

**Osakis City Council – Regular Meeting**  
**City Hall – 14 Nokomis Street East**  
**January 9, 2023**  
**7:00 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, Jason Brown, Bernice Kostrzewski, Hattie Thorson, Jeremy Thorson, Dan Saville, Stephanie Finnegan’s Family, Amber Kral, Kirsten Wessel, Jeremy (Osakis Anchor)

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Oath of Office was read for Dan Wessel, Laura Backes and Stephanie Finnegan.

Motion by Backes, seconded by Thornbloom, to approve the agenda as presented with the addition of Board of Review, update Liquor Store report, Budget report, First Responder, Union Contract, parking at the school and 3 calendar days for review of packet/ordinance . Motion Carried

Motion by Backes, seconded by Larson, to approve the general consent items, including the December city bills in the amount of \$590,058.04 and workshop meeting minutes from December 12, 2022 and meeting minutes from December 12, 2022. Motion Carried

**PROJECT #22: CLERK**

Council received the expenditure and revenue balances for December.

**PROJECT #286: DONATIONS**

Council received a resolution to pass for the donations the city has received since September 2022 accepting the donations for the purpose they were intended for.

Resolutions 2023-01, 2023-02, 2023-03 were presented by Larson, seconded by Thornbloom, to approve donations to the City of Osakis for the purposes of the Osakis EMS, Police Department, Park Equipment and Improvements. Passed Unanimously

**PROJECT #74: FIRE DEPARTMENT**

Dropik informed the council of the following:

- 70 calls for 2022
- Water usage for 2022 – 140,000 gallons
- Annual Township meeting – February 15<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m.

Dropik informed the council of the election of officers that was held on December 19<sup>th</sup>, 2022.

Fire Department Officers are as follows:

- Chief – Craig Dropik
- 1<sup>st</sup> Asst. Chief – Travis Middendorf
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Asst. Chief – Kyle Kostrzewski
- Training Officer – Adam Trisco

Relief Association Board:

- President – Kyle Kostrzewski
- Vice-President – Ryan Larson
- Treasurer – Bob Kallstrom

- Secretary – Craig Schultz
- Board Member 1 – Adam Trisco
- Board Member 2 – Matt Kral

Motion by Backes, seconded by Larson, to approve the Fire Department officers and Relief Association Board members for 2023 as presented. Motion Carries

**PROJECT #24: LIQUOR STORE**

Council received Liquor Store reports:

- December Off-Sale profit \$2,994.50. After capital outlay transfer, loss of -\$19,815.50.
- December On-Sale profit \$3,858.32. After capital outlay transfer, loss of -\$18,951.68.
- Yearend profit \$70,605.00. After capital outlay transfer, loss of -\$38,767.18.
- Resignation letter from Felecia Turnquist.

Goodwin was concerns about the negative funds. She thought the purchase of the electronic sign would come out of another fund.

Other items:

- Workshop discussion – run numbers on both funds.
- Goodwin would like to hire a full-time employee. Two part-time employees leaving.
- Two applications were submitted but can only work two days a week and not on weekends.
- Discussed adjusting hours that the Liquor Store is open.

Motion by Thornbloom, seconded by Finnegan, to approve to accept Felecia Turnquist’s resignation with regret. Motion Carries

**PROJECT #73: FIRST RESPONDERS**

Council received the December First Responder reports.

Officers for 2023:

- President – Jason Schultz
- Vice-President – Brenda Majerus
- Secretary/Treasurer – Hattie Thorson

Motion by Backes, seconded by Thornbloom to approve the 2023 First Responder officers as presented. Motion Carries

Motion by Wessel, seconded by Larson, to pay Amber Kral \$500 for the extra training for the First Responders on the computerized manikin. Motion Carries

**PROJECT #76: POLICE**

Council received the December Police report and ICRs. Schedules for January and February.

