

CITY COUNCIL MEETING
JANUARY 16, 2024
6:30 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, January 16, 2024 at 6:30 P.M., in City Hall. Mayor Scott Johnson called the meeting to order at 6:30 P.M. Council Members present were Jaculyn Lorentz, Jessica Olson, James Kimball and Jason Nelson; absent, none. Also present was James Gaida, Twila Pierce, Bryan Drown, Kevin Hess, Jeff Warren, Lori Johnson, Sara Luebesmier, Brooklyn Hess

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

(Action 24-01-01) Mayor Scott Johnson opened the phase 5 public hearing. Bryan Drown from Bolton & Menk began presentation of the phase 5 street & utility improvements project. Mr. Drown stated this project would be replacing the existing water & sewer lines on 3rd Ave NE, Clark Street, 2nd Ave NE, Central Ave N. Mr. Drown stated the city assessment policy has a 15-year payment term. This phase project preliminary assessment rates compared to previous ones completed in 2015, 2018, and 2021 is more expensive due to inflation. Based on the city assessment policy the city would pay 63% of the project and 37% assessed to benefitting properties. Mr. Drown stated these are preliminary estimates with no grant funding applied. City could still receive grants through the Minnesota Public Facilities Authority to help with the cost of the project. There being no questions (Action 24-01-02) Mayor Scott Johnson closed the phase 5 public hearing at 7:00 p.m.

The council was presented with Resolution #24-01-700 and Topographic Survey & Geotechnical invoice. Bolton & Menk. Resolution #24-01-700 would order the improvement and preparation of plans and specifications. The invoice from Bolton & Menk is for topographic survey & geotechnical serv. (Action 24-01-03) council member Lorentz made a motion to approve Resolution #24-01-700 & Topographic Survey & Geotechnical invoice, seconded by council member Olson. Resolution #24-01-700 was duly adopted.

Following a brief review and discussion, (Action 24-01-04) Council Member Olson moved to approve the minutes of the December 18, 2023 regular City Council Meeting as written, seconded by Council Member Lorentz. Motion adopted unanimously.

Bills submitted for approval were reviewed by the City Council. Following a question and answer period, (Action 24-01-05) Council Member Lorentz moved to approve the bills for payment as presented, seconded by Council Member Nelson. Motion adopted unanimously.

2024 liquor store operating statement was presented to the City Council by the City Administrator.

The Council was presented with a monthly report from the Todd County Sheriff's Office showing calls they handled the previous month and the totals for all of 2023.

The Council reviewed and discussed the previous year committee appointments along with a list of active firefighters and what positions are held within the fire department. Following a review of the committee appointments, (Action 24-01-06) Council Member Lorentz moved to approve the following committee appointments for 2023:

Fire Chief	Aaron Klimek
Weed Inspector	Jaculyn Lorentz
Assistant Weed Inspector	Jim Kimball
Acting Mayor	Jessica Olson
City Assessor	Todd County Assessor
City Attorney	Quinlivan & Hughes, Todd County Attorney
Health Commissioners	Jason Nelson
Street Commissioners	Jaculyn Lorentz
Fire Commissioners	Jason Nelson
Water & Sewer Commissioners	Scott Johnson
Liquor Commissioners	Jessica Olson
Natural Gas Commissioners	Scott Johnson
Official Depository	Star Bank, Unity Bank East, American Heritage National Bank, Magnifi Financial, American National Bank, Cetera, Viking Savings and Loan, and other financially sound institutions which are in compliance with official depositories.
Civil Defense Director	James Olson
Official News Paper	Benning Printing & Publishing
Safety Commissioner	Jaculyn Lorentz

The above motion was seconded by Council Member Nelson and was adopted unanimously.

The City Council reviewed the present rate and fee schedule for the City of Eagle Bend. After reviewing the schedule, the council reviewed what was allowed for meals with receipts. Council member Kimball thought that should be raised. After further discussion (Action 24-01-07) Council Member Lorentz moved to raise the \$10.00 a meal to \$45.00 for the day, seconded by Council member Kimball. Motion adopted unanimously. (Action 24-01-08) Council Member Lorentz moved to approve the rest of the 2023 schedule of rates and fees for the City of Eagle Bend as presented, seconded by Council Member Nelson. Motion adopted unanimously.

The council was presented the 2024 Bertha ambulance contract. This contract states they are increasing their rates. City Administrator stated Berth is just doubling their 2023 ambulance contract rate for their 2024 ambulance contract. The council asked why they needed to double it and what their justification is. City Administrator replied that the city of Bertha hired a full time employee for the ambulance. The City Administrator also stated he checked with the City Attorney to if they can do this. The city attorney stated yes they can charge a fee. The council wants the City Administrator to look into this and see how Bertha can justify this rate. No action was taken.

