

Osakis City Council – Regular Meeting
City Hall – 14 Nokomis Street East
February 12, 2024
7:00 PM

Present: Dan Wessel, Laura Backes, Tim Thornbloom, Stephanie Finnegan, Al Larson

Others Present: Angela Jacobson, Jordan Gedrose, Brian Bouassa, Paul Sandy, Hattie Thorson, Reenie Goodwin, Randy Anderson, Eric Jacobson, Tonya Danielson, Osakis Anchor, Chad Gulbranson, Travis Middendorf

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

Motion by Backes, seconded by Thornbloom, to approve the agenda as presented with the addition of Osakis High School letter for School Resource Officer. Motion Carried

Motion by Larson, seconded by Finnegan, to approve the general consent items, removing the OT and PD reports from the consent items, including the January city bills in the amount of \$658,020.19 and meeting minutes from January 8, 2023. Motion Carried

Consent Staff Reports:

- #74 Fire Department – report
- #13 Fire Relief

PROJECT #22: CLERK

Jacobson reviewed the city balance sheets. Council reviewed the funds in the savings and want to maximize the interest as much as possible. Negotiated 1% to 4.5% interest in savings account.

A quote was received from Networks for Hire for upgrading the city hall computers. The total cost is \$5,082 for the computers, network drive, labor and programs.

Motion by Larson, seconded by Finnegan, to approve new computers and setup with Networks for Hire in the amount of \$5,082.00 and also look into upgrades for Gottwald and Gulbranson. Motion Carried

Jacobson asked to attend the Clerks Conference in March.

Jacobson mentioned adding the gross profit percentage in the report yearly amount.

Motion by Backes, seconded by Larson, to approve Jacobson to attend the annual Clerks Conference in March. Motion Carried

PROJECT #60: ORDINANCE / ADMINISTRATIVE CITATION

Council will receive a printout from Gulbranson for all city fines in March.

Gulbranson drafted a letter to send to Jake Huebsch to review for the new process and how it will look. Council wants Gulbranson to get the ride along done and get the letters sent.

Council asked about three call outs that had overlapping times. Why are we paying for a second call out when the officer is already out? This was approved on the time sheet and it should have been looked at on the time sheet before approved. Backes wants an answer as to why a second call while out.

Backes questioned if DARE hours qualify for O.T. hours and scheduled events.

PROJECT #60: ORDINANCE / PARKING ORDINANCE

Council discussed the winter parking ordinance and snow removal. Residence want to park on the street since it is nice weather. When there is no snow, they want the council to lift the winter parking ordinance of 12 am to 6 am parking on the street. Because we do have ordinance 71.03 in place to remove vehicles in periods of snow.

Motion by Thornbloom, seconded by Finnegan, to approve lifting ordinance 71.01 (H) for just this spring because of the unusual winter. Motion Carried

PROJECT #151: STREET REPAIR / PLANNING – PIKE STREET EAST

Council received information from WSB regarding the Pike Street East project and engineering costs.

Paul Sandy informed the council that the engineering fee would be at \$121,704. Project estimate is \$500,000 to \$550,000.

There is a Best Greater MN Infrastructure grant for 50%. It is a rolling grant application and will be looked at for the project. Look at how long to use the funds.

Total estimated cost is \$662,728. Council tabled this discussion until March for a final decision on the proposal of 30% costs being done now and to be able to bid later and apply for the grant.

PROJECT #441: PARK COMMITTEE

A final park concepts report was presented to the park group on January 30th. The group discussed the input from the public and the final design. Members expressed concerns on the cost to maintain a splash pad.

Jordan Gedrose went through the process, design and public comments from the open house:

- Park Osagi – new shelter, walking loop, parking, splash pad, Ninja course, view of the lake. Tree plan that can be removed as needed. Cost estimate is \$2,000,000.
- Central Park – turf, bistro light, picnic area, bike charging station. Cost estimate is \$900,000.

