

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

Present: Dan Wessel, Alan Larson, Laura Backes, Tim Thornbloom, Stephanie Finnegan
Others Present: Angela Jacobson, Paul Sandy (WSB) and Grace (WSB Intern), Mark Pomerleau, Eric Jacobson, Tonya Danielson, Jason Brown, Twila Myrin, Lee Lueth, Lisa Johnson (Echo Press), Justin Dahlheimer

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

Motion by Backes, seconded by Finnegan, to approve the agenda as presented with the addition of Taste of Osakis and Mayor Discussion with council. Motion Carried

Motion by Laron, seconded by Thornbloom, to approve the general consent items, including the June city bills in the amount of \$771,093.59 and meeting minutes from June 5, 2024 and June 10, 2024. Motion Carried

PROJECT #24: LIQUOR STORE

Goodwin discussed information at the last workshop:

- Part-time employee ads published.
- Submitted an updated sales by hour sheet.

Ben Klink has been given information to design the septic tank. Goodwin will work on what will be required for the parking lot repair or replacement.

PROJECT #76/60: POLICE / ADMINISTRATIVE CITATION

Discussed administrative letters. Some property owners have called and will be fixing their issues. July 26th is the last day they can call and inform Gulbranson of their plan, when they will be working on it and when it will be finished. After that date, can be fined.

Residential properties were focused on this round. Will also look at business buildings that need help.

PROJECT #22/84

Jacobson explained the balance funds and budget forms.

PROJECT #160: OSAKIS PUBLIC SCHOOL

David Gizinski has resigned from his position with the Osakis Police Department. Gizinski was the officer that would fill the School Resource Officer position.

Justin Dahlheimer asked about options for the position – want to see who can be there from Douglas County or a city police officer. Turnover has happened a lot and Dahlheimer has concerns on the agreement and longevity for the role. Want to see effort at the city level.

Gulbranson met with Dahlheimer about the SRO program. Discussed Douglas County helping the school.

Gulbranson – may adjust the ad for the full-time officer to include SRO officer.

Community night out has been scheduled for August 7th, 2024. The event will be posted on social media. Gulbranson will do this. Travis Middendorf and Shannon Graff will also be contacted.

Motion by Finnegan, seconded by Thornbloom, to approve to change the online ad to advertise for an SRO officer instead of a police officer. Motion Carried.

PROJECT #154: EMPLOYEE HIRING

Council received an email resignation from David Gizinski as the full-time police officer. Gizinski was going to take over the SRO program at the school.

It was mentioned that Gizinski did a good job as the DARE officer also but will not do an exit interview.

Motion by Thornbloom, seconded by Finnegan, to approve the resignation of Officer David Gizinski. Motion Carried

Council reviewed the ad for the 4th full-time Public Works position. The job description was updated for the new position.

Motion by Thornbloom, seconded by Backes, to approve the updated job description for the maintenance worker position. Motion Carried

PROJECT #197: WATER PLANT / WATER TOWER / METERS

Water Plant updates:

- The new pressure filter is in the building and in place.
- Existing filters are complete with the required demolition and have started making improvements to the existing filters.
- Progress is about two months ahead of schedule for the mechanical.
- Electrical and controls portion of the project should arrive this fall.
- Final completion is May/June 2025. Most should be complete by the end of 2024.
- Council will need to discuss with staff the additional controls and operation strategies.

Water Tower:

- The tower coatings are done, the tank was disinfected and was back online as of July 1st.
- Some final electrical and structural repairs should be completed by July 12th.

Water Meters:

- 150 meters replacements have been ordered. They will take four to six months to receive.

Lead Service Inventory:

- About a month ago, we were only 45% complete.
- Appointments have slowed down the past two weeks.
- The third and final postcard will be sent next week. Will also start calling and go door-to-door.
- With this program, the survey results will be used to establish funding for replacing lead and maybe galvanized services.
- It was noted that if people do not participate and later find out they have lead or galvanized service, the city may not receive funding for those that don't participate. The door hangers and next postcard will convey this message but council and staff may want to get the word out.

