

APPROVED  
CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS  
05/04/2020

The Onida City Council met on Monday, May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2020 at 7:30 p.m. in the City Office with Mayor Gary Wickersham presiding. Present at Roll Call: LaJena Gruis, Brooke Jacquot, Justin Mennenger, Marla Mosiman, and Caleb Shepherd. Also present: Tim Gruis, Sheila Ring, Camden Hofer, JR Rausch, Brian Ring, Aspen Heath, Kenean Johnson, Wayne Miles, Jim Ripley, Nina Ripley Sakara Topp, and Emily Sovell.

**OATH OF OFFICE:** Mayor Wickersham presented the Oaths of Office to LaJena Gruis, Brooke Jacquot, Justin Mennenger and Marla Mosiman.

**WATER/SEWER PROJECTS:** Camden Hofer with SPN was present to discuss the bids that were received for the new water and sewer projects. Low bidder was Northern Plains from Winner S.D. with a substantial completion date of October 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021. Their initial bid was slightly higher than the engineers estimate. Northern Plains then provided a negotiated bid to SPN.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** Motion to go into executive session pursuant to SDCL 1-25-2(3) by Gruis seconded by Shepherd at 7:39 p.m. All ayes. Motion carried. Motion to come out of Executive Session at 8:15 p.m. by Mosiman seconded by Gruis. All Ayes. Motion carried.

**WATER/SEWER CONTINUED:** The City has run into a problem with being able to obtain an easement for the force main project. Jamie Lamb attended the meeting telephonically and agreed to an easement if the air release was moved to the west side of the highway. Mr. Lamb also voiced concern about their road in the area and that it would be returned back to its current if not slightly better condition once construction is complete. Motion by Gruis seconded by Shepherd to approve the current plans of the easement which states that the road will be returned to current or slightly better condition and if Lamb Brothers, in the future, desire to build on site and the lines are in the way, the City will move them at the cost to the City. Roll Call: All ayes. Motion Carried. Absent: Pitlick.

Motion by Gruis seconded by Shepherd to award Bid Schedules A and B with Alternate Items to Northern Plains in the amount of \$6,210,237.50 as stated in the SPN recommendation letter contingent upon the review and approval of funding agencies. Roll Call: All ayes. Motion carried. Absent: Pitlick

**MINUTES:** Motion by Shepherd seconded by Jacquot to approve the minutes from the April 6<sup>th</sup>, 2020 City Council meeting. All ayes. Motion carried.

**APPOINTMENTS:** Motion by Mosiman seconded by Shepherd to nominate Pitlick as President for 2020. All ayes. Motion carried. Motion by Gruis seconded by Mennenger to nominate Mosiman as Vice President for 2020. All ayes. Motion carried. All other appointments remain the same from last year.

President: Pitlick

Vice President: Mosiman

Rail Authority: Pitlick (Milt Handcock and Andy Kleven at large)

Tax/Judiciary/Permits: Jacquot and Shepherd

Street/Alley/Fire/Parks/Sanitation: Pitlick, Shepherd and Mennenger

Finance/City Property/Pool/Insurance/Electric/Water: Jacquot, Gruis and Mosiman

Auditing: Gruis, Mosiman and Pitlick

News Paper: The Onida Watchman

Attorney: Emily Sovell

Enhancement District/Equalization: Mennenger

**REPORTS:** Tim Gruis stated that they had been working on the alleys throughout town. MDU has installed a gas meter at the splash park area of the pool so that area will be heated this year. He informed the council that 500 feet of water main and a hydrant will be needed for the Midwest Project

and that the pipe has been ordered. They have been working at the pool and he stated that they have enough pool chemical to last into July. They are also working on redoing the restrooms at the pool and will be installing new fixtures. Discharging has been completed. New signs have been purchased through Crazy B's. He stated that he had been in contact with a resident who is interested in having the ditch filled in on their property. Council directed Gruis to inform the residents to come to the June meeting to discuss it with Council.

**Sheriff's Office:** Stahl placed a call to Hiller stating that he would not be able to attend the meeting but that things had been quiet except for a few dogs at large calls and a couple domestic calls.

**FIRE DEPARTMENT:** Council received a letter from the Onida Fire Department with a request for an additional \$45,000 to be added to the \$20,000 normally given in the 2021 budget. This will aid them in buying a replacement truck from the City of Pierre.

**GRADUATION:** An inquiry was received from the ABO School district concerning graduation this year amid the COVID-19 pandemic. The school district wanted to know about the Resolution that the City has and if they would be able to have graduation this year. The plans are to have the ceremony outside at the football field. Seniors only will be on the track and parents and immediate families would be parked on the south side of the field. Motion was made by Gruis seconded by Shepherd to allow the ceremony following CDC guidelines with social distancing, good hygiene, and common sense and strongly encouraged the school to allow only two (2) people outside of their vehicles. All ayes. Motion carried.

**SUMMER HELP:** Opening the pool was discussed but there are still too many unknowns with the COVID-19. We will look at our options again at the June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020 meeting. At that time, we will have only one returning guard that will be certified. Council did hire Aspen Heath with a .50 cent increase over last year's wages. She has been busy helping with the mowing around town.

The City also received a request from the County concerning our budget request for the 2021 recreation season. The City is once again asking for \$20,000.

Hiller also notified the Council of a \$2500 donation from Nola LaRosh and the Bayer Fund. LaRosh had selected the Onida Swimming Pool to receive this donation through Grow Communities. The Council greatly appreciates this donation and it will certainly come in handy with the repairs going on at the pool this summer.

