

Osakis City Council – Regular Meeting
City Hall – 14 Nokomis Street East
May 13, 2024
7:00 PM

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

Absent: Tim Thornbloom

Others Present: Angela Jacobson, Craig Dropik, Reenie Goodwin, Tonya Danielson, Lee Lueth, Karen Koopman, Carleen Dean, Chad Gulbranson, Michael Bowman

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

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

Motion by Larson, seconded by Finnegan, to approve the general consent items, including the April city bills in the amount of \$369,211.64 and meeting minutes from April 3, 2024, April 8, 2024, April 15, 2024 and April 22, 2024. Motion Carried

PROJECT #79: CLERK / AUDIT

Audit information will be available at the June meeting.

PROJECT #239/254: GRANT / OFFICE PROGRAM – SOURCEWELL IMPACT GRANT

Council discussed this grant application at previous meetings. The focus of this grant is to be used on the basic city needs for technology and building improvements.

Quotes for the following upgrades include:

- Banyon (Utility Billing Software) \$12,395
- Winwater (Meter Reading Program) \$11,625
- Heartland Security (cameras at city beach) \$8,995
- Heartland Security (cameras at city hall)\$5,995
- Bradco (tuck pointing city hall) \$3,925
- Computer upgrades for city offices approved in February was \$5,082. Council wanted to add a computer in the police office. Total of \$7,700

The grant total if from \$20,000 to \$50,000. Sourcewell can award the grant in any amount.

Resolution 2024-14 was presented by Larson, seconded by Finnegan, to approve to submit the Sourcewell Impact Grant for technology and building improvements as presented. When put to a vote, the resolution passed unanimously.

PROJECT #60: ORDINANCE / ADMINISTRATIVE CITATION

Gulbranson informed the council that letters have been sent to property owners with violations.

Gulbranson – next week do a ride along with Jake Huebsch. Stated that most have replied and will be doing the jobs. Huebsch will send letters to those that need to address their property issues. The letters will state exactly what they need to take care of and they will need to respond to the police or Huebsch.

PROJECT #197: WATER PLANT / WATER TOWER

Council discussed summer watering discount. Because the city is requesting that residents conserve water during the water plant rehab, the city does not want to encourage water usage with the summer watering discount.

Motion by Backes, seconded by Finnegan, to skip the summer watering discount for 2024. Motion Carried

Water tower rehab is underway. The bypass is in the process of being connected. This will reduce the available water. Residents have been sent a CODE RED message for conserving water for at least 6 weeks. This includes no water lawns, gardens, washing vehicles. This information has also been put in Facebook and the city website to get residents to sign up for CODE RED alerts.

Council discussed where to position the ‘Osakis’ on the water tower. The orientation will face the turkey barns on County Rd 3 and face I-94 by the 4-way stop.

Council was informed about the water meter issues we are beginning to have. Over the last few months, meters have not been reading due to the battery in the meter failing. The cost to replace the battery is \$179 per meter. The initial cost to start with is \$26,850 for 150 battery replacements. To get all batteries for 686 meters the cost will be \$122,794. Council tabled this discussion until the next workshop.

Motion by Backes, seconded by Finnegan, to approve Pay Application #5 for Eagle Construction in the amount of \$132,866.05. Motion Carried

Motion by Backes, seconded by Finnegan, to approve to pay Nero Engineering for the April bill in the amount of \$7,937.25. Motion Carried

PROJECT #7: COMMUNITY CENTER

Council received a bid for painting in the Community Center but we were able to receive help from Sentence to Serve of Douglas County for the interior painting. The city will need to purchase the paint and supplies for the project.

Al Neumann requested funds from the Olson Foundation to help purchase some of the equipment, including the stove, dishwasher and supplies for the backroom.

Motion by Backes, seconded by Finnegan, to approve the bill from True Service for the plumbing and faucets totaling \$4,590.00. Motion Carried Absent: Thornbloom

Motion by Backes, seconded by Finnegan, to approve the bill from Hillyard for the new scrubber in the amount of \$2,228.01. Motion Carried Absent: Thornbloom

Denise Wimmer, (Douglas County Food Shelf) contacted the city and would like to set up a mobile pantry in Osakis, every 3rd and 4th Tuesday from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Location is at the Osakis Community Center but will consider the grocery store or Central Park.

