

**Osakis City Council – Regular Meeting**  
**City Hall – 14 Nokomis Street East**  
**September 9, 2024**  
**7:00 PM**

Present: Dan Wessel, Alan Larson, Laura Backes, Tim Thornbloom, Stephanie Finnegan  
Others Present: Angela Jacobson, Lisa Johnson, Rick Laine, Amber Kral, Calvin Uhl, Joachim Wiener, Joe Nathe, Randy Anderson, Bonnie Jacobs, Eric Jacobson, Shannon Graff, Mark Pomerleau, Travis Middendorf, Paulette Dunn, Jason Schultz, Justin Koehntop, Chub Hensley, Judy Jensen, Paul Hartmann, Tonya Danielson, Doug Walter, Chad Gulbranson, Carlene Dean

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 addition of Fire Department Report, Union Opener, Water Plant Update, Resolution 2024-24 and Meet the Candidate. All Ayes

Motion by Thornbloom, seconded by Backes, to approve the general consent items, including the August city bills in the amount of \$583,434.99 and meeting minutes from August 12, 2024, August 27, 2024. All Ayes

Next workshop – have the Liquor Store MMBA report.

**PROJECT #73: FIRST RESPONDERS**

Shannon Graff informed the council that Stephanie Larson is out with a baby. Will have time to get home and be on call, then put her full time on the First Responders. Her 6 month will start after she is home.

**PROJECT #84: BUDGET**

Council met on August 27, 2024 to discuss the 2025 Budget. After making adjustments to the budget and levy changes, the council wanted to use reserve funds and raise the levy to balance the budget.

General Fund:

- Expenditures \$1,700,958
- Revenues \$1,701,001
- Difference \$43

Council discussed eliminating the summer lawn mower due to the addition of the 4<sup>th</sup> public works position. The budget does not include the part-time summer lawn mower but would need an additional \$7,500 if included.

Council will also need to approve how to pay for the 4 months for the new 4<sup>th</sup> Public Works employee for the remainder of the year. Suggested that the \$30,000 could be taken from the Street Department funds.

Motion by Larson, seconded by Thornbloom, to approve the preliminary 2025 Budget. All Ayes

**PROJECT #192/358: TRUTH IN TAXATION/TAX LEVY**

Council reviewed the levy based on a 5% projected increase vs. a 6% projected increase:

- 6% Levy increase:
  - General Fund \$808,822
  - 2012 Bond \$28,000
  - Reserve \$43,359
  - Total Levy \$880,181
- 5% Levy increase:
  - General Fund \$808,822
  - 2012 Bond \$28,000
  - Reserve \$35,057
  - Total Levy \$871,879
- Difference \$8,302

In addition to the levy amounts, the budget shows taking an additional \$16,500 from the Liquor Store fund and \$17,500 from savings.

Larson stated – 6% levy increase – we have been conservative in the past. Room to make changes in the future.

Resolution 2024-28 was presented by Backes, seconded by Finnegan, to approve the preliminary tax levy at 6% levy increase. When put to a vote, the resolution passed unanimously.

Motion by Larson, seconded by Backes, to set the Truth in Taxation hearing on Tuesday, December 10, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. All Ayes

**PROJECT #22/60: CLERK/ORDINANCE**

Moratorium for the Cannabis Ordinance will end January 2025. Planning & Zoning will review information regarding ordinance examples for adoption at their next meeting. Council received a sample ordinance from Crow Wing County.

Steve Jones from Sourcewell comments:

- Create a stand-alone ordinance (may have to be amended)
- City does not regulate, but the state will. State will license – city will not license.
- City adopt a zoning ordinance to address where they can be allowed.

**PROJECT #60: ORDINANCE/ADMINISTRATION CITATION**

Gulbranson – Steve Jones will be in Osakis on Wednesday to start the commercial properties. Gulbranson is working on and reviewing the residential letters that were sent.

Council would like this on the agenda monthly – in the future for council update.

**PROJECT #197: WATER PLANT/WATER TOWER**

The water tower project is complete. All paperwork for finalizing with Rural Development has been received.

Motion by Finnegan, seconded by Backes, to approve Pay Application #9 for Eagle Construction in the amount of \$141,013.92. All Ayes

Motion by Finnegan, seconded by Backes, to approve to pay Nero Engineering in the amount of \$7,690.00. All Ayes

Resolution 2024-27 was presented by Larson, seconded by Finnegan, to approve final certification for the water tower project for J R Stelzer Co. When put to a vote, the resolution passed unanimously.

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

Council reviewed the revised ordinance for the sump pump and Inflow and Infiltration (I&I).

Eric Meester has reviewed the ordinance and feels the ordinance overall is good to address I&I. Council will discuss at the next workshop meeting.

**PROJECT #275: PIKE STREET PROJECT / INDUSTRIAL PARK**

Paul Sandy was in attendance at the July meeting regarding the Pike Street Project. Council received a 30% cost estimate for the project and a map prepared for the application.

Council discussion:

- The EDA has asked the council to discuss this matter and then to request the EDA to what funds the council would like to use for the project. The council decided at the budget meeting to bond for the city portion of the project and the EDA would commit funds annually to help make the payment.
- Resolution 2024-18 that authorizes the application and signatures by Angela Jacobson and Mayor Wessel on supporting documents.
- Paul Sandy stated the project needs a commitment from the City of Osakis for \$457,000 and will apply for the DEED grant in the amount of \$385,000. The resolution was changed to include the Industrial Park funds because we borrow money to pay for the project that is where they would be deposited.

