

Osakis City Council – Regular Meeting
City Hall – 14 Nokomis Street East
April 8, 2024
7:00 PM

Present: Dan Wessel, Laura Backes, Tim Thornbloom, Stephanie Finnegan, Al Larson
Others Present: Angela Jacobson, Reenie Goodwin, Greg Gottwald, Eric Jacobson, Lisa Johnson, Amber Kral, Justin Koehntop, Doug Walters, Dick Dunn, Sharon Fredrickson, Stacy Foss, Tonya Danielson, Brad Zimmer, Justin Dahlheimer, Joe Ecklund

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

Motion by Thornbloom, seconded by Backes, to approve the agenda as presented with the additions of resignation, West Central grant, list of citations and quote for painting at the Community Center.
Motion Carried

Motion by Finnegan, seconded by Thornbloom, to approve the general consent items, including the March city bills in the amount of \$289,699.28 and meeting minutes from March 11, 2023 and March 26, 2024. Motion Carried

PROJECT #286: DONATIONS

Resolution 2024-10 was submitted by Backes, seconded by Larson, to approve donations to the city of Osakis for the purposes of the Police Department, Bike Rodeo, Park Equipment and Improvements. When put to a vote, the resolution passed unanimously.

PROJECT #254: OFFICE PROGRAMS

A quote was received from Banyon for a new utility billing program to be used for water/sewer/garbage bills. The current system is no longer user friendly and does not integrate with our fund accounting system or online bill payments.

Upgrading to Banyon will provide additional items such as bar code scanning for inputting utility bills, disconnect notices/door hangers for customers, invoicing to pay bills online and payments are automatically downloaded. Total cost is \$12,395 with an annual maintenance of \$1,625.

Sourcewell has a community input grant to be used for items needed for the city, including technology upgrades.

Council is ok to move forward with the Sourcewell grant application.

PROJECT #299: BOND

Council received information on the interim bond financing for the water tower and water plant projects. Approval was received from Rural Development for funding the project.

Financing is done through MN Rural Water Association. The funds we borrow are the only funds we pay financing on. If we do not draw all of the funds allotted to us, we do not pay interest on those funds.

Resolution 2024-11 was submitted by Larson, seconded by Thornbloom, to approve 2024A Bond in the amount of \$800,000. When put to a vote, the resolution passed unanimously.

PROJECT #242: WEST CENTRAL GRANT

This is a park grant for up to \$25,000 to be used for sensory equipment.

The council is ok with applying for the grant. The Park Committee will also be informed.

PROJECT #205: PUBLIC WORKS

Gottwald explained the security of the dock and adding an extension because of the water.

Motion by Larson, seconded by Backes, to approve to get an additional dock section built for the fishing pier in the amount of \$5,120.75. Motion Carried

Motion by Thornbloom, seconded by Larson, to approve to purchase a new pontoon motor in the amount of \$5,295.00. Motion Carries

PROJECT #60: ORDINANCE – ADMINISTRATIVE CITATION

Gulbranson gave an update regarding the progress of the citations:

- Letters have been sent to property owners.
- Citations are in the ticketing system and will be ready in April.

A list of payable fines in Osakis and the Administrative citations was presented to the council at the meeting.

PROJECT #444: WASTEWATER PROJECT

Council met with Eric Meester (Nero Engineering) on March 26th for a special meeting to discuss the waste water project and I&I reduction strategies. The consensus of the council was to move forward with alternative plan #1.

Resolution 2024-12 was presented by Backes, seconded by Larson, to approve the amended facility plan as presented. When put to a vote, the resolution passed unanimously.

PROJECT #197: WATER PLANT / WATER TOWER

Change order and pay application from Eric Meester:

- Change order #1 – changes to the existing controls to allow the existing filter to be bypassed and keep the wells and high service pumps operating. Change order is to increase the project by \$14,006.44.

Motion by Larson, seconded by Thornbloom, to approve change order #1 for Eagle Construction with an increase in the amount of \$14,006.44. Motion Carried

Motion by Larson, seconded by Thornbloom, to approve pay application #4 for Eagle Construction in the amount of \$124,272.47. Motion Carried

Motion by Larson, seconded by Thornbloom, to approve the invoice from Nero Engineering for March in the amount of \$4,285.75. Motion Carried

OPEN FLOOR

Tonya Danielson (Osakis Chamber):

- April 16th (7:30 a.m. to 8:30 a.m.) coffee at Abundant Life Coffee for members.
- April 17th there will be a meeting for Taste of Osakis planning.
- May 8th (5:30 p.m.) social gathering for members with a dinner at 6 p.m. Council and staff are invited.

Doug Walters (Lavens Lake View Dr) – would like to see some things done with the road. It is a challenge to drive on the road and is in lousy condition. The liquid chloride does not let the water soak in.

Justin Koehntop (Lavens Lake View Dr) – also commented the road is not in good condition.

Gottwald said that WSB (city engineer) will have to help get the issues figured out.

Dick Dunn (8th Ave E) – wants to include 8th Avenue East past his property in the discussion.

PROJECT #441: PARK COMMITTEE

Park Board met on March 26th to discuss moving forward after the approval of the Master Park Plan. The MN Outdoor Recreation grant was submitted on April 1st, 2024.

Amber Kral volunteered to get bids on updating the existing bathroom at Park Osagi. City received notification that Sourcewell has approved a grant in the amount of \$10,000 for bathroom upgrades.

PROJECT #312: PARK BEAUTIFICATION TEAM

Amber Kral asked the council for approval to put in diggers and spring animals at the beach. Gottwald is looking at a location of the equipment so it is not in the way of other beach activities.