PROJECT #444/60: WASTEWATER PROJECT / I & I / ORDINANCE

Eric Meester (Nero Engineering) continues to work through the compliance schedule with the MPCA. We need to create an I & I reduction plan for the MPCA.

At the last meeting, the council discussed adopting an ordinance to address the sump pump and I & I (Inflow and Infiltration) matter. Council was asked to review our current sump pump ordinance, League of MN Cities model ordinance and the City of Brandon's ordinance. Council will have a discussion at the workshop meeting.

OPEN FLOOR

Lee Lueth – concerns about Paul Hartmann's Conditional Use Permit request. Karen Koopman also commented that there will be too much traffic. Road gets muddy and is not maintained.

Council informed them to attend the Planning & Zoning public hearing.

Joe Ecklund – property on Hwy 27. Concerns about the city taxes. \$440 to \$518. Council commented costs are to keep up with city streets, water and sewer.

PROJECT #441: PARK COMMITTEE

The MN Outdoor Recreation Grant was submitted on April 1, 2024 and the West Central Community Action Grant on April 30, 2024. We will hear on both grants in June.

The Park Board approved moving forward with remodeling the bathroom at Park Osagi. Sourcewell approved a \$10,000 grants for the upgrades.

Motion by Backes, seconded by Finnegan, to approve the Park Committee minutes from April 30, 2024. Motion Carried Absent: Thornbloom

PROJECT #312: PARK BEAUTIFICATION TEAM

Requested for Community Beautification Day:

- Pressure wash 18 hydrants.
- Additional mulch to enlarge the flower garden around the rock in the Nokomis Street West Park.

Motion by Backes, seconded by Finnegan, to approve Pro Power Wash to pressure wash 18 hydrants. Motion Carried Absent: Thornbloom

Motion by Backes, seconded by Finnegan, to approve additional mulch around the rock in the Nokomis Street West Park in the amount of \$200. Motion Carried Absent: Thornbloom

An extension for the fishing pier was needed. Will work on when ready.

PROJECT #468: SPECIAL EVENT LICENSE

Tonya Danielson is requesting approval for the Osakis Festival Parade and Motorcycle Day.

Motion by Larson, seconded by Finnegan, to approve a Special Event license for Osakis Festival Parade on June 23, 2024. Motion Carried Absent: Thornbloom

Motion by Larson, seconded by Finnegan, to approve a Special Event license for Motorcycle Day on August 16, 2024. Motion Carried Absent: Thornbloom

PROJECT #481: WATER / SEWER – PRIVATE UTILITY BILL

Michael Bowman requested a reduction in the total of a utility bill. Normal bill for the property is \$135 to \$150. The April bill was for \$212.31 so he contacted his renter to fix the issue. May bill was for \$429.44.

Historically, the city has not given any refunds because the water goes through their meter and is treated. Then the water goes to the ponds and is treated again. Adjustments on water bills are only done if there is an error.

Bowman is asking for part of the bill to be reduced.

Motion by Backes, seconded by Larson, to approve a one-time refund of \$100 for Mike Bowman for this issue. Motion Carried Absent: Thornbloom

PROJECT #343: FIREWORKS

Craig Dropik is requesting approval to purchase fireworks. Dropik would like to request \$8,000 or what we receive in donations and funds from the cleanup day.

Little Sauk Legion will be asked for a donation.

The city will process the lease paperwork with the Osakis Country Club in June.

PROJECT #160: OSAKIS PUBLIC SCHOOL

Justin Dahlheimer provided a draft copy of the SRO contract. Clerk Jacobson included the draft agreement with changes.