Resolution 2024-18 was presented by Larson, seconded by Finnegan, to approve to proceed with the Business Development application with DEED. When put to a vote, the resolution passed unanimously.

**PROJECT #489: MAIN LIFT STATION**

At the budget meeting, Quistorff updated the council that Eric Meester will be working on the bidding over the winter.

**PROJECT #430: STORM WATER PONDS**

At the last meeting, discussion was held with Jon Roeschlein (SRWD) and Bruce Magnus (Lake Osakis Assoc.) regarding helping with the cost of cleaning of the pond.

Council discussed an increase for the storm water fees to help.

**PROJECT #312: OSAKIS BEAUTIFICATION TEAM**

DNR is working on the dock repairs to get it back in working order. DNR supplied the materials for the repairs. All but the last section will be done this week and will be installed in the lake.

**PROJECT #7: COMMUNITY CENTER**

Tables and chairs were purchased and delivered to the Community Center:

- 56 more chairs are needed to go with the tables.
- Flooring – stripping is work to get down to the tiles, it is a process to get done.
- Wessel and Travis Middendorf will help get it finished and contact Hillyard.

Motion by Thornbloom, seconded by Finnegan, to approve to order 56 more chairs for the Community Center. All Ayes

**PROJECT #505: LAVENS LAKE VIEW DRIVE**

Dick and Paulette Dunn were in attendance to discuss options for paving Lavens Lake View Dr and 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue East.

Council received the City of Osakis Assessment Policy Section regarding a petition for improvements.

Dunns have signatures from 16 residents and received cost estimates:

- 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue East – \$81,600 for paving costs
- Lavens Lake View Dr – \$144,000 for paving costs
- For 1,600 feet and 2 feet into each driveway.
- Survey cost \$2,000.

Dunn contacted Gordon Twp – they would continue to pay the fee to maintain and stated they would pay their portion.

Motion by Larson, seconded by Thornbloom, to approve to order a Feasibility Study. Ayes: Larson, Finnegan, Backes, Thornbloom Abstained: Wessel

**PROJECT #481: WATER/SEWER PRIVATE UTILITY BILL**

Bonnie Jacobs is requesting a reduction in the amount of the utility bill for Jacobs Lefse Bakeri. A normal bill is between \$77 and \$94 per month. The June bill was \$194.94 and at the end of the month she was not having water pressure and went in her basement and discovered the water heater was leaking. The July bill was for 222,270 gallons – total \$2,034.73.

Historically, the city has not given refunds for water breaks because the water went through the meter and we are treating it before and after it get to the ponds.

Council will look at this matter again and get back to Jacobs regarding what can be done. Council discussed the cost to treat the water.

**PROJECT #249: PLANNING & ZONING**

Council reviewed the final plat and documents for PJ Hartmanns Addition.

Resolution 2024-24 was presented by Thornbloom, seconded by Finnegan, to approve the final plat for PJ Hartmanns Addition. When put to a vote, the resolution passed unanimously.

Motion by Backes, seconded by Thornbloom, to approve the August 15, 2024 Planning & Zoning meeting minutes. All Ayes

**PROJECT #310: BLACKS RESORT BLOCKING LAKE STREET**

Motion by Thornbloom, seconded by Finnegan, to approve Blacks Resort to block Lake Street on October 5, 2024. All Ayes

**PROJECT #427: RESIDENTIAL LETTER**

The fall Residential Letter is in progress and each council member is requested to give a short paragraph regarding the departments they are involved in.

**PROJECT #373: POLICES**

A draft copy of the personnel policy was sent to the supervisors. Only one has completed reviewing the policy.

Larson – remove city administration or designee.

Jacobson stated the city attorney recommended administrator or designee so that it is consistent and doesn't need to be changed.

**PROJECT #196: FEE SCHEDULE**

Council received the 2024 Fee Schedule. Each department is to review the fees and give any suggested changes for 2025.

Randy Anderson – no grant to maintain the ponds as stated by the SRWD.

Discussed increasing the storm water fee:

- Residential to \$3.00
- Multi-family to \$5.50
- Commercial to \$8.00

Increase Community Center rates:

- Damage deposit to \$100
- Funeral to \$100
- Reunion/Birthday to \$150
- Wedding to \$300
- Wedding Setup to \$150
- ½ Day Setup to \$75
- 3 hour meeting to \$60

**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.

Mayor Wessel will talk to Osakis Lions about paying for improving the wood pillars and base.

**PROJECT #382: UNION NEGOTIATIONS**

Council received a Notice of Desire to Negotiate from Angie Lien – AFSCME.

Sent the September 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2024 as workshop meeting at 5:30 p.m.

**OPEN FLOOR**

Paul Hartmann mentioned that the water is cloudy and has a film on it. Backes stated the project is not done. Hartmann will stop and talk to Quistorff.

Judy Jensen commented that more chairs are needed for the Community Center tables.

Meet the Candidates – discussed if October 2<sup>nd</sup> or October 9<sup>th</sup> will work.

October 2<sup>nd</sup> is scheduled from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. to meet the candidates.

Mayor Wessel hears rumors and lies. Things that come up we need to ask questions, get the facts. Mayor Wessel gets calls – things go well for Osakis – we got it together here in Osakis.

Motion by Larson, seconded by Finnegan, to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 p.m. All Ayes

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Mayor – Daniel J. Wessel

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City Clerk/Treasurer – Angela A. Jacobson