Other items:

- Looking at March for the new squad car.
- Decals – will have samples for the council to review.
- Tinted windows (can tint to 50% because it is a law enforcement vehicle).
- Officer Gizinski – attending DARE class the end of January. Classes at the school will start in March.
- Discuss decals/window tint samples.

Resolution 2023-04 was presented by Larson, seconded by Thornbloom, to approve Joseph Swanson to be enrolled in the Police PERA. Passed Unanimously

**PROJECT #205: PUBLIC WORKS**

Council received the Public Works report:

- Chemical feed failure – couple of complaints about the water. Contacted the MN Dept of Health regarding flushing hydrants.
- Pump failures due to rags. This damages equipment and is costly. Discussed going door to door to inform residents of the issue.
- Ice rink is up.
- Water plant walkthrough – upgrades to the plant.
- Water tower – paint this summer.
- Will go out for bids in the spring for both projects.

**OPEN FLOOR**

No comments were made.

**PROJECT #307: GALEON**

Dan Saville from Bremer Bank was in attendance.

In 2007, the City of Osakis allowed the Galeon to borrow bond funds under the city of Osakis’ bond rating and tax exempt bond status. This is an allowed transaction to occur for elderly care and hospitals to receive a better bond rate and for the bonds to be tax exempt.

Council received a Notice of Interest Rate Change. The rating index that was used in 2007 will no longer be available. A new rating index will be used and does not change the borrowing capacity of the City of Osakis or obligate the city to make a payment for the bond.

Saville explained the City of Osakis was a conduit. Now there is a pricing index with a 5 year reset if the city does not approve. The Galeon would be stuck with redoing their rate every 5 years.

The secure borrowing rate is better than before at 3.447% until 2027.

Backes stated – convey to Angie, Shawn and the board that the city will help them out and could help the community out with a pharmacy.

Resolution 2023-05, was presented by Backes, seconded by Thornbloom, to approve to amend the city’s revenue bond with the Galeon (Community Memorial Home Project 2007). Passed Unanimously  
Abstain: Wessel

**PROJECT #441: PARK COMMITTEE**

Council received an email for the Active Transportation Grant that was submitted. Funding awards will be on March 23<sup>rd</sup>.

At the February meeting, the council will review plans for a proposed walking/biking plan to add extra walking/biking along Lake Street.

The park board continues to work on one park master plan that will be presented to the council when the board has made their final changes to the plan.

**PROJECT #312: OSAKIS BEAUTIFICATION TEAM**

Amber Kral was in attendance. There were no updates for the projects.

Council received the Beautification fund spreadsheet.

A grant application for the Legacy Funds will be submitted in 2023.

**PROJECT #488: NEWSPAPER**

Jason Brown was in attendance and updated the council regarding the Osakis Anchor.

Bids for the 2023 official newspaper were opened. Long Prairie Leader and Osakis Anchor is \$7.50 per column inch.

Osakis has not suffered for news – active community with more good things going for the community than bad.

Brown will start the process to make the Osakis Anchor our official newspaper. At this time, the Long Prairie Leader will need to be the official newspaper for 2023.

Motion by Larson, seconded by Finnegan, to approve the Long Prairie Leader as the 2023 official newspaper and to also run the articles in the Osakis Anchor. Motion Carries

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

Mayor Wessel has concerns:

- Flashing stop sign lights at the 4 way? Gulbranson said he had talked to someone.
- Rail on the trail by the bridge not installed. Wessel asked if there will be rails.

Gulbranson will check into both for the council.

**PROJECT #451: COUNCIL MEETINGS**

Council discussed meetings held for the year.

Motion by Backes, seconded by Thornbloom, to approve the meeting location at 14 Nokomis Street East on the second Monday of the month at 7:00 p.m. Motion Carries

**PROJECT #196: FEE SCHEDULE**

Council received the proposed 2023 Fee Schedule.