The group discussed possible grants to apply for on both projects. The grants would require city participation of matching funds. The grants have completion dates of June 30, 2026.

Council received change ordinance #138 for the Park and Recreation Commission board. If adopted, the group members including, Sharon Fredrickson, Ryan Peterson, Amber Kral, Justin Dahlheimer, Al Neumann and Al Larson would commit to being on the board for two years.

Motion by Backes, seconded by Wessel, to approve the Park Master plan for Park Osagi and Central Park. Motion Carried

Motion by Wessel, seconded by Thornbloom, to approve change ordinance #138 for the establishment of a Park and Recreation Commission Advisory Board. Motion Carried

Motion by Backes, seconded by Thornbloom, to approve WSB bills in the amounts of \$7,597.25 and \$4,891.75. Motion Carried

PROJECT #197: WATER PLANT / WATER TOWER

Motion by Thornbloom, seconded by Larson, to approve pay Application #2 and #3 for a total of \$31,752.80. Motion Carried

PROJECT #444: WASTEWATER PROJECT

Council reviewed a wastewater facility plan sent by Eric Meester. Meester will have a meeting with the council at a later date to discuss the facility plan.

Motion by Backes, seconded by Larson, to approve the bill from NERO Engineering in the amount of \$23,440. Motion Carried

OPEN FLOOR

Hattie Thorson was in attendance for the First Responders. Thorson asked for approval for a new member Stephanie Larson.

Motion by Thornbloom, seconded by Larson, to approve new First Responder member Stephanie Larson. Motion Carried.

PROJECT #312: PARK BEAUTIFICATION TEAM

Jordan Gedrose designed a plan form play equipment for the beach. Kral had no more updates at this time.

PROJECT #249: PLANNING & ZONING

Council reviewed a draft copy for an ordinance for solar energy systems in city limits. This ordinance consists of roof mounted, solar collectors, wall mounted and ground mounted systems. In addition to the ordinance, the city attorney commented on the decommissioning of the solar panels when their useful life is completed. Solar farms have a life expectancy of 25 to 30 years and will tie up the land for the life of the solar panels.

The ordinance has a provision to allow solar ground mounted farms in the urban reserve district with 10 or more acres. Setback from the highway is 1,200 ft.

Rollie Walsh has been discussing his property on the west side city limits with the EDA. Discussion includes selling some of the land to develop future housing and keeping most to have a ground mounted solar farm.

Randy Anderson commented on the Planning & Zoning’s discussion:

- Ordinance is based on other communities.
- Reasonable ordinance.
- Want a commitment from Walsh in writing to move forward with.

Council tabled this until Rollie Walsh submits something in writing for his property and to have Planning & Zoning review decommission language to be added to the ordinance.

PROJECT #43: BOARD OF REVIEW

Board of Review will be held Tuesday, April 9th, 2024. Todd County at 9 a.m. and Douglas County at 10 a.m.

PROJECT #160: OSAKIS PUBLIC SCHOOL

Mayor Wessel, Clerk Jacobson and Council Member Finnegan will be meeting with the school regarding the safe routes to school plan. This plan may consist of several routes along city streets and will need to partner with the city to complete.

PROJECT #472: MN HOUSING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

At the January meeting, the council voted to participate in the MN Housing Assistance Program for new home buyers. This program helps first time homebuyers with funds for a down payment and mortgage relief.

Council received a list of allocated funds Osakis received for 2024.

PROJECT #500: FLAG – MN STATE FLAG

Council member Larson discussed with the council the adoption of a resolution regarding the opposition to redesigning the MN State Flag and Seal.

PROJECT #196: FEE SCHEDULE

The council adopted the city 2024 fee schedule at the January meeting. The Fire Department and Public Works have been working on a fee schedule for the city. In order to receive reimbursement from FEMA if the city should have a natural disaster and FEMA disaster aid is activated for costs of the cleanup, the city needs to have established fees in place.

