

Osakis City Council – Regular Meeting
City Hall – 14 Nokomis Street East
March 11, 2024
7:00 PM

Present: Dan Wessel, Laura Backes, Tim Thornbloom, Stephanie Finnegan, Al Larson
Others Present: Angela Jacobson, Reenie Goodwin, Eric Jacobson, Chub Hensley, Sharon Fredrickson, Chad Gulbranson, Greg Gottwald, VFW Members, Paul Sandy, Jim Stueve, Brad Zimmer, Tony Kettle, Mike Kral, Lee Christopherson, Travis Middendorf, Calvin Uhl, Amber Kral, Rick Loxtercamp

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. Motion Carried

Motion by Larson, seconded by Finnegan, to approve the general consent items, including the February city bills in the amount of \$272,884.38 and meeting minutes from February 12, 2023 pull #24 Liquor Store and #76 Police for discussion. Motion Carried

PROJECT #24: LIQUOR STORE

Council was informed that Brenda Visnovec (MN Municipal Beverage Association) was at the Liquor Store on February 29th and March 1st. Visnovec reset the off-sale products and gave Goodwin some items to complete. Visnovec will give a report to the city for recommendations on what can be done to increase profits for both off-sale and on-sale.

Goodwin stated that she is willing to give it a try and more products are visible now.

PROJECT #60: ORDINANCE – ADMINISTRATIVE CITATION

Gulbranson said a list has been generated for administrative citations. Gulbranson will get the approval letter then send out about 26 letters.

Council informed Gulbranson that the house on Main Street West needs to be cleaned up and the owner needs to get a letter. Gulbranson knows the owner is working on another house in town.

PROJECT #76: POLICE

Backes asked Gulbranson about the 2 call outs. Was someone working on the night shift of February 14th? Why are there 2 call outs at 6 p.m. and 7 p.m.?

Gulbranson said he was sick that day. Uhl worked but the night shift was not covered.

Resolution 2024-07 was presented by Larson, seconded by Thornbloom, to approve part-time officer Allyssa Engfer to be enrolled in Police PERA. When put to a vote, the resolution passed unanimously.

The Postboard does check on training for the officers periodically. A copy of the training will be given to Jacobson for their personal file.

PROJECT #197: WATER PLANT / WATER TOWER

Estimated start date for the water tower project is April 15th.

Pipe has been ordered for the bypass line for the water plant project. No other information.

PROJECT #4444: WASTEWATER PROJECT

A meeting has been scheduled for March 25th at 6 p.m. to meet with Eric Meester to discuss how to handle I & I and the waste water facility.

PROJECT #489: MAIN LIFT STATION

Council received a cost estimate for Phase II for the lift station project in the amount of \$568,000. Building designs were included for the council to review.

Currently, the balance in the Main Lift Station fund is \$321,319.69 from the 2022 Bond when Phase I of the project was done. Council will consider how to fund the project if bids come in over budget.

Recommended precast exposed aggregate building for a cost saving.

Motion by Finnegan, seconded by Thornbloom, to approve the bill from Nero Engineering in the amount of \$12,954.00. Motion Carried

Motion by Thornbloom, seconded by Larson, to approve to go for bids for the Main Lift Station project. Motion Carried

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

Council received information from WSB on the Pike Street East project and engineering costs. The proposal for professional services for 30% to be able to apply for the DEED grant is \$33,928.

Council will consider if they want to move forward with this project. Have complete in June or July, then apply for the DEED grant.

Finnegan commented that it is a good idea.

Motion by Larson, seconded by Finnegan, to approve to pay \$33,928 for 30% of the design and grant submission. Motion Carried

PROJECT #205: PUBLIC WORKS

Council reviewed a quote for a new John Deere mower in the amount of \$15,900.

\$65,000 is put into the fund annually for scheduling replacement of equipment. This is state bid pricing for the lawn mower. One of the older mowers will be sold this summer.

Motion by Thornbloom, seconded by Backes, to approve to purchase a new John Deere Z970R in the amount of \$15,900. Motion Carried

OPEN FLOOR

No comments.

PROJECT #110: GAMBLING

The EDA Board discussed gambling contributions to the Osakis EDA. The EDA Board requested each gambling organization to contribute funds to help with economic growth. At this time, only the Lake Osakis Association has.

