

Osakis City Council – Regular Meeting
City Hall – 14 Nokomis Street East
November 12, 2024
7:00 PM

Present: Dan Wessel, Laura Backes, Tim Thornbloom

Absent: Alan Larson, Stephanie Finnegan

Others Present: Angela Jacobson, Eric Jacobson, Joe Nathe, Curtis Nagel, Chub Hensley, Judy Dvorsak, Kirsten Wessel, Tonya Danielson, Travis Middendorf, Bonnie Jacobs, Kyle Kostrzewski, Jacob Wiener, Bruce Magnus, Natasha Seidel, Carlene Dean, Justin Dahlheimer, Amber Kral, Lisa Johnson (Echo Press)

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. All Ayes Absent: Larson & Finnegan

Motion by Backes, seconded by Thornbloom, to approve the general consent items, including the October city bills in the amount of \$388,899.00, meeting minutes from October 14, 2024, October 21, 2024 and October 21, 2024 (gambling) and remove Project #73. All Ayes Absent: Larson, Finnegan

PROJECT 24: LIQUOR STORE

Council received Liquor Store reports:

- Off-Sale total – \$6,808.74
- On-Sale total – \$9,402.65
- Total Profit – \$16,211.39

Thornbloom updated the council:

- November 3rd was Ruth Gonzalez last day.

Motion by Backes, seconded by Thornbloom, to accept Gonzalez’s resignation. All Ayes Absent: Larson, Finnegan

- Locks and security codes have been changed – Felecia will help until Jeff is back.
- No more cleaning
- Mission Mechanical’s quote to get plumbing to the new tanks is about \$10,000. Will get another quote.
- Last price we approved were estimates. Bids came in lower. Breitbach’s bid was \$49,000 and Ilgen Excavating’s bid was \$44,771.50.

Motion by Thornbloom, seconded by Backes, to approve Ilgen Excavating bid in the amount of \$44,771.50 to replace the tanks and the Liquor Store. All Ayes Absent: Larson, Finnegan

PROJECT #74/13: FIRE DEPARTMENT / FIRE RELIEF

Council received the October Fire Department report.

Council also received the calculations for the Fire Relief – Fire Department is looking to raise the yearly benefit level from \$5,200 per year to \$5,600 per year. Projected funding ratio will be 104%.

Council is ok with the Fire Department taking a truck to Eldens for the Jingle Bells kickoff event.

Resolution 2024-33 was present by Backes, seconded by Thornbloom, to approve to increase the Fire Relief amount for 2025 to \$5,600. When put to a vote, the resolution passed unanimously. Absent: Larson, Finnegan

Motion by Backes, seconded by Thornbloom, to approve the Fire Department to take a fire truck to the Jingle Bells kickoff event. All Ayes Absent: Larson, Finnegan

OPEN FLOOR

Jacob Wiener (100 Rush Street) – request to have sidewalks cleaned. If you lived in Alexandria and did not clean your sidewalks, the city would have it done and bill you for it.

Judy Dvorsak – requesting to live stream the council meetings. Mayor Wessel stated that she can do that in 2025.

Chub Hensley – question regarding funds. What can they be used for? Justin Dahlheimer explained the EDA fund uses.

Tonya Danielson informed the council the Light Parade/Fireworks will be December 6th at 6 p.m. and Santa Day from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.

LELS Union steward ask about union negotiating committee for labor negotiations.

Attorney stated the city decides who they have to negotiate and it is up to the city – unions decide their steward. Either side has their right to decide who that should be.

Joe Nathe comment at the last meeting of miss location of funds.

Backes stated – not going on a goose chase from some comments. Need factual information to be able to review. We have clean audits every year and auditors see all transactions for the year.

Wessel stated – Clerk Jacobson and staff does a good job. Auditors told Wessel that the city is well prepared with the information needed.

PROJECT #84: BUDGET

At the December meeting, the council will hold the Truth in Taxation hearing and review the final budget for 2025.

PROJECT #60: ORDINANCE / ADMINISTRATIVE CITATION

Gulbranson was not present to give the council an update on the progress of the Administrative Citation Ordinance.

