

City Council Meeting  
August 7, 2023

The City Council met at 6:00 PM at Oakes Community Center with the following members present: Mayor O'Brien, Council: Bagley, Harris, Day, Bakke and Mayer. Employees present: Matthew O'Brien, Jeremy Sitzler, Dan Brandner, Lee Bredeson, Steve Berntson, Jason Paradis and Zasha Johnson. Visitors: Fran Brummund, Steve & Sharon Dudley, Michael & Andrea Sand, Mitch Maley, Rhett Garland, Chuck Foster, Kari Nishek-DRN, Rebecca Wisnewski and Brandon Reber.

Zoning Hearing: The zoning committee met to review a request to change the zoning of the Center 100' of the E 1/2 of Outlot L Letter Outlots from residential to commercial. The zoning committee sent a recommendation to pass the change to the council. Council reviewed, questions were answered, no protests were received. Bakke moved, Mayer second to approve the change in zoning to commercial, carried.

Minutes, Auditor and Court Reports: Harris moved, Bakke second to approve minutes, police report and auditor reports, carried.

Building Permits: Bakke moved, Mayer second to approve building permits as listed, carried.

1. LOT 1 & N. 40' OF LOT 2 BLOCK 12 McCarthy's Addn – Fence
2. LOT 13 BLK 25 OUTLOTS & ADDN – Remodel/Concrete/Demo
3. W 1/2 OF LOT 1 BLK 43 BLK 43 & OUTLOT X – Fence
4. S 1/2 OF 2 & ALL OF 3 BLK 19 McCarthy's Addn – Fence

A previously approved permit, for Lots 13-15 Block 14 Original Plat, was resubmitted with request for a variance as the scope of work had changed slightly. After reviewing the updated drawings and specifications and receiving clarification on questions, Bakke moved, Mayer second to approve the variance allowing support columns to be placed beyond the allowed setbacks, carried.

Bills: Bakke moved, Day second to approve bills, carried.

Aflac	118.10	American Welding & Gas	39.14
Avid Hawk	200.00	B&B Gardens	66.62
Bank of ND	22,590.68	Bear Creek Flying	2335.50
Chris Larson	480.00	City of Fargo	42.00
Computer Express	425.99	Corner C Store	72.92
Dakota Performance	116.95	DRN	860.32
Economy Oil	2644.61	Fabian Pest Control	105.00
Heritage Insurance	14,930.00	Information Technology	115.40
Mertz Lumber	54.96	Midwest Pest Control	63.00
Moore Engineering	2,780.00	Napa	383.19
NDAAO	50.00	ND Dept. Enviro Quality	124.47
ND One Call	11.70	NDPERS INS	19,770.82
NDPERS-Retirement	7,751.92	Novak Electric	634.50
OEI	11,721.54	Oakes Rural Fire District	11,700.38
Otter Tail Power	8,090.93	Paradis Law Office	500.00
Pat O'Brien	255.00	Praskas Hardware Hank	814.93
Pro Forms	1,392.90	Rod's Cleaning	80.00
Sanitation Products	710.45	Starion Bank	2,407.04
Sweets & Stories	51.84	USDA Rural Development	23,718.58
Verizon	476.67	Visa-library	554.24
Visa-City	3,001.98	Vistos	122.06
Waste Management-Recycle	3462.54		
Payroll Taxes	13,267.98	Salaries	56,337.10

Visitors: Sharon Dudley asked the council to reconsider the removal of golf carts in city limits. Paradis explained that state law does not allow them on city streets and the city cannot enact an ordinance that supersedes the law. He also explained there is a process by which some golf carts can be modified into slow moving vehicles and then be registered with the state which would allow them on city streets. He directed them to work with the department of transportation to obtain all the relevant information and forms needed for that process. Sharon then inquired about the city leash law and what could be done about dogs running at large and if the city could have an impound area or increase fines. She was asked to put together a proposal on changes to be made and submit it to city hall prior to a meeting for the relevant committee to review. Steve Dudley inquired about a low spot along the gutter on the north side of his property where water collects and causes issues. Rhett Garland also spoke about standing water along his gutter caused by neighbors pumping into the road 24/7. Options to look at these areas in conjunction with the proposed street project were discussed. Also discussed the city contact the neighbors to determine if pumping is still needed or to direct the pumping into yards or elsewhere.

Preliminary Budget Hearing: Johnson presented the preliminary budget for 2024. The proposed budget would include a levy of 86.14 mills generating \$440,667.60 an increase of \$629.72 over the 2023 budget. After discussion on the balance of various accounts and explanations of how certain funds are supported Bakke moved, Day second to amend the proposed budget by adding 8 additional mills to fund a street improvement/maintenance fund. The additional mills will generate \$40,000 for the new fund. Unanimous roll call, carried.

Committee Reports: Mayer spoke about two police officers reaching step increases in pay due to experience and years of service. Bakke and Berntson spoke about some large scale work that will need to be done at the water plant to repair damaged filters. Received a quote from Aqua-Pure of approximately \$16,000, will keep everyone updated as it progresses. Mayer left the meeting at 7:00pm.

Unfinished Business: The council recently approved a reimbursement request from the fire district only if the money could be taken from our Prairie Dog funds. Attorney General's office determined a private service line did not meet the requirements for expending those funds. Bakke moved, Harris second to approve the request using city sales tax money, carried.

New Business:

Propane bids, only one bid was received from Economy Propane. Bakke moved, Day second to accept the bid of \$1.40/gallon for the upcoming winter season, carried.

Relay for Life submitted a request for funds for their upcoming telethon event. Discussed the support of charity organizations using taxpayer funds. The council declined the request.

Dickey County requested a letter of support from the City in support of their grant application to clean and repair the exterior of the courthouse. Council agreed to have the mayor sign a form letter supplied by them.

Engineer Report: Reber provided an update on the PAR Grant for the water plant study. Final reports are being submitted but an extension will be needed on the end date of the grant so an amendment needs to be signed. Mayor signed and will send to the state. Damage to the filters at the water plant was discussed, Jim Sepp of Moore Engineering provided a letter explaining his opinion of what happened. No action will be taken until a firm cost estimate is received. Bakke left the meeting at 7:15pm. The proposed street improvement project was discussed at length including the scope, cost and necessity of a project. Possible next steps were discussed, no action was taken. Reber will provide an updated estimate of costs for the project.

Announcements & Correspondence:

ND League of Cities will host elected officials training on September 20<sup>th</sup>. Anyone interested can reach out to Johnson to get registered.

The Oakes Area Fire District invites everyone to attend the opening of the new facility on August 20<sup>th</sup> at 4:00pm.

Harris moved, Bagley second to adjourn the meeting at 8:14 PM.

MAYOR \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST \_\_\_\_\_



(minutes subject to correction and approval at the next regular meeting)