Motion by Backes, seconded by Finnegan, to approve the 2023 Fee Schedule. Motion Carries

**PROJECT #104: MAYOR APPOINTMENTS**

Council received the 2023 Mayor Appointments to review.

Motion by Backes, seconded by Larson, to approve the 2023 Mayor Appointments. Motion Carries

**PROJECT #382: UNION CONTRACT – CITY**

Council reviewed the tentative agreement between the negotiating committee (Alan Larson and Randy Anderson) and the AFSCME Union.

Motion by Thornbloom, seconded by Backes, to approve the 2023 and 2024 tentative 2 year agreement with AFSCME. Motion Carries

**PROJECT #263: POLICE UNION**

Council reviewed the tentative agreement between the negotiating committee (Alan Larson and Randy Anderson) and the LELS Police Union.

4 OT call out was not removed per stated agreement for ¼ hourly on call.

Larson reviewed the LELS contract changes.

Motion by Backes, seconded by Thornbloom, to table the decision to get the call out number correct in the agreement. Motion Carries

**PROJECT #109: LICENSES**

Council received a list of 2023 licenses that renew on January 15<sup>th</sup>.

Motion by Thornbloom, seconded by Backes, to approve the 2023 Licenses as presented. Motion Carries

**PROJECT #60: ORDINANCE**

Council discussed the following 4 ordinances to enforce:

- 90.21 Building Maintenance and Appearance.
- 90.20 Inoperable Vehicle
- 90.39 Elimination of Nuisances caused by Weeds and Grass.
- 91.01E Abandonment of Vehicles

Council discussed the ordinances above at the December meeting and included an administrative fee of \$50 per day for violations that are not taken care of.

The council will decide what ordinance, who, timeframe of letters sent and violation sent.

Maynard Michaels was sent a second letter. Michaels was in on 12/27/22 and stated he will have the roof redone by January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

Cannabis CBD Regulations: the legislative session will be starting and the League of MN Cities has indicated this will be a major topic of discussion.

- 92.21 Snow Ice Dirt and Rubbish

This ordinance is in place to remove snow, debris, ice from sidewalks no more than 72 hours after it is deposited.

Larson explained the road with a boulevard and road without.

Backes stated she felt the property owners should keep our city looking nice.

Tabled this discussion for the workshop.

**PROJECT #260: COUNCIL MEMBER INFORMATION**

Council received information on Newly Elected Officials training. The course is online but also in person in the cities of Plymouth, Mankato and Alexandria. Cost is \$350.

**PROJECT #146: LODGING TAX**

Tom Klecker is working on an amendment to the Lodging Tax Ordinance. One part is the board (Tourism Promotions Bureau) designated to administer the use of the lodging tax dollars. A new board would need to be setup for the purpose or the EDA could be the board in charge of the funds. The resorts and VRBO’s that pay in could have a vested interest in the use of the funds to be dispersed and may want to have more involvement.

The EDA will discuss this matter at their next meeting.

**PROJECT #198: SPECIAL MEETING – WORKSHOP**

A workshop has been set for January 31<sup>st</sup> at 5:30 p.m. at the waterplant.

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

Daniel Marx, Mayor Wessel, Greg Gottwald, Angela Jacobson and Eric Mester will be meeting with the MPCA on January 13<sup>th</sup>, 2023 to see if we can come to an agreement prior to going to court. After this meeting, Marx will have some information to share with the full council regarding the options we have in moving forward.

**PROJECT #43: BOARD OF REVIEW**

Council received the Board of Review training for 2023.

Jacobson will send the email link to the council members for the training.

**OTHER ITEMS FOR COUNCIL DISCUSSION**

School Parking - An OHS basketball tournament was held last Saturday. People were able to park by the school and some were upset about it. Finnegan and Wessel will attend the February meeting.

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:25 p.m. Motion Carries

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Mayor – Daniel J. Wessel

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City Clerk/Treasurer – Angela A. Jacobson