Council considered the following:

- Finalize the SRO contract with the school.
- Consider Officer Gizinski for the SRO position. The council will need to approve Officer Gizinski to take over the roll for the next two years per the contract.
- Consider if a 4th officer should be hired to fill Gizinski's position. Cost for the remainder of 2024 for the additional officer starting July 1st would be about \$16,000. Council will need to decide how to pay for this extra cost out of the 2024 budget. Council will need to discuss the 2025 budget for an additional officer. Projected costs could be an additional \$15,000 to \$20,000.

Dahlheimer and the school board like the contract but added a six month evaluation with the police department.

Motion by Larson, seconded by Finnegan, to add language to evaluate the officer after six months. Motion Carried Absent: Thornbloom

Other discussion will be at the workshop.

Motion by Finnegan, seconded by Larson, to approve to advertise for a 4th fulltime officer. Motion Carried Absent: Thornbloom

PROJECT #154: EMPLOYEE HIRING

Position for a maintenance worker has been posed online and in the paper. Deadline is May 17th.

PROJECT #213: LIFEGUARD / CITY BEACH

Connor Gulbranson will return to work this summer as Head Lifeguard.

Aaron Collins will return and Faith Schmidtbauer will work part-time.

We will advertise for two more lifeguards. Training is held the end of May.

PROJECT #321: VISITOR'S CENTER

Anna Jacobson will return to help at the Visitor's Center. One more application was submitted at this time. Deadline is May 17th.

Clerk Jacobson would like to increase the wage by \$1. Last year the wage ranges was from \$11.50 to \$13.00.

Staff budget is \$4,500 including a donation of \$500. Clerk Jacobson will work with volunteers to see if they can fill in the weeks both staff members will need off.

Motion by Larson, seconded by Finnegan, to approve a wage increase of \$1. Motion Carried Absent: Thornbloom

PROJECT #505: LAVENS LAKEVIEW DRIVE

Council will discuss this at the workshop meeting.

PROJECT #325: ORDINANCE BOOK UPDATES

Council received ordinance book updates for 2023.

PROJECT #124: I-94 SIGN

Council receive the I-94 Sign lease with Pat & Patty Marthaler. The current lease is for three years but the new least will be for an additional three years.

Marthaler's are requesting an annual increase for the lease of \$100. Currently, the lease is for \$1,200 and would increase to \$1,300.

When the agreement was put together in 1994, the Chamber and Lake Osakis Resort Association agreed to pay half plus maintenance of \$100 per year. Clerk Jacobson has discussed with the EDA about using Lodging Tax to fund the costs.

Motion by Wessel, seconded by Backes, to approve to increase the annual lease for Pat & Patty Marthaler to \$1,300. Motion Carried Absent: Thornbloom

PROJECT #460: DOWNTOWN PROJECT

Backes discussed a quote for fixing the drainage issue at the corner of Main Street and Central Avenue.

Motion by Backes, seconded by Larson, to approve to send a bill to Bolten & Menk asking for funds to pay for the repair. Motion Carried Absent: Thornbloom

PROJECT #496: PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Concerns were brought up – copy of the bullet point list is vague. Only three to four things to get issues taken care of.

PROJECT #190: SPECIAL MEETING / WORKSHOP

Council will have a workshop to discuss hiring, water plant and I & I updates on June 5th.

PROJECT #42: CLEAN UP DAY

City wide cleanup day with West Central Sanitation was May 11th. Amber Kral's cleanup event with the school is on May 14th.

PROJECT #249: PLANNING & ZONING

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


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

Motion by Larson, seconded by Finnegan, to table again. Motion Carries Absent: Thornbloom

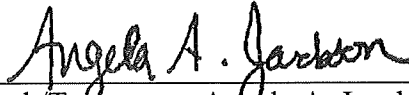
Jake Huebsch (Sourcewell) will make recommendations for the Planning & Zoning fees for 2025.

No adjustments were made to the current CUP, Preliminary and Final Plats for Paul Hartmann's project.

Motion by Finnegan, seconded by Backes, to adjourn the meeting. Motion Carried Absent: Thornbloom



Mayor – Daniel J. Wessel



City Clerk/Treasurer – Angela A. Jacobson