EDA wanted to have the council discuss and review the information regarding a charge of 10% to all gambling organizations.

Jacobson discussed the following information:

- Existing Ordinance 111.13 regarding the 10% contribution.
- 2023 Annual Report Summary of the gambling organizations in Osakis net receipts, charitable contributions, tax and license fees and other expenses. This report shows total operations – not just what is in Osakis.
- LG510 form – cities are required to fill out if they collect the 10% contribution.
- Lawful purpose expenditure codes (what the money collected could be spent on)
- Contributions made to the city of Osakis from gambling in Osakis:
 - Year 2022 \$37,300
 - Year 2023 \$16,400
 - Year 2024 so far \$1,500
- Nelson Community Association gambling rent at the Liquor Store:
 - Year 2021 \$50,826
 - Year 2022 \$54,532
 - Year 2023 \$58,028
- Budget donation to EDA for economic growth from the Liquor Store funds in 2024 is \$5,000

Many VFW and Nelson Community Association members were present.

Backes stated this is information for the council. The council has not discussed this matter. The EDA asked the council to have a discussion and Jacobson was asked to put it on the council agenda.

Larson asked how many funds were donated to economic development from OEDC funds.

Jacobson stated the EDA is asking for funds from gambling to help in economic growth and to help keep businesses and housing in our community.

Chub Hensley stated the VFW gave out \$60,000 to those in need. Hensley is not opposed if it is good for the community.

Backes stated – funds do not go to needed organizations if there is a 10% change.

Motion by Larson, seconded by Backes, to approve to schedule a meeting with the charitable gambling organizations, EDA Board members and city council members for discussion. Motion Carried

PROJECT #441: PARK COMMITTEE & RECREATION BOARD

The Park Board met on February 27th and discussed moving forward after the approval of the master park plan. They also discussed what the park board should focus on first for funding and phasing of the projects to be able to use utility grant money and donation money.

Gottwald and Jacobson discussed the cost of a splash pad. Gottwald was going to reach out to the city of Sauk Centre to get maintenance costs and budgeting requirements once the splash pad is put in.

The Park Board also wanted to see some spring projects. Amber Kral volunteered to get bids for updating the current bathroom at Park Osagi. Sourcewell has a \$10,000 grant that we can apply for to help with this project.

The Park Board decided to apply for the MN Outdoor Recreation grant in the amount of \$350,000.

The Olson Foundation stated they would dedicated funds to help pay the 50% match and additional cost up to \$258,000 if we receive the grant.

WSB contacted MN Soil and Water and they did not have an issue with working on the shoreline at Park Osage. Paul Sandy will contact SRWD to see if clearing the shore and bank is ok with them.

Resolution 2024-06 was presented by Backes, seconded by Thornbloom, to approve to authorize the city of Osakis to apply for the MN DNR Grant and to have Clerk Jacobson as the authorized signer. When put to a vote, the resolution passed unanimously.

Motion by Backes, seconded by Finnegan, to approve the Park & Recreation Board meeting minutes. Motion Carried.

Motion by Backes, seconded by Finnegan, to approve the bill from WSB in the amount of \$5,154. Motion Carried

PROJECT #312: PARK BEAUTIFICATION TEAM

Kral informed the council that the Hootenanny fundraiser made over \$11,000.

PROJECT #447: TOBACCO LICENSE

Morning Star Market purchased Pauls Pump & Pantry on February 2, 2024. They requested a Tobacco License for 610 Nokomis Street East. The owners were given the tobacco ordinance and information on the moratorium of the cannabis use in Osakis. All background checks were completed for the license.

Chris Stoetzel – former owner of Pauls Pump & Pantry is asking for a refund for his Tobacco License for 2024.

Ordinance #119 does not have language to allow for a refund of a license nor does the state statute allow for a refund.

Motion by Larson, seconded by Thornbloom, to approve a \$60 refund to Chris Stoetzel for Pauls Pump & Pantry. Motion Carried

Motion by Backes, seconded by Larson, to approve the 2024 Tobacco License for Morning Star Market. Motion Carried

PROJECT #249: PLANNING & ZONING

Council received a draft ordinance on Solar Energy Systems in city limits. This ordinance consists of roof mounted, solar collectors, wall mounted and ground mounted.