PROJECT #197: WATER PLANT / WATER TOWER

A supplier for the pumps was found, but it will be another 6 months until the contractor will be back to finish the project.

Motion by Thornbloom, seconded by Backes, to approve Pay Application #11 for Eagle Construction in the amount of \$18,002.50 and Nero in the amount of \$17,310.00. All Ayes Absent: Larson, Finnegan

PROJECT #275: PIKE STREET PROJECT / INDUSTRIAL PARK

Motion by Backes, seconded by Thornbloom, to approve the payment for WSB in the amount of \$110.00. All Ayes Absent: Larson, Finnegan

PROJECT #452: TOWNSHIP / GORDON

In 2022, the council negotiated a 3 year agreement with Gordon Township to maintain the gravel portion of 8th Avenue East from the VFW to Lavens Lake View Dr. The fee has been \$500 for the last 6 years.

Jacobson and Quistorff are still working on the agreement but the council suggested a \$100 increase for the 3 year contract and add the following language: *if gravel needs to be added to the road the city and township would share the cost equally after both parties agree to add the gravel to the road.*

PROJECT #312: OSAKIS BEAUTIFICATION TEAM

Amber Kral was present:

- Decorated pots in the downtown area.
- The Hootenanny is scheduled for February 22, 2025 – tickets need to be purchased.

PROJECT #7: COMMUNITY CENTER

Al Neumann has been working to get the backroom insulated. Council had approved the bids for the project totaling \$23,791.84.

Construction will start the second week in December.

Nutrition Center rent at the Community Center will be discussed at the December meeting. Last increase was in 2022 by \$.05 from 2019.

PROJECT #243: CANVASS VOTES

Council received the city election results from the County. These are the official totals from the General Election on November 5, 2024:

Mayor	Douglas	Todd	Total
Dan Wessel	368	38	403
Judy Dvorsak	458	54	513
Write In	5	1	6
Council	Douglas	Todd	Total
Randy Anderson	450	49	499
Tim Thornbloom	461	46	507
Alan Larson	363	40	403
Write In	13	1	14

Resolution 2024-34 was presented by Backes, seconded by Thornbloom, to approve to Canvass votes for the General Election on November 5, 2024. When put to a vote, the resolution passed unanimously. Absent: Larson, Finnegan

PROJECT #249: PLANNING & ZONING

Planning & Zoning discussed the I & I and Cannabis ordinances at their last meeting.

Jacobson attended Douglas County Board meeting regarding Cannabis. Jacobson explained that we can have zoning in place for Osakis but discussion will still be needed if registration should be at the city level or county level.

Motion by Backes, seconded by Thornbloom, to approve the October 24, 2024 Planning & Zoning minutes. All Ayes Absent: Larson, Finnegan

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

Eric Meester was at the special meeting on November 30, 2024. Meester mentioned to get bids on the city doing the inspection from the main to each service.

Council discussed the I & I ordinance.

Things to consider:

- Compliance by December 31, 2025 – penalty fees would be applied January 1, 2026.
- Fees – sump pump inspections (55.07)
- Fees – private sewer lateral (55.07)
- Fees – certificate of compliance (55.07 B)
- Fee – penalty for a missed inspection (55.07. 2.D)
- Violation – fixed in 30 days or 90 days if excavation is required (55.10)
- Monthly surcharge if a violation is not corrected (55.11.3.A)

Council will discuss at the December meeting.

PROJECT #441: PARK COMMITTEE

The Park Committee is looking to reapply for the DNR Outdoor Recreation Grant – due in March of 2025. Cost is \$2,429 to apply for the grant. Jacobson will apply for Sourcewell funds to help pay for this is approved.

Motion by Backes, seconded by Thornblom, to approve to apply for the MN DNR Outdoor Recreation Grant and apply for additional Sourcewell funds. All Ayes Absent: Larson, Finnegan

PROJECT #237: LAKE ASSOCIATION

Bruce Magnus (Lake Association) is requesting to use the Osakis Visitor’s Center basement for their pull tab counting and auditing. Magnus stated they would not store pull tabs on site, but want a place to go to use for the pull tab operations.

