- Difference –\$2,203

Levy increase is 3% for a total of \$23,480. General fund levy is \$692,858.
2012 Bond \$10,000, 2008 Bond \$61,000, Reserve Fund \$42,316 for a total of \$806,174.

No comments were made.

Motion by Anderson, seconded by Thornbloom, to close the public hearing at 7:16 p.m. Motion Carries

Motion by Backes, seconded by Larson, to approve an increase for Ila Anderson's wages to \$17 per hour for 2023. Motion Carries

Motion by Backes, to approve an increase in the Fire Relief Levy of \$3,000. Motion dies for lack of second.

The council made no change for the annual relief for the Fired Department.

Resolution 2022-36 was presented by Anderson, seconded by Larson, to approve the Final Tax Levy increase of 3% or \$23,480 and a total levy of \$806,174. When put to a vote, the resolution passes unanimously.

Motion by Backes, seconded by Larson, to approve the 2023 Budget as presented and make an amendment to the budget when the union contracts are settled. Motion Carries

PROJECT #22: CLERK

Council received the checking and savings balances for the end of November.

PROJECT #56: INSURANCE

The City of Osakis received a refund check from Lakes Country Service Coop (Minnesota Healthcare Consortium) for health insurance for 2022. The refund amount was \$12,935.04. We also received a refund in 2021 in the amount of \$14,480.96. A refund is because the group insurance usage was lower than projected for the plan we have.

The 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 4th year without an increase because of the low usage of the group.

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.

Anderson thanked the insurance group members for managing their health and insurance usage.

Motion by Anderson, seconded by Thornbloom, to approve to carry over the reimbursed amount of \$12,935.04 to be used for future insurance increases. Motion Carries

PROJECT #50: TRANSFERS

Council received a list of transfers per the 2022 Budget.

Motion by Anderson, seconded by Larson, to approve the transfers per the 2022 Budget. Motion Carries

PROJECT #74: FIRE DEPARTMENT

Fire Department had 6 calls for November. 65 calls for the year. Had an insurance claim for damaged tools at the Corral Supper Club fire. Dropik thanked the police for their help with a vehicle fire.

PROJECT #24: LIQUOR STORE

Liquor Store loss for November was -\$2,532.06. Inventory was up \$7,583.

Goodwin explained the Nelson Community Association gambling at the Liquor Store. They have had pull tabs at the bar for 2 1/2 years. Pay 20% in rent which is the maximum allowed per law. Goodwin is very happy with them.

Backes commented that we listen to requests – doesn't mean we will act on anything presented to us. As a council, we will listen and make decisions when needed.

PROJECT #73: FIRST RESPONDERS

Council received the November First Responder reports:

- 304 payable calls as per bylaws.
- Election – President Jason Schultz, Vice-President Brenda Majerus, Secretary Hattie Thorson.
- Lake Area First Responders will have a training on January 19th.
- Mike Haburn resigned.
- Reinstated Amber Kral back to 20% now that the road construction is done.
- Kyle Swenstad asked for a 2 month leave. Council is ok if the First Responders are ok with it.

PROJECT #76: POLICE

Council received the November Police report and December schedule.

Uhl informed the council that the estimated delivery date for the vehicle is March.

PROJECT #205: PUBLIC WORKS

Council received the Public Works report:

- MN Dept. of Health – sampling lead service line inventory requirement done.
- MPCA – January 13th meeting – Negotiations before court.
- Lake Street East – 30 mph speed signs back up.
- Receive Community Center ceiling tiles this week.

Anderson asked for the reasons for the call ins and cost damages to the city – tax payers. Know what costs are for preventable damages.

Called in for pump alarms. The pumps needed to be pulled and new parts due to rags, clothing and flushable wipes. Very costly.

Last time the city crew did not plow after the county plowed on Hwy 82 and County 3. Next time the city crew will plow after the county.

OPEN FLOOR

Mayor Wessel stated if you wish to speak to state your name and address and be respectful.

No comments were made.

PROJECT #94: GAS BID

Gas bids for 2023 fuel were received from Northdale Oil and Deluxe Oil. Deadline for the bids was December 12, 2022 at 4:30 p.m.

Motion by Backes, seconded by Thornbloom, to approve the low bid with Deluxe Oil for gas and diesel for 2023 with a savings of \$.48 per gallon for gas and a savings of \$.919 per gallon for diesel. Motion Carries

PROJECT #312: OSAKIS BEAUTIFICATION TEAM

Amber Kral gave the council an update on the projects.

Kral commented that the Lake Association donated \$400 for the lights at the beach and informed the council that the length of the dock will be 102 ft.

Council received the Beautification fund spreadsheet. Did not received funding for 2022 from the Fall Legacy Funds grant. The team will work on submitting a request for 2023.

PROJECT #441: PARK COMMITTEE

Jillian Reiner updated the council on the Active Transportation Grant:

- Grant application is due December 30th.
- Douglas and Todd counties are involved in the process.
- Would be removing one side of parking on Lake Street.
- The path would be on the north side of the street for bikers and walkers.
- Lake Street will be redone next year by Douglas County.
- Update crossing lights at 2 intersections of Hwy 82.

Anderson mentions some lighting – vehicles are passing on the right and makes it very dangerous.

Backes is concerned about removing parking on Lake Street.

Would narrow the road – help slow traffic with more activity on the bike lane.

Trail to connect with the boat landing, Central Park, beach and more areas with plans to include a loop around Osakis. This is the first step.

