

## Board of Equalization

April 9, 2024

The Board of Equalization met at 6:00 PM at Oakes Community Center with the following members present: Acting Mayor Harris. Council: Bakke, Hernandez-Waite, Mayer and Day. Employees present: Dan Brandner, Lee Bredeson, Matthew O'Brien, Jeremy Sitzler, Rod Rodningen, Jason Paradis and Zasha Johnson. Visitors present: Kausha Magill, Dave Novak, Lori Novak, Josh Roehrich, Kerry Ell, Jerilyn Braaten, Matthew Miller, Marlys Ruhn, Shelley Atkinson, Darrick Nitschke, Mark Malmberg, Rod Garland, Mike Kelly and Cindy Bagley.

Rodningen addressed the council explaining that 59 Homestead Credit and 7 Veteran's exemption applications were received for the City of Oakes.

Rodningen presented his evaluations and changes for the year. Marlys Ruhn had questions about her increase, explained that it was due to her 2-year New Home Exemption expiring. Rod Garland questioned the valuation of his shop building that is now a separate parcel. Rodningen will work with him to verify valuation and adjust as necessary. He also asked questions about special assessments and was told to stop in Auditor's office to discuss since that is a separate situation. Bakke moved, Mayer second to approve residential evaluations and changes as presented, carried. Further discussion took place regarding commercial properties and how some planned increases were being withdrawn and will be addressed next year. Bakke moved, Hernandez-Waite second to approve commercial evaluations and changes as presented, carried.

## City Council Meeting

April 9, 2024

The City Council met at 6:16 PM at Oakes Community Center with the same members, employees and visitors present.

Engineer Report: Roehrich reminded council members of street project bid opening on Friday and said seven contractors had pulled the plans, typically half will submit an actual bid. Day moved, Mayer second to approve engineering invoice 37728 for street improvement project, carried. Lead line inventory is moving forward, nothing needed from the city at this time. Historical invoices for water plant support have been reviewed and approved by City operator, also included an invoice for January 2024 to current. Water plant support will be billed monthly going forward. Mayer moved, Hernandez-Waite second to approve all water plant support invoices as presented, carried.

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

Building Permits: Discussed existing alley and location of property lines, determined a variance was not needed. Bakke moved, Mayer second to approve building permit as listed, carried.

1. Novak, E 1/2 Of 11 & All Of 12 Blk 40 EOP, Garage Addition

Gaming Site Permit Application: Mayer moved, Bakke second to approve game of chance permits as listed, carried.

1. Oakes American Legion Club, gaming location Oakes American Legion: Bingo, Raffles, Pull Tab Jar, Electronic Pull Tabs and Twenty-One

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

Aflac	118.10	Agtegra	160.00
American Welding & Gas	40.52	Aqua Pure	3,903.00
Avid Hawk	200.00	Bobcat	247.44
Central Business Systems	167.12	Chads Electric	1,111.24
City of Fargo	28.00	Column Solutions	150.48
Computer Express	200.00	Country Roads Vet Services	525.00
Dakota Valley Electric	664.00	DRN	970.26
Economy Propane	740.60	Fabian Pest Control	150.00
Heritage Insurance	622.70	Information Technology	125.55
James River Repair	222.00	Midwest Pest Control	75.00
Millers Foods	11.94	Moore Engineering	6,111.17
Napa	1,035.60	ND Comm Corrections.	300.40
NDSU Extension	40.00	ND League of Cities	237.50
One Call	2.60	NDPERS-Group Ins.	19,719.9
NDPERS-Retirement	9,364.23	Novak Electric	632.50
Oakes Chamber	6,500.00	Oakes Enhancement	12,940.55
Oakes Times	313.50	Ottertail	8,383.78
Outlaw Redneck Trucking	420.00	Paradis Law Office	500.00
Praska's Hardware	443.14	Rod's Cleaning	80.00
Sabrie Toepke	210.00	Starion Bank	2,407.04
Starion Bond Services	553,832.51	Sweets & Stories	74.80
Tornado Stop	2,744.61	Transource Truck & Equipment	1,824.49
Valley Plains Equipment	359.96	Verizon	547.11
Visa Credit Card-City	785.55	Visa Credit Card-library	933.52
Visto's Carquest	204.70	Waste Management-Recycle	10,317.30
Zasha Johnson	384.58		
Payroll Taxes	14,960.32	Salaries	61,084.46