Motion by Thornbloom, seconded by Larson, to approve Kral to purchase the diggers and spring animals for the beach in the amount of \$7,689.30. Motion Carried

PROJECT #7: COMMUNITY CENTER

Al Larson gave an update on the progress of the Community Center project:

- Dishwashing equipment is needed.
- Benches for the entry way are here and can be put in.
- Received a bid for painting the interior in the amount of \$6,300. Looking for another bid.
- Sinks in the men's bathroom need to be replaced.
- Next rental in the Community Center is April 20th.

PROJECT #109/110: ONE-DAY LIQUOR LICENSE / GAMBLING LICENSE

Council reviewed applications:

- Osakis Lake Association – One Day Liquor License at the Community Center on May 18, 2024.
- Osakis Lake Association – Offsite One Day Gambling License at the Community Center to do pull-tabs and a raffle on May 18, 2024.
- Osakis Knights of Columbus – One Day Gambling License at Immaculate Conception Church to be held on November 29, 2024.

Resolution 2024-08 was presented by Larson, seconded by Thornbloom, to approve a One Day Gambling License for Osakis Knights of Columbus on November 29, 2024. When put to a vote, the resolution passed unanimously.

Resolution 2024-09 was presented by Larson, seconded by Thornbloom, to approve a One Day Gambling License for Osakis Lake Association on May 18, 2024. When put to a vote, the resolution passed unanimously.

Motion by Larson, seconded by Thornbloom, to approve a One Day Liquor License at 20 Nokomis Street West for Osakis Lake Association on May 18, 2024. Motion Carried

PROJECT #160: OSAKIS PUBLIC SCHOOL

A meeting was held to discuss the School Resource Officer (SRO). Officer David Gizinski expressed interest in the position. Discussion included the legislation change that is being worked on.

Justin Dahlheimer stated that he wants the SRO program. Law changed to allow officers to use force.

The council did not receive the draft agreement for the SRO program at this meeting.

Motion by Thornbloom, seconded by Larson, to move forward with reviewing the contract and process.
Motion Carried

Motion by Backes, seconded by Finnegan, to amend the motion from the March council meeting to change to no parking from 3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. in designated areas of yellow by 1st Avenue East for Osakis Public School. Motion Carried

PROJECT #213: LIFEGUARD / CITY BEACH

Connor Gulbranson will be returning as head lifeguard for the summer of 2024. Aaron Collins will also be returning.

The city will advertise for more lifeguards.

Motion by Finnegan, seconded by Backes, to increase the pay for the head lifeguard to \$16.00, returning lifeguards to \$15.00 and new lifeguards to \$14.50. Motion Carried

PROJECT #237: LAKE ASSOCIATION

Council received information regarding an Osakis Lake Improvement District. A public hearing will be held at the Osakis Public School Auditorium on April 16th at 6:00 p.m.

PROJECT #451: COUNCIL MEETING AGENDAS / PACKETS

Clerk Jacobson discussed the agendas – they are put online on our city website and at city hall. To put an item on the agenda must be submitted on time. If anything comes in later, can say no, but the council has to also not allow the discussion at the meeting.

Discussed electronic packets if the council wants, but it would not be both. Council was asked of the contents of the packets and how much do they want.

More will be discussed at the May council meeting.

PROJECT #124: SIGN

Mayor Wessel updated the council on the Welcome to Osakis sign. The Galeon will pay for half of the sign \$15,000. Welcome to Osakis would extend 20 ft. Discussed advertising for six spaces at \$2,500 for five years.

Wessel will work to get advertisements.

PROJECT #42: CLEAN UP DAY

Clean Up Day has been scheduled for May 11th.

Council discussed cleaning out the Community Center before May 11th. Larson will work on the groups to clean out their items in the back room.

PROJECT #43: BOARD OF REVIEW

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

PROJECT #249: PLANNING & ZONING

Council received an updated draft ordinance for the Solar Energy Systems in city limits. This ordinance consists of roof mounted, solar collectors, wall mounted and ground mounted systems.

Decommissioning language was reviewed by the Planning & Zoning at their March meeting.

Randy Anderson and Mayor Wessel have met with Rollie Walsh regarding solar panels on his property and selling some of the land to the EDA for development. No agreement has been finalized with Walsh at this time.

Council tabled the Solar Energy Systems. Will discuss at the May council meeting.

Motion by Backes, seconded by Finnegan, to approve the March 21st, 2024 Planning & Zoning meeting minutes. Motion Carried

PROJECT #503: CITY DISCUSSION

Greg Gottwald wanted to have a conversation with the council.

Gottwald commented that during the union contracts and the on-call discussion there were votes against approval. Gottwald explained that he has put in many hours of on-call time and was not compensated for them. On the December 12th meeting there was a no vote – the minutes reflect the facts on that meeting. Gottwald stated he is upset about the non-recognition of us and our team puts in.

Gottwald gave his 2 weeks’ resignation notice but will not cut his ties and will help out with hours needed through the hiring process until May 31st.

OTHER DISCUSSION:

Mayor Wessel stated that as of 9:08 p.m. today, he is resigning his position as the Liquor Store cleaning person. Wessel stated he will not be there tomorrow.

Mayor Wessel is also resigning as the Liquor Store liaison. Thornbloom will take care of it on his own.

Mayor Wessel stated he is 62 years old and doesn’t need the accusing and allegations and blaming of something that didn’t happen. We will have a closed meeting and discuss as other people were involved in the altercation.

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

Mayor – Daniel J. Wessel

City Clerk/Treasurer – Angela A. Jacobson