Motion by Anderson, seconded by Thornbloom, to approve support for the cause of the travel plans and process for the bike and travel grant if it includes green, healthy, safe routes for all as part of it. Motion Carries

PROJECT #219: STATE MN DOT HWY 27

Motion by Anderson, seconded by Thornbloom, to approve bill from Bolton and Menk in the amount of \$380. Motion Carries

PROJECT #60: ORDINANCE

Brent Kohler is the new owner of the apartment buildings at 215 Main Street West and has concerns about vehicles not being able to park on the streets. There is not enough off street parking for all of the tenants.

The city ordinance states – No parking on public streets from November 1st to April 1st between the hours of 12 a.m. to 6 a.m. unless otherwise marked.

Kohler would like the council to think about a street parking leeway because the apartments were built prior to the ordinance.

The other ordinances the council has discussed to be enforced include:

- 90.21 Building maintenance and appearance.
- 90.20 Inoperable vehicle.
- 90.39 Elimination of nuisances caused by weeds and grass.
- 91.01(E) Abandonment of vehicles.

Council will discuss these ordinances at their next workshop meeting.

Cannabis (CBD) regulations:

- LMC list of cities that currently have an ordinance for CBD.
- Questionnaire from cities that currently have an ordinance.
- Sample ordinance from Spring Lake Park and Stillwater.

Jacobson will continue to try to get more responses from other cities with the CBD ordinance.

PROJECT #260: COUNCIL MEMBER INFORMATION

Council received information on Newly Elected Officials training. Cost for the online or in person training is \$350.

PROJECT #249: PLANNING & ZONING

Discussion was held at the November 17, 2022 meeting regarding the violation process and administrative citations.

Violation enforcement sections are in both the nuisance and zoning ordinances.

Discussion if moving forward with the process:

- Administrative citation process and information needed to set up the admin citation.
- Set up a fee to be included in the fee schedule for admin citations.
- Roles and responsibility of who does what – so the council will know who is handling the process.
- Who writes the violation letters for nuisance ordinances, zoning ordinances, and/or both?

Council comments:

- Law enforcement needs to be behind our ordinances.
- Get an article in the newspaper – ordinances are going to be enforced.

Motion by Backes, seconded by Thornbloom, to approve the November 17, 2022 Planning & Zoning minutes. Motion Carries

PROJECT #292: HAZARDOUS BUILDING

Planning & Zoning discussed the building at 21 Main Street East. Backes was told by the owner that the building will be coming down in the next couple of weeks.

Council was informed that Maynard Michaels was sent a letter and has not contacted the city regarding his property at 45 Main Street West.

Motion by Backes, seconded by Thornbloom, to approve to send a second letter to Maynard Michaels about the ordinance violation at 45 Main Street West. Motion Carries

PROJECT #146: LODGING TAX

Both Leslie and Gordon Townships have approved to dissolve their Joint Powers Agreement. Per the Joint Powers Agreement, the agreement may be terminated by any township and party with a 30 days’ notice. The letter from Gordon Township was dated November 10, 2022.

Motion by Anderson, seconded by Larson, to approve to continue the Lodging Tax in the City of Osakis and amend the agreement and ordinance. Motion Carries

PROJECT #382: UNION

The negotiating committee came to a tentative agreement with the professional AFSCME Union. No copy of the final agreement has been submitted at this time.

PROJECT #196/46: FEE SCHEDULE/WATER RATES

Council received the updated fee schedule for 2023.

Items for the council to consider:

- Administrative fee for violations – \$50 to \$75 per day

- Water/Sewer rate increase.

The council discussed increases for the following:

- 5% rate increase for sewer
- 3% rate increase for water with an additional \$.25 per 1,000 gallon charge above the base rate.

Motion by Larson, seconded by Anderson, to approve the sewer and water rate increase for January 1, 2023.

PROJECT #472: HOUSING ASSISTANCE – MCPP

The City of Osakis was enrolled in the program in 2022. In November, we met the requirement of more than the 50%.

Motion by Backes, seconded by Anderson, to approve the City of Osakis to participate in the state program with the Minnesota Housing Finance Agency MCPP for 2023. Motion Carries

PROJECT #160: OSAKIS PUBLIC SCHOOL

Council received an email and picture from Tim Erickson regarding moving the I-94 sign, routing traffic to the 4-way stop.

PROJECT #488: NEWSPAPER

Jason will be in attendance at the January meeting to update the council on how the Osakis Anchor is going.

Motion by Anderson, seconded by Thornbloom, to approve to rent the Visitor’s Center to the Osakis Anchor for \$200 per month. Motion Carries

PROJECT #104: MAYOR APPOINTMENTS

Mayor appointments will be made in January.

PROJECT #110: GAMBLING

Brad Zimmer, Tony Kettle and Jed Gulbranson (Nelson Community Association) were present.

The Nelson Community Association has pull-tab at the Liquor Store.

Funds are given to youth organizations – depends on who asks for donations.

The members commented that they have a great list of donations for 2022. They have investment information for people and annual commitments.

Backes stated – have the honest truth of the facts when at the meeting so we are getting correct information.

Kettle stated – they will have 100% transparent. No misrepresentation.

PROJECT #444: WASTE WATER PROJECT

The city received correspondence that the MPCA is willing to meet with the city to discuss the phosphorous limit. After this discussion, Daniel Marx will request a meeting with the council to discuss what came out of the meeting and what decision the council will need to make to move forward.

Motion by Anderson, seconded by Thornbloom to approve the bill from Flaherty & Hood in the amount of \$8,283.75 and the bill from Hall & Associates in the amount of \$10,230. Motion Carries

RECOGNITION

Mayor Wessel read and presented a plaque to Randy Anderson for his years on the council. Anderson's 15 years of dedication to the City of Osakis has been greatly appreciated.

Motion by Anderson, seconded by Backes and Thornbloom, to adjourn the meeting at 9:36 p.m. Motion Carries

Mayor – Daniel J. Wessel

City Clerk/Treasurer – Angela A. Jacobson