

Osakis City Council – Regular Meeting
Water Plant – 201 4th Avenue East
January 31, 2023
5:30 PM

Present: Laura Backes, Dan Wessel, Tim Thornbloom, Alan Larson, Stephanie Finnegan
Others Present: Angela Jacobson, Reenie Goodwin, Greg Gottwald, Craig Dropik, Jason Schultz, Chad Gulbranson, Calvin Uhl, Eric Mester, Mike Helwig, Brad Zimmel, Bruce Magnus, Tim Green

Meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m.

Motion by Backes, seconded by Thornbloom, to approve the agenda as presented. Motion Carried

PROJECT #110: GAMBLING

Osakis Lake Association is requesting gambling at the Liquor Store. Members stated they are dedicated to the protection of the lake. Proceeds from the gambling benefit the lake and community. Gambling off sets a lot of taxes that would be collected from the lake tax district proposal. Funds donated in Osakis.

PROJECT #363: POLICE UNION

Council reviewed the costs and change of no more 4 hour overtime for call outs.

Motion by Thornbloom, seconded by Finnegan, to approve the Police Union contract for 2023-2024 as presented. Motion Carries

PROJECT #494: DEPARTMENT SUPERVISOR DISCUSSION

Mayor Wessel commented that not all things go our way – complain to others or complain about other departments. Mayor Wessel would like those to come to the council to discuss their issues. If they want to play that way – it’s not always what you want, but Mayor Wessel believes the council is very fair.

PROJECT #260: CITY ATTORNEY DISCUSSION

Mayor Wessel discussed who can talk to the city attorney.

Larson said the county commissioners can talk to the attorney anytime they want.

The full council should be aware of the reason to contact the attorney.

Jacobson contacts them on behalf of the council and does research on the information that is needed for legal advice and knows what information we have already received, not spending time on what is not needed.

The city attorney contacts us and thinks that if there are concerns or a conflict of interest, then the council should talk about the matter.

Jacobson will research this to see what can be done.

Backes commented on Larson submitting the data request – done on behalf of the council – only used if done as part of your position. If this is needed, it should be transparent with the council on what you are doing.

Wessel commented if it would be public research, then the city should have paid for copies instead it was a personal reason and you paid for the copies

Larson stated he is elected 365 days a year not just when he is at a council meeting.

Wessel stated what would have changed if you did not put your title on the request. You knew this was going to cause controversy.

PROJECT #160: OSAKIS SCHOOL

Mayor Wessel and Finnegan will be attending the next school board meeting on the streets and traffic. No community meeting regarding the parking yet.

Lake Terrace Apartments –inform the owner to go to a Planning & Zoning meeting to talk about the parking issue. Can discuss adding additional parking on the lots.

74: FIRE DEPARTMENT

- New truck arrives in February. Body work will be done next.
- Kyle Swenstad suffered an injury in the fire hall.
- Have been doing pool fills the last 3 years. This year it will be at the fire department's convenience and cash before filling – too many issues in the past.
- FEMA – discussed adding fees for the skid loader, chainsaw and the pay loader at the safety meeting.

PROJECT #73: FIRST RESPONDERS

- Amiee Goodwin is on probation for one year.
- Training on Narcan for drug overdose for the members.
- Adam Trisco – can go on calls to help if needed but not a FR member.
 - Council is ok with Trisco going as long as he is not alone. Will need to check if any liability coverage is required.
- Colton Waldvogel – a variance from April to November. Waldvogel is on the road for work during these months but may make the numbers on the weekends.
 - Will discuss with the group what makes sense and see what happens over the next year.

DEPARTMENT HEADS:

Council doesn't feel they have to come to the meetings. Their reports can be in the general consent items to approve unless something is needed then come to the meeting.

PROJECT #197: WATER PLANT TOUR

Council members and attendees took a tour of the water plant.

Final approval of the water plant/water tower work will be done soon. The next step will be to advertise for bids and approve contract by March for construction.

PROJECT #444: WASTEWATER

Another meeting will be held regarding the MPCA case. There is a grant for point's requirement for more restrictive limits. Up to 80% of the grant.

PROJECT #204: CITY SHOP

Council received a drawing of a new building. This is a two-step construction phase and the next step is to get an official drawing done and get an estimate.

Eric Mester stated about the best value bid per year – over the \$175,000 requirement is allowed by state law.

PROJECT #24: LIQUOR STORE

- New ceiling tiles are done.
- Outside lighting has been replaced.
- New bar stools – cost is \$153 per stool or \$200 with logo on the back.
- Discussed a spring fling – council is bartending/have music/games and prizes.
- Still working on volleyball.
- Part-time employee was hired. Looked at the numbers for a full-time employee. Cost for part-time is \$20,000 vs \$57,000. Do some comparisons for city our size and how many full-time employees they have.

PROJECT #76: POLICE

- State does not do the 4 way stop signs. Larson will look into this and talk to the legislators.
- State put a plan into the design team for the rails. Gulbranson will follow up on this.
- Administrative citations – Gulbranson will talk to the City of Motley about their ordinance process.
- Uhl will see what is needed with the court system for the citations.
- Mayor Wessel will meet with the police
- Give 7 to 10 days for letters before another letter is sent.
- Fit for duty – Gulbranson looked into this. Alexandria has a pre-employment test for officers.
- When on call – come out with vest/badge and duty belt on to respond to calls.
- If called out overnight, dress in uniform.

OTHER DISCUSSION FOR THE COUNCIL

Council packets – council members would like the packets delivered earlier to have more time to review. Put in department reports as general consent items unless approval is needed for new items. General report is not necessary to read to the council.

Jacobson – request department reports by Monday so the council packets can go out by Wednesday.

Supervisor meetings – have on the Wednesday before to discuss council packet and any items coming up/what is on the agenda. Also have a supervisor meeting after the council meeting to go over the to do tasks for each supervisor.

Motion by Thornbloom, seconded by Finnegan, to adjourn the meeting at 9:20 p.m. Motion Carries

Mayor – Daniel J. Wessel

City Clerk/Treasurer – Angela A. Jacobson