

CITY COUNCIL MEETING
FEBRUARY 18, 2025
7:00 P.M., CITY HALL

Pursuant to due call and notice, the City Council of the City of Eagle Bend, MN met in regular session on Tuesday, February 18, 2025 at 7:00 P.M., in the City Hall. Mayor Scott Johnson called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. Council Members present were Jaculyn Lorentz, James Kimball, and Jessica Olson; absent: Jason Nelson. Also present was Bryan Drown, Derek Medved, Nicholas Stoecker, Lori Johnson, Debra Myers-Myrum, Kevin Hess, Andrea Voller, Mike Ledin and Chris Parsons (with O'day equipment), and Clay Sandmeyer.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Following a brief review and discussion, (Action 25-02-23) Council Member Lorentz moved to approve the minutes for the January 21, 2025 regular City Council Meeting with a minor change, seconded by Council Member Kimball. Motion adopted unanimously.

Bills submitted for approval were reviewed by the City Council. Following a question and answer period, (Action 25-02-24) Council Member Lorentz moved to approve the bills for payment as presented, seconded by Council Member Kimball. Motion adopted unanimously.

Mr. Drown gave an updated report on the Phase 5 Street and Utility Improvement Project. Mr. Drown stated that the lining of the sewer mains along Highway 71 have been completed and this project will be moving forward when spring arrives.

Bryan Drown presented Change Order No. 3 in the amount of \$8,140.00 to the City Council for the following additions to the project; add 4 cured in-place pipe transition liners where sanitary sewer main changes from 8-inch diameter to 10-inch diameter. Following a brief discussion (Action 25-02-25) Council Member Kimball moved to approve Change Order No. 3 as presented, seconded by Council Member Lorentz. Motion adopted unanimously.

Bryan Drown informed the City Council that the assessment roll approved in November of 2024 did not get certified to the County by December 31, 2024 and therefore the council will need to re-approve the assessment rolls for the Phase 5 Street & Utility Improvement Project. The only two changes to the updated assessment roll were as follows; (1) parcel #26 is now listed as tax forfeiture; and (2) the start for repayment on the assessment roll is moved from January 01, 2025 to January 01, 2026. Mr. Drown stated that the interest rate on the assessments will remain at 4.20%. Following a brief discussion, (Action 25-02-26) Council Member Olson presented Resolution #25-04-736 "Resolution adopting assessment Phase 5 Street and Utility Improvement Project", and moved for its adoption, seconded by Council Member Lorentz. Put to a vote, the following members voted in favor of this resolution: Kimball, Olson, and Lorentz; against, none. Resolution #25-04-736 was duly adopted.

Bryan Drown informed the council that Jonathan Dulas has requested to have a second driveway installed on his property (parcel #33-0006100) when construction goes by his place during the Phase 5 Improvement Project. The cost to install this driveway will be in the amount of \$2,322.75. The City Administrator informed the council he has contacted Jonathan Dulas and Mr. Dulas is in agreement with the cost and assessment that he will be labile for. Council member Olson asked if the new driveway will be too close to the neighbor's fence to the North. Mr. Drown stated that this will not be a problem. Upon further deliberation and discussion, (Action 25-02-27) Council Member Kimball presented Resolution #25-05-737 "Resolution Authorizing the Special Assessment of Additional Driveway Construction for the Jonathan Dulas Property in Eagle Bend, MN", and

moved for its adoption, seconded by Council Member Lorentz. Put to a vote, the following members voted in favor of this resolution: Olson, Lorentz, and Kimball; against, none. Resolution #25-05-734 was duly adopted.

Partial Payment Estimate Number three in the amount of \$83,163.95 was submitted by Blombeck Construction Company for the Phase 5 Street and Utility Improvement Project. This estimate was for utility work done through January 20, 2025 which included the lining of the city sewer mains and Change Order No. 3. The city engineers Bolton & Menk, Inc. have signed off on the quantities and amount being requested for payment. Following a review and brief discussion, (Action 25-02-28) Council Member Lorentz moved to approve Partial Payment Estimate Number three in the amount of \$83,163.95 as presented, seconded by Council Member Kimball. Motion adopted unanimously.