Motion by Finnegan, seconded by Thornbloom, to approve Eagle Construction Pay Application #7 in the amount of \$160,615.029. Motion Carried

Motion by Finnegan, seconded by Thornbloom, to approve S.J. Stezer Pay Application #2 in the amount of \$343,754.170. Motion Carried

Motion by Finnegan, seconded by Thornbloom, to approve Pay Application for Nero Engineering in the amount of \$26,804.50. Motion Carried

PROJECT #249: PLANNING & ZONING

Council reviewed Resolution 2024-15 for a Conditional Use Permit for storage units with seven conditions.

Lee Lueth was in attendance and mentioned he was representing four property owners. Lueth and the other property owners have concerns with the access to the property.

Dahlheimer commented that Hartmann has to follow the process, and to allow it the conditions must be met.

Planning & Zoning have asked when the council removes or changes language, that it could be sent back to Planning & Zoning for them to review the changes before final approval.

Council reps understand what we are doing and the responsibility with the board.

Motion by Backes, seconded by Finnegan, to approve the preliminary plat for Paul Hartmann at 3651 State Hwy 27 SE. Motion Carried

Resolution 2024-15 was presented by Backes, seconded by Finnegan, to approve a Conditional Use Permit for storage units for the property at 3651 State Hwy 27 SE. When put to a vote, the resolution passed unanimously.

Motion by Finnegan, seconded by Thornbloom, to approve the June 20, 2024 Planning & Zoning minutes. Motion Carried

PROJECT #444/60: WASTE WATER PROJECT I & I / ORDINANCE

Council received the revised ordinance from the city of Brandon regarding sump pumps and Inflow and Infiltration (I&I). A sample form the League of MN Cities was also reviewed. Will review and discuss at the August meeting.

Storm sewer collapsed 15 ft from a washout. There was an open area that washed out. Wessel will contact Quistorff about the process.

PROJECT #275: PIKE STREET PROJECT – INDUSTRIAL PARK

Council received information and a 30% cost estimate for the Pike Street Project.

Discussion:

- Resolution 2024-18 – authorizes the application and signatures by the city clerk and the Mayor on supporting documents.
- Total project funding and what the city needs to have for the total project funding secured according to the application prior to submission for the non-BDPI portion of the project.
- Working with the EDA to help with some high level estimates based on vacant properties in the Industrial Park and what could potentially locate there to place in the application.
- What is private investments in the Industrial Park in the area that we want to see developed. Land use and jobs that would be created.

- Need to have committed funds from the city. Construction cost is a 50/50 program.
- Application – DEED is \$385,000
- City portion is \$457,000 which includes construction, 50% engineer and 100% of the design.
- City funds can be assessed.

PROJECT #489: MAIN LIFT STATION

Eric Meester has received a few quotes for the project.

PROJECT #441: PARKS COMMITTEE

Council was informed that we did not receive the DNR grant.

Motion by Backes, seconded by Finnegan, to approve the June 25, 2024 minutes. Motion Carried

PROJECT #312: PARK BEAUTIFICATION TEAM

The fishing dock was being installed on June 12th when a storm flipped the dock over. The DNR will be supplying us with materials for the repairs.

Backes read a letter from Amber Kral thanking the council. Kral mentioned in the letter that she goes to the council for making decisions. Her team has been working on the fishing pier project for three years and doesn't appreciate that others are trying to do her projects.

DNR will cover costs for the damages and will come to help.

Motion by Thornbloom, seconded by Backes, to approve to change the name on the sheet to Osakis Beautification Spreadsheet. Motion Carried

PROJECT #7: COMMUNITY CENTER

Council received the final report. All funds from the Sourcewell grant have been spent.

Larson updated the council on the following:

- Still working on getting quotes for the tables and chairs.
- Waiting on the ice machine to be hooked up.
- Working with Bob on the floors – will be stripped and waxed.
- Mary George will do a Free Will Donation meal to help raise money for the new tables and chairs.