Visitors: Kausha Magill Oakes Chamber Director presented the council with information about funding for Irrigation Days and their estimated budget for this year. Mayer moved, Bakke second to give \$6,500 from the tourism funds, carried.

Committee Reports: *Police* Mayer explained that officers sometimes have excess vacation hours they don't use during the year. They often switch shifts to cover time off to avoid paying excess overtime. Current policy was looked at and discussed, possible policy changes will be discussed at a later date. Mayer moved, Bakke second to payout excess vacation hours currently outstanding for the police officers, carried. The speed limit and curve on 14<sup>th</sup> Street North of Fir Avenue were reviewed after concerns were raised. Mayer moved, Bakke second to place 25mph signs on both ends of N 14<sup>th</sup> Street and chevron curve signs where needed, carried. *Streets* Day informed council that Hoffman Irrigation will be cutting curb to gain access to their newly purchased land in the industrial park, will work with Ottertail if the need arises for them as well. Brandner announced that the street sweeper on auction was won with a bid of \$21,000. The old sweeper will be kept until we make sure the new one is up and running well. Day moved, Bakke second to purchase a dump trailer from Sparks Trailers for \$12,000, carried. Brandner will move forward with hiring seasonal summer employees. *Garbage* City landfill rates were compared to what we are charged by the Gwinner landfill to dispose of items. Bakke moved to charge a minimum of \$30 per pickup load and increase each additional size by \$15.00, after further discussion the motion was removed from the floor. More information will be gathered and presented at the next meeting.

Unfinished Business: *Miller's Food Off-Sale* application was presented again for consideration. City Attorney Paradis confirmed that their plans meet all state regulations regarding entry and check-out locations. He referred council to the city Ordinance that deals with the location of a business selling alcoholic beverages.

Bakke moved to approve the application as presented, the motion failed for lack of a second. Extensive discussion occurred with many questions asked by the council. The representatives from Miller's Fresh Foods answered questions and explained their responsibility to uphold the state regulations. Concerns about access to alcohol by employees under the age of 21 were voiced as were concerns about the number of off-sale locations already in the city. Day moved, Mayer second to deny the application as presented, carried with Bakke voting nay. *Property Set Back* ordinances were discussed, Hernandez-Waite presented an option for updating and clarifying the existing ordinances. First draft of the new ordinance will be written up for approval at the next meeting. *Lot 22 Blk 9* Original Plat was offered for sale on bids. One bid was received for \$3050.00, Mayer moved, Bakke second to accept the bid and sell the lot, carried.

New Business:

*Spring Clean-Up* – will take place May 1<sup>st</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> Wed-Friday 3pm-7pm Saturday 8am-3pm.

*Gravel Bids*, One gravel bid was received for \$13.25/ton. Bakke moved, Mayer second to accept the bid from R Enterprises, carried.

*Dangerous Building* a residence that is extremely unsanitary was recently discovered during an emergency service call. The owner is no longer living in the home; emergency service providers and some council members that have seen the home believe it is uninhabitable, unsalvageable and should be declared a dangerous building and be demolished. Paradis explained the steps needed for this process to happen. Bakke moved, Day second to direct the health officer to make a determination of habitability of the home at 807 Grape Ave, carried.

Announcements & Correspondence:

Water appropriation notice received from Layne Schmit.

Bakke moved, Day second to adjourn the meeting at 7:59 PM.

MAYOR \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST \_\_\_\_\_

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