The Council was presented with invoice #0355729 from Bolton & Menk, Inc. in the amount of \$5,405.00 for professional services from December 07, 2024 through January 17, 2025 for the phase 5 Street & Utility Improvement Project. Following a brief review, (Action 25-02-29) Council Member Kimball moved to pay invoice #0355279 as presented, seconded by Council Member Olson. Motion adopted unanimously.

Derek Medved from Korner Stores, Inc. gave a presentation on their proposed renovations for the Gas Station that they recently purchased from Staples Bakery, located at 204 Highway 71 South. The plans include the construction of a diesel station on the open lot to the south of their gas station, if the city is willing to sell them their lot. Mr. Medved stated that if all the paperwork can be completed in time, they would like construction to start by October of this year and was making a formal request to purchase the city property which is located at 206 Highway 71 South (parcel #33-0034901). After much discussion, the council decided to have a work session on March 05, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. to further review and discuss what the city might be willing to sell this parcel for. The Council informed Mr. Medved that they would make their decision by the next city council meeting on Monday, March 17, 2025. No further action was taken at this time.

Mark Lanoue from Long Prairie Sanitation (LPS) was present to request a contract extension with the City of Eagle Bend for the collection and disposal of refuse within their city limits. The current contract will expire on September 30, 2025. The council reviewed the current refuse rates. Council Member Olson asked how many services in Eagle Bend does LPS collect refuse from and what would be the price for their citizens if the city went back to LPS billing their customers instead of the City handling the billing. Mr. Lanoue stated that he did not have these current figures with him but would get them to the council. After further discussion, the council decided to review and discuss this issue during their work session on March 05, 2025. The Mayor instructed the City Administrator to put this on the March 17, 2025 City Council agenda.

The Council reviewed a quote for the City's Liquor Liability insurance from Illinois Casualty Company in the amount of \$3,437.00 (Ebner Insurance) which was is an increase of \$420.00 over last year's premium. Upon reviewing and discussing the liquor liability quote presented, (Action 25-02-30) Council Member Lorentz moved to accept and pay the quote of \$3,437.00 from Illinois Casualty Company as presented, seconded by Council Member Olson. Motion adopted unanimously. This policy runs through March 12, 2025 to March 12, 2026.

The Council was informed that the Eagle Bend Fire Department Relief Association has requested the Council to ratify an increase in their retirement benefits from \$1,500.00 per year to \$1,600.00 per year of service. The retirement fund is approximately 90% funded as of December 31, 2024. The previous raise was approved on January 16, 2022. Following a discussion, (Action 25-02-31) Council Member Olson moved that the City ratify the proposed increase in retirement benefits as presented, seconded by Council Member Kimball. Motion adopted unanimously.

Township Fire Contract Agreements covering the period of March 15, 2025 to March 15, 2026 were presented for Council approval. Following further discussion, (Action 25-02-32) Council Member Lorentz moved to renew the Fire Contracts with the Townships of Bertha, Burleene, Eagle Valley, Germania, and Wykeham as

presented, seconded by Council Member Olson. Motion adopted unanimously. The contracts will become effective pending the approval of the Township Boards.

The Council was presented with a monthly report for January 2025 from the Todd County Sheriff's Office showing calls they handled in the City of Eagle Bend during the month.

Liquor Store financial report for the month of January 2025 was presented by the City Administrator to the City Council which showed that the liquor store had a net profit of \$4,091.81 for the month.

The Council was informed that a donation was made to the City from Michael Martin in the amount of \$100.00 for general use. (Action 25-02-33) Council Member Kimball presented Resolution #25-06-738 "A Resolution accepting a donation to the City" and moved for its adoption, seconded by Council Member Lorentz. Put to a vote, the following members voted in favor of this resolution; Kimball, Olson, and Lorentz, against, none. Resolution #25-06-738 was duly adopted.

The council was presented with a quote in the amount of \$354.35 per week from Shine Masters Cleaning to clean weekly the City Hall, City Library, Eagle Bend Liquor Store, and the two bathroom parks in the summertime. Following a discussion, the council felt that the cost was more than what the city had budgeted and they would need to look for alternative methods for cleaning their city buildings.