Motion by Thornbloom, seconded by Larson, to approve the fee schedule for the Fire Department and Public Works for a natural disaster event. Motion Carried

PROJECT #42: CLEAN UP DAY

Clean Up Day has been scheduled for May 11th.

Jeff Bertram suggested raising the fees by \$5 for each item for 2024.

Motion by Wessel, seconded by Finnegan, to approve the \$5 per item increase for Clean Up Day on May 11th, 2024. Motion Carried

PROJECT #427: RESIDENTIAL LETTER

Ila Anderson has been working on the Spring Newsletter. Council members have been requested to submit information by February 29th.

PROJECT #369: CENTERPOINT ENERGY

City received a letter from Centerpoint Energy regarding the rate increase for 2024 and 2025.

PROJECT #7: COMMUNITY CENTER

The council approved to have the kitchen cabinets replaces at the Community Center. After the last meeting, discussion was held to replace the flooring, walls and ceiling tiles.

Bids for walls and ceiling:

- Builders Firstsource – \$3,352.73 (materials)
- Prairie View Construction – \$4,050 (labor)
- Calm Water Construction – \$6,950 (labor)

Quotes for the flooring (materials and labor):

- Scott’s Floor Service – \$4,050
- Arnquist Flooring – \$4,163.12

Al Neumann stated the Osakis Senior Club would purchase a new stove/oven in the same style as our existing stove/oven in the Community Center. Cost is \$6,612.00

Council discussed the costs and availability to get the project completed. The city would like to minimize the time the Community Center is closed.

Council also needs to decide on the removal of the old cabinets.

Motion by Backes, seconded by Finnegan, to approve the bid for the walls and ceiling materials to Builders Firstsource in the amount of \$3,352.73. Motion Carried

Motion by Finnegan, seconded by Thornbloom, to approve the bid for labor (walls and ceiling) to Prairie View Construction in the amount of \$4,050. Motion Carried

Motion by Backes, seconded by Thornbloom, to approve the quote for the flooring to Scott's Floor Service in the amount of \$4,050.00 Motion Carried

Council would like all involved to meet and put together a time line for getting the project completed.

PROJECT #104: MAYOR APPOINTMENTS

Council received the 2024 Mayor Appointments. Members of the Park and Recreation Advisory Commission should be designated.

The following members have stated they would commit to being a member n the board for at least 2 years:

- Justin Dahlheimer – city resident
- Sharon Fredrickson – city resident
- Ryan Peterson – business representative
- Amber Kral – rural Osakis
- Al Neumann – rural Osakis
- Al Larson – council designation

Motion by Thornbloom, seconded by Backes, to approve the Mayor Appointments for 2024. Motion Carried

Resolution 2024-03 was presented by Backes, seconded by Larson, to approve Mayor Daniel Wessel and City Clerk Angela Jacobson as corporate authorized signers. When put to a vote, the resolution passed unanimously.

PROJECT #321: VISITOR'S CENTER

Council was informed the carpet and flooring is ordered and will be installed when it is received.

PROJECT #160: OSAKIS PUBLIC SCHOOL

Council received a letter from Superintendent Justin Dahlheimer regarding a School Resource Officer.

Other local schools have SROs and some have no funding from the school.

Council will discuss at the March meeting.

OTHER DISCUSSION:

Backes brought up that after the last meeting, Al Neumann wanted a public apology because of the comments that were made and why he needed one.

Backes stated that information should be portrayed as the right information the way it is said. Missed information is said and stated to stirrup and portray information incorrectly and not have you feel how it was meant. This is not the first time. Backes stated she will not say it again and not revisit it again.

Motion by Larson, seconded by Wessel, to adjourn the meeting at 9:30 p.m. Motion Carried

Mayor – Daniel J. Wessel

City Clerk/Treasurer – Angela A. Jacobson