Council member Nelson informed the council that that Eagle bend Fire Department wants to increase their call rates from \$4.00 to \$6.00. Council member Kimball asked what this was for. Council member Olson replied that it's for their clothing allowances. Council member Lorentz asked when was the last time they raised it. Council member Nelson said he doesn't remember but when he got on the fire department 19 years ago it was only \$2.00 than. Twila stated it's been \$4.00 for a long time and doesn't remember either when it was raised to \$4.00. After further discussion (Action 24-01-09) council member Lorentz made a motion to increase the Eagle

Bend Fire Department call rate from \$4.00 to \$6.00, this was seconded by council member Kimball. Council member Nelson abstain, Motion adopted unanimously.

The council was presented with Resolution #24-02-701 & Resolution #24-03-702. Resolution #24-02-701 is in support for the splash pad. This resolution of support is required for the grant offered by the League of Minnesota Cities. The resolution shows the city's supports for the Eagle Bend Fire Auxiliary idea of building a splash pad. Resolution #24-03-702 is a DNR grant the Eagle Bend Fire Auxiliary is working with Widseth on. This is another grant to help build the splash pad. After further discussion (Action 24-01-10) Council member Lorentz made a motion to approve Resolution #24-02-701 & Resolution #24-03-702 seconded by council member Nelson. Resolution #24-02-701 & Resolution #24-03-702 was duly adopted.

The council was presented with Resolution #24-04-703. City Administrator informed the council that Deanna Hemmesch is in the process of taking over Eagle Heights. In that process Deanna's team noticed an error in the legal description from the 1970s. This Resolution would set a public hearing to start the process of correcting the error in the Eagle Heights legal description. After further discussion (Action 24-01-11) council member Olson made a motion to approve Resolution #24-04-703, this motion was seconded by council member Kimball. Resolution #24-04-703 was duly adopted.

The Council was informed of the following donations made to the City which were as follows: The Senior Ladies in the amount of \$100.00 for the use of City Hall. (Action 24-01-12) Council Member Lorentz presented Resolution #24-05-704 "A Resolution accepting a donation to the City" and moved for its adoption, seconded by Council Member Nelson. Put to a vote, the following members voted in favor of this resolution; Olson, Lorentz, Nelson; against, none. Resolution #24-05-704 was duly adopted.

Council member Olson brought up the status of the Lions Park Shed. Council member Olson presented blue prints of the building and explained the idea having the shed be shared by the Eagle Bend Lions Club and City of Eagle Bend public works. The shed would hold most of the tools and major equipment like, the snowplow, skid loader and mini excavator. The public works office would also be moved to the Lions Park Building. Council member Kimball asked why does the public works office need to be moved. Council member Olson replied that head maintenance Cay Sandmeyer office is being shared with the Eagle Bend Fire Department. Clay's paper work is scattered throughout city hall due to not enough space. Council member Kimball asked if there was space at City Hall. Council member Lorentz replied, no this place is full. There isn't enough room for anything in City Hall. Council member Kimball said he understands the need and want for Clay asking to have the public works office moved. Council member Kimball also stated that couldn't they just move the public works office inside the shed and give up some of the shop space instead of adding on to the build. Council member Kimball stated the cost of adding on to the building just to add an office has to be significantly greater than adding a couple walls to the shop. Yes, you would lose space in the shop but this would be more cost effective stated council member Kimball. Council member Kimball asked if he could get a cost comparison on adding to the shed for an office versus putting the office inside the shop. Council member Olson stated this is just an update on where committee was at with this project.

The council was asked by Todd County for permission to use the old school building for police trainings. The council has approved this in the past. After further discussion (Action 24-01-13) council member Lorentz made a motion to allow Todd County to use the old school building for police trainings, this motion was seconded by council member Nelson. Motion adopted unanimously.

The council was presented by an invoice from Long Prairie Plumbing & Heating. City Administrator informed the council that the heater at the water treatment plant went out. Clay has been using a backup heaters to warm the water treatment plant. This invoice was for a new heater plus install. After further discussion (Action 24-01-14) council member Kimball made a motion to pay the Long Prairie Plumbing & Heating invoice, this motion was seconded by council member Lorentz. Motion adopted unanimously.

City Administrator presented the council with the 2024 Quinlivan & Hughes contract. City Administrator informed the council that there was no increase in 2024 contract versus the 2023 contract. After further discussion (Action 24-01-15) council member Lorentz made a motion to approve the 2024 Quinlivan & Hughes contract, the motion was seconded by council member Kimball. Motion adopted unanimously.

The council was presented with the 2024 Todd County attorney contract. City Administrator stated there was a \$300 increase compared to the 2023 contract. Council member Kimball asked if that was \$300 increase was per month. City Administrator replied no, it was overall. After further discussion (Action 24-01-16) council member Lorentz made a motion to approve the 2024 Todd County attorney contract, the motion was seconded by council member Kimball. Motion adopted unanimously.