In addition to the ordinance, the city attorney was contacted regarding decommissioning of the solar panels when the useful life is complete. This language can be added and reviewed by the Planning & Zoning at their next meeting.

Council should consider this ordinance and how it will effect Osakis. The ordinance has a provision to allow solar ground mounted farms in the Urban Reserve District with 10 acres or more. Solar farms have a life expectancy of 25 to 30 years and ties up the land for the life of the solar panels.

Randy Anderson and Mayor Wessel have met with Rollie Walsh regarding a solar farm on his property. The EDA would like to purchase some of the land for future development by no agreement has been finalized at this time.

Council discussed the setback of 1,200 ft from the highway and changing this to allow the solar panels to be closer to the land.

Larson commented that an option is eminent domain.

PROJECT #160: OSAKIS PUBLIC SCHOOL

At the last council meeting, a letter was received from the Osakis Public School regarding the possibility of an SRO officer for the Osakis Public School. The school is reaching out to the local police department for this request.

Council will schedule a meeting with Jacobson, Gulbranson, Wessel and the school to discuss who will be paying for this, what staffing is required, time frame of coverage.

Council also received a letter sent to the Douglas County Commissioners from Osakis Public School asking to have parking allowed on 1st Avenue East as indicated on the map. Their comments include to have not parking during school hours.

Larson commented – don't like parking and vehicles on the street to walk through.

Finnegan – the school has not addressed parking on the school property.

Backes – we reacted to quick and painted yellow. We did not look at other options and need to work with the school.

Motion by Backes, seconded by Thornbloom, to approve to no parking during school hours from 7:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. For: Wessel, Backes, Thornbloom Nays: Finnegan, Larson

PROJECT #310: BLOCKING LAKE STREET – BLACKS RESORT

Blacks Resort is requesting to block Lake Street East for one day in April to put in docks. They will inform Jacobson when this will be done.

Motion by Backes, seconded by Finnegan, to approve to allow Blacks Resort to block Lake Street East for one day in April to put in docks. Motion Carried

PROJECT #7: COMMUNITY CENTER

A meeting was held with Larson and all the contractors to discuss the timing of the completion of the kitchen remodeling project. The current timeline is to have the project completed by April 1st and reopening by April 8th.

Larson commented that the project is going as planned and is on schedule.

The dishwasher/sanitizer was removed and will need to be replaced. Al Newmann received a cost from Restaurant Supply in the amount of \$13,000 for a new one. New electrical and new lights costs are being covered by Al Newmann. He is also getting bids for the backroom, tables and chairs.

Discussed cleaning out the back room – groups need to clean up their items and get rid of stuff in the spring.

An ice machine will be installed

Motion by Larson, seconded by Wessel, to approve to advertise for sealed bids for the church pews. Motion Carried

PROJECT #42: CLEAN UP DAY

Clean Up Day is scheduled for May 11th. Sentence to Serve and Osakis Lions will help with the event.

Amber Kral's clean up event with the school will be May 14th.

PROJECT #43: BOARD OF REVIEW

Board of Review will be held on Tuesday, April 9th:

- Todd County at 9 a.m.
- Douglas County at 10 a.m.

Council received the assessment summary from Douglas County.

PROJECT #321: VISITORS CENTER

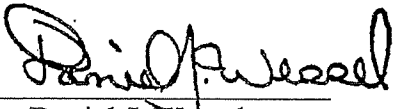
New carpet and flooring has been installed at the Visitors Center. After the items were moved it was discussed to update the paint.

Council is ok with painting. The Heritage Center is paying for the paint.

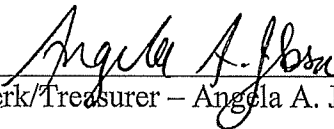
OTHER DISCUSSION:

Jacobson mentioned a Sourcewell Grant in the amount of \$50,000 for community impact and is looking for technology updates and other items for government offices.

Motion by Larson, seconded by Backes, to adjourn the meeting at 9:15 p.m. Motion Carried



Mayor – Daniel J. Wessel



City Clerk/Treasurer – Angela A. Jacobson