The council was informed that the Eagle Bend Fire Department would like to implement a new Employment Application for candidates looking to become a member of the fire department. The City Administrator informed the council that he has sent this application to their City Attorney Joe Krueger for review. Mr. Krueger stated that the application is fine but the following wording should be omitted from the application; (1) "Firefighters are also expected to participate in fundraising activities, department tours, fire prevention, and other duties as requested" and (2) "Have not been convicted of a drug, alcohol or reckless driving offence in the last 3 years". Upon further review, (Action 25-02-34) Council Member Olson moved to approve the new Employment Application for the Eagle Bend Fire Department with the condition that the language be removed as suggested by the City Attorney, seconded by Council member Lorentz. Motion adopted unanimously.

The city administrator notified the council that Minnesota Power as of today, has not contacted the city regarding the edits on the proposed franchise agreement.

The Council was presented with a proposed ordinance to amend Section 910.02, subd. 3, to include campgrounds under the "Conditional uses". This ordinance was drawn up by city attorney per council's request in December of 2024. Following further discussion, (Action 25-02-35) Council Member Olson presented Ordinance No 25-02-18-01 "An ordinance to the Eagle Bend City Code Section 910.02 relating to conditional uses in the Residential Section" and moved for its adoption, seconded by Council Member Kimball. Put to a vote, the following members voted in favor of this ordinance; Olson, Kimball, and Johnson; against, none. Ordinance No. 25-02-18-01 was duly adopted.

The council took up the issue regarding the Nexbill requirement indicating that the city needs to meet the \$100.00 monthly minimum fees collected for on-line billing; otherwise the city must make up the difference. The council stated they were informed at a council meeting, they would only need 10 people to use the on-line billing in order to meet the minimum monthly fees. Deputy City Clerk Voller stated that the city presently has about 20 people using the on-line billing which means the city would need an additional 20 to break even. Also, the council was informed that Deputy City Clerk Voller went back and read the minutes from all of 2023 to June of 2024 and there was no mention that the city would need to pay an additional \$1,500.00 to install Nexbill onto their utility billing system. Following a lengthy discussion, the council decided to do a mailing in April informing citizens that on-line billing is available and to include instructions on how they can sign up for this program.

The council was informed that the land Cory Berg was supposed to acquire after the survey was completed, has not been done. The council stated that they thought this was already done. Mayor Johnson stated that he had asked the former City Administrator where this issue stands. All the previous administrator would say is that he is waiting for the county. After further discussion, Mayor Johnson instructed the City Administrator to contact the surveyor and the City Attorney to see what steps need to be done to complete this land transaction.

The Council was informed that after the 2017/2018 Street and Utility Improvement Project was done, Joleen Johnson's started having water run into her garage every time it rained. Mrs. Johnson indicated that this never happen before the project and would like the city to remedy this problem. Mr. Drown had met with Mrs. Johnson and had come up with a solution to stop the water from coming into her garage. At that time the cost to fix the problem, the way Mrs. Johnson agreed to, would be in the amount of \$2,800.00 from Ideal Construction. This quote was in 2021 and the council offered that the city would pay for one-half of the cost with her paying the other half. Mrs. Johnson stated that she felt this was not right since she did not cause the problem. Nothing further was done at that time. Now, Mrs. Johnson has come back to the city and wants this problem fixed. The City council felt that too much time has gone by and it was no longer the city's responsibility. The Council instructed the City Administrator to contact Mrs. Johnson to inform her of their decision; if she does not agree with the decision she should attend a council meeting to discuss it with them.

Lori Johnson gave an update on what she has been doing to help promote the liquor store since becoming the lead bartender. Mrs. Johnson also stated that she would like to have a lap top computer to work with orders from vendors. Mrs. Johnson would also like the following; fix the air handler, install new ceiling tiles, having a sign installed along Highway 71 indicating where the liquor store is; having the capability of having sporting events televised in the liquor store, and having a different desk in the back. The council instructed Mrs. Johnson to get figures on these items and report back to the council.

There being no further business to come before the City Council, (Action 25-02-36) Council Member Kimball moved to adjourn at 8:37 p.m., seconded by Council Member Olson. Motion adopted unanimously.

Kevin Hess
City Administrator

Scott Johnson
Mayor