The council was presented resolution #24-06-705. This resolution would give city Administrator James R. Gaida signor authority to financial intuitions listed, American Heritage National Bank, American National Bank, Cetera, Magnifi Financial, Viking Bank, Unity Bank. After further discussion (Action 24-01-17) council member Lorentz made a motion to approve Resolution #24-06-705, this motion was seconded by council member Nelson. Resolution #24-06-705 was duly adopted.

The council was presented with Resolution #24-07-706. This is to amend the personal policy so language would meet the sick & safe leave requirements. City Administrator explained to the council that the state of Minnesota passed Sick & Safe leave and that all employers are required to offer this. City Administrator stated that our sick leave already meets the required time employees must be allowed to accumulate but we need to change the language in our personal policy. After further discussion (Action 24-01-18) council member Kimball made a motion to approve Resolution #24-07-706, this motion was seconded by council member Olson. Resolution #24-07-706 was duly adopted.

City Administrator brought up for discussion the city hall roof. City Administrator stated that he spoke with Robert Bernier from the League of Minnesota Cities. Robert stated that the damage done to the city hall roof was not caused by the tornado. Robert did say that the damages done to the insulation and to the inside of city hall would be covered. City Administrator presented a quote from Srock construction, Arnzen construction and Lightway construction. City Administrator stated that both Srock and Arnzen suggested a "floating roof" they said that's the type of roof that should be on this style of building. City Administrator stated that Lightway would put on the same style of roof that's currently on the building but use different material. Council member Olson said if we went with Lightway's idea we could be in the same spot 10 years from now. Council member Olson suggested not going with Lightway for that reason and the other two companies have been in business for a lot longer and have more experience with these types of buildings. Council member Olson stated that Srock and Arnzen quotes are very comparable with each other. After further discussion (Action 24-01-19) council member Lorentz made a motion to go with Srock's quote to replace the city hall roof, this motion was seconded by council member Nelson. Motion adopted unanimously.

Twila brought up to the council that Taylor Lunemann called the city office about the January's water bill for the apartment complex and that there must have been a leak that he wasn't aware of. Twila stated that Taylor wants to know if his bill can be forgiven on the sewer portion. Twila also stated that the council in the past would forgive the sewer portion but the not the water portion of the bill. The council asked Twila to find out if the leaking water went down the sewer. The council tabled this item.

The City Administrator informed the council it has received two bids for the old snowplow truck. City Administrator stated that the old snowplow truck is in tough shape. Mayor Johnson stated what good it is doing for us other than lawn ornament. (Action 24-01-20) council member Kimball made a motion to accept the higher bid of the two, this motion was seconded by council member Lorentz. Motion adopted unanimously.

Lori Johnson asked the council to look into updating the liquor store. Council member Olson asked what Lori had in mind. Lori stated the liquor store needs a good cleaning, new floor, allowing customers to walk in the off sale, more help. Lori stated that most of the bar tenders are retirement age and some of the other ones only work one night a week. Lori suggested doing promos, fresh paint for our signs. That something needs to be done to draw more people into the bar. Council member Olson stated that they had plans of updating the bar but those plans got pushed to the side once COVID hit. Council members Lorentz and Olson agreed the liquor store is very important and this is something we should address. Lori thanked the council for their time.

Sara Luebesmier asked the council if they would allow her to start the process of having a rodeo at the former school ball fields. Sara stated that she is working with Triple T Bucking Bulls out of Long Prairie. That Triple T would provide everything, the bulls, fences, gates, bleachers, workers. Council member Kimball asked how much that would be. Sara replied that to hire Triple T they would charge over \$17,000.00 and that working with sponsors and other groups that they have raised over \$13,000.00 so far. Plus they would charge a general administration fee. City Administrator asked what the average administration fee is at a rodeo. Sara replied \$20 and that's what they plan on selling tickets for. Mayor Johnson asked how many people you would expect to have. Sara replied around a thousand people. Mayor Johnson replied parking would be issue with that many people. Sara said they would use the old school parking lot and would suggest parking at Nelson Park. Council member Lorentz said she liked the idea of having a rodeo for Eagle Bend days. (Action 24-01-21) Council member Olson made a motion to allow Sara Luebesmier start the process of preparing the former school ball fields into a rodeo arena, this motion was seconded by council member Lorentz. Motion adopted unanimously.

There being no further business to come before the City Council, (Action 24-01-22) Council Member Lorentz moved to adjourn at 8:29 p.m., seconded by Council Member Nelson. Motion adopted unanimously.



James R. Gaida
City Administrator



Scott Johnson
Mayor