PROJECT #468: SPECIAL EVENT / LIQUOR LICENSE

Motion by Larson, seconded by Finnegan, to approve a Special Event License and a One Day Liquor License for Immaculate Conception Church for August 25, 2024. Motion Carried

PROJECT #102: EDA

Motion by Wessel, seconded by Finnegan, to appoint Brian Ferris to the EDA Board. Motion Carried

PROJECT #110: GAMBLING

A meeting is scheduled for July 15th, 2024 at 6 p.m. with EDA members and Gambling Organizations.

PROJECT #286: DONATIONS

Resolution 2024-17 was presented by Backes, seconded by Larson, to approve donations to the City of Osakis for the purposes of the Fireworks, First Responders, Beautification Team (Park Equipment and Improvements), Visitor's Center and Bike Rodeo. When put to a vote, the resolution passed unanimously.

PROJECT #296: FILING – COUNCIL AND MAYOR

Filing for Mayor and Council will be open from July 30th to August 13th.

Backes commented that who filings is not public information until after filings are closed.

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

A notice was received that the grant for the office upgrade was approved from Sourcewell. The agreement will be sent in the next couple of weeks.

PROJECT #124: ENTRANCE SIGN

MN DOT has given notice that the limited use permit for the Welcome to Osakis sign will expire February 12, 2026. During this time, the sign can be upgraded or improved.

PROJECT #343: FIREWORKS

Council had approved \$7,500 for the 2024 Fireworks. Balance in the fund is \$3,082.81.

PROJECT #42: CLEAN UP DAY

Clean Up Day was held on May 11th. The fee from West Central Sanitation for clean up this year was \$37.53. Total after expenses is \$3,893.52.

Motion by Larson, seconded by Thornbloom, to approve to transfer the balance in the fireworks fund.
Motion Carried

PROJECT #294: TRUCK TRAFFIC

Jacobson reached out to Douglas County regarding an update on the google traffic and signage. No updated was received

OPEN FLOOR

Justin Dahlheimer – Strategic Planning Focus Group is starting up. Topics we will be discussing include safe facilities, work force training, community partnership, positive gains regarding mental health and teacher retention. There will be an open house on August 28th. Council should have a designated person from the city to be involved.

PROJECT #468: SPECIAL EVENT

Taste of Osakis – requesting to block the street and have an area to serve alcohol.

Motion by Larson, seconded by Backes, to approve a Special Event License for Taste of Osakis pending the city receives all permits required and insurance. Motion Carried

Mayor Wessel – we lost Officer David Gizinski. He was a good officer for Osakis.

Wessel’s comment to Finnegan – Steph, you are part of the personnel committee and you talk to Chad (Gulbranson) about this. We are the personnel committee and we need to work together.

Gizinski left and did not want to sign an exit interview at all. We cannot retain officers in our city.

Long Prairie has six full-time officers and five part-time. Wessel commented that we can’t keep officers and that’s an issue. Why does this keep happening?

Wessel said that the school wanted him – he was good for our city. The personnel committee: concerned of his leaving. It’s so disheartening that the Osakis Police Department is a laughing stock of the police world.

Wessel asked the council members if we should start looking at county coverage. There are concerns with the mock car crash – the police were not involved. Chief Gulbranson watched it and wanted no part of it.

Officer Gizinski did not even know there was a street dance for the Osakis Festival. He was on shift that night and no one even told him.

Motion by Backes, seconded by Larson, to take a 5 minutes recess. Motion Carried

Council decided to do a closed meeting. Get fact findings and all parties are notified.

Personnel Policy will be reviewed by Finnegan and Wessel by July 15th. If any changes, they will get them out to others for review.

Motion by Backes, seconded by Thornbloom, to set a closed meeting when feasible to get together. Motion Carried

Motion by Larson, seconded by Finnegan, to adjourn the meeting at 9:05 p.m. Motion Carried

Mayor – Daniel J. Wessel

City Clerk/Treasurer – Angela A. Jacobson