Council discussion:

- Pull tab audit and keeps short term game storage.
- Rent basement at the Visitor’s Center.
- Need an area of about 16 ft x 16 ft.
- Consider rent price.
- Another site to see about space.
- Trial basis.

Motion by Backes, seconded by Thornbloom, to approve to rent space to the Lake Association for a 6 month period for \$50. All Ayes Absent: Larson, Finnegan

PROJECT #414: SURPLUS SALE

Darrin Quistorff is requesting to have a sale on the items the city no longer needs. Quistorff would like to have a public auction online through Bid 2 Buy. Cost to advertise is \$100 and 8% of the total sales.

Items:

- 72” zero turn mower
- V Plow
- Floor Jack
- Payloader bucket
- Dog kennel
- Dump truck tires
- Impounded car
- Impounded Crotch Rocket

Motion by Backes, seconded by Thornbloom, to approve to hold an online public auction with Bid 2 Buy for the items listed above. All Ayes Absent: Larson, Finnegan

PROJECT #3: ELECTED OFFICIALS TRAINING

The League of MN Cities holds an Elected Officials training annually online and in Alexandria. Jacobson asked the council to pass a motion to require new council members to attend this training.

Motion by Thornbloom, seconded by Backes, to approve to have each elected council/mayor to have mandatory training with League of MN Cities Elected Officials Training. All Ayes Absent: Larson, Finnegan

PROJECT #124: SIGNS

Motion by Backes, seconded by Thornbloom, to approve to replace the yield sign with a stop sign at the intersection of Oak Street West and 8th Avenue West. All Ayes Absent: Larson, Finnegan

PROJECT #97: DELINQUENTS

Council reviewed the Delinquent Bills list for 2024.

Motion by Thornbloom, seconded by Backes, to approve the 2024 Delinquent Bills list and certify to the county. All Ayes Absent: Larson, Finnegan

PROJECT #451: COUNCIL MEETINGS

Reminder – December council meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 10, 2024.

PROJECT #360: EMPLOYEE

Jeff Lund is on leave and has been using Sick/ESST/Comp time. Lund is requesting to keep 2 weeks vacation and go on unpaid leave if he is not cleared to come back to work.

Motion by Backes, seconded by Thornbloom, to approve to allow Jeff Lund to keep 2 weeks of vacation after he has used all his sick/ESST/Comp time, until his expected date of return on December 10th. All Ayes Absent: Larson, Finnegan

PROJECT #196: FEE SCHEDULE

Council will discuss the 2025 Fee Schedule at the December meeting. Suggested increase to the storm water fee by \$1.00 – this will increase the fund by \$9,251.00.

PROJECT #373: PERSONNEL POLICY

Council received an updated draft copy of the policy.

Another meeting will be scheduled to discuss details of the policy.

PROJECT #387: CROSSWALKS

Mayor Wessel discussed how we can have better public safety when crossing the highway and asked the council if they want to continue to discuss this matter.

No discussion made to move forward.

PROJECT #89: ATTORNEY

Council received a letter from Thornton Law Office – they will no longer be servicing the City of Osakis as our city attorney as of January 2025.

Council will discuss a new city attorney at the December meeting.

PROJECT #505: LAVENS LAKE VIEW DRIVE

Paul Sandy is working on the feasibility study for Lavens Lake View Drive. Cost to complete the study is \$3,000 – city received funding from Sourcewell to pay the \$3,000.

Wessel stated that he had nothing to do with the project – stepped away from the council table.

Acting Mayor Backes asked for any discussion on this topic – there were no comments.

Mayor Wessel returned to the council table to run the rest of the meeting.

PROJECT #94: GAS BID

The city will be using Brothers Marker for the rest of 2024 for fuel.

Letters for fuel bids were sent out to all stations in Osakis and council will open bids at the December meeting.

PROJECT #382: UNION CONTRACT

MAPE Union sent an email to open the union contract – MAPE is ready for negotiations.

PROJECT #73: FIRST RESPONDERS

Shannon Graff was not in attendance to discuss First Responders.

Motion by Backes, seconded by Thornbloom, to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 p.m. All Ayes Absent: Larson, Finnegan

Mayor – Daniel J. Wessel

City Clerk/Treasurer – Angela A. Jacobson