**BUILDING PERMITS:** The following building permits were presented for approval:

Joel and Laurie Miller – 401 South Main Street – storm repair

Cecil and Rosemary Currier – 204 South 8<sup>th</sup> Street – storm repair

B & D – 107 South Main Street – storm repair

Doug and Clara Marsh – 701 South Main Street - storm repair and basement repair

Scott and Brenda Currier – 702 Circleline Drive – storm repair

Sandy Stough – 509 South 8<sup>th</sup> Street – storm repair

Don and Sandy Hepper -502 South Main Street – storm repair

Todd and Brooke Jacquot – 105 South 6<sup>th</sup> Street – 14 x 24 shed

Nina Ripley – 903 Cedar Avenue – building ramp

Steve Kenzy – 601 Elm Avenue – storm and foundation repair

Motion by Gruis seconded by Mosiman to approve all permits. All ayes. Motion carried.

**MALT BEVERAGE LICENSES:** This being the time and place for a hearing on the renewal of Malt Beverage Licenses and no one was present to protest. The following Malt Beverage License Applications were presented to the Council:

Brewster's Tavern and Grill

Don's Food Center

The Blue Goose

Vilas Drug (this is a transfer request)

Motion was made by Gruis seconded by Shepherd to approve all applications upon receipt of payment.

Roll Call: All ayes. Motion carried. Absent: Pitlick.

**GARBAGE RATES:** At the April meeting, Hiller informed the Council that even with last year's mileage increase for out of town garbage collections, that fund is still not be able to stay in the black. She has been in contact with a garbage hauler on recommendations for rates. Following the conversations that Hiller has had motion was made by Gruis seconded by Shepherd to increase garbage rates effective with the May billing schedule. Roll Call: All ayes. Motion carried. Absent: Pitlick. These rates will be published separately.

**AIRPORT:** Hiller presented Council with two (2) airport grant opportunities. One grant is for \$180,000 which shall consist of the design of runway, a wetland delineation and a geotechnical exploration to identify materials beneath the runway. Motion by Shepherd seconded by Gruis to accept this grant. Roll Call: All ayes. Motion carried. Absent: Pitlick.

The other grant opportunity is for \$30,000 which is designed to assist airports in addressing the COVID-19 public health emergency. Motion by Shepherd seconded by Mosiman to accept this grant. Roll Call: All ayes. Motion carried. Absent: Pitlick.

**ZONING:** Motion to leave City Council at 8:57 p.m. by Gruis seconded by Mosiman. Motion by Gruis seconded by Mosiman to go into Zoning at 8:57 p.m. All ayes. Motion carried.

A variance request was received from Rausch Construction which states the need to build a building larger than set backs allow. Motion by Gruis seconded by Shepherd to advertise for this hearing. All ayes. Motion carried.

Motion to leave Zoning at 9:09 p.m. by Gruis seconded by Jacquot. Motion to go back into City Council at 9:09 p.m. by Gruis seconded by Jacquot. All ayes. Motion carried.

**PHOENIX CENTER:** Estimates were received from Dakota Storm for \$14,714.17 and Capital Roofing for \$16,970.94 to repair the roof of the Phoenix Center after last August's hail storm. Motion by Gruis seconded by Shepherd to accept the estimate from Dakota Storm. Roll Call: All ayes. Motion carried. Absent: Pitlick.

**VACATION:** Hiller advised the Council that she is having problems being able to take vacation due to COVID-19 and not wanting to bring in her replacement for fear of exposure. Hiller requested to take off two (2) Fridays a month to use up some vacation as she is currently at her cap of 200 hours. Motion by Gruis seconded by Jacquot to allow for the two (2) Fridays off a month at which time the office will be closed. All ayes. Motion carried. Hiller did state that while the office is closed there will be a sign on the door so that she can be contacted if there is an emergency. This will be reevaluated at the July meeting.

**ON CALL CONTACTS:** Tim Gruis asked the council if there was a possibility of the city purchasing a cell phone which would be on the person of whom ever is on call nights and weekends. Council thought this was an excellent idea. Hiller will look into getting the phone.

**BILLS:** The following bills were presented for payment: SALARIES: Finance 2317.67, Streets 5294.78, Parks 124.66, Water 1519.01, Electric 1849.17, Sewer 1037.57, Garbage 6119.84, Pool 881.01, and Council 1584.18. OTHER: Emily Sovell retainer 500.00, Sully County law enforcement 5255.55, Petty Cash postage 4.60, SD Retirement contributions 1592.10, EFTPS taxes 3607.13, Lamb's Discount supplies 275.92, SD Treasurer taxes 5109.20, Mid Dakota Rural Water supplier 9294.20, Post Office 150.85, Pierre Solid Waste landfill 2257.20, Venture Communications 257.48, Wellmark B/C B/S health insurance 3769.60, Oahe Electric supplier 58524.01, Oahe Electric repairs/dues 2511.37, Stewart and Daughters fuel 236.21, BankWest fee 50.00, City of Onida deposit refund 93.43, Public Health Lab testing 578.00, One Call locating 18.90, Sovell Oil fuel 776.08, US Bank loan 50403.74, Northwest Pipe supplies 15.82, Marco copier contract 84.97, Michael Todd supplies 1092.22, Vilas supplies 6.97, Badger Meter supplies 95.04, Helm's and Asso airport 8099.42, SPN water/sewer projects 8700.00, Mona Weiger transcript 788.80, Dakota Pump supplies 416.56, Crazy B's supplies 150.00, Larry Vandervoort deposit refund 6.57, Ulteig engineering 3500.00, Recreation Supply supplies 468.59, Lamb Chevy repairs 541.95, B & B Equipment supplies 343.62, AFLAC insurance 485.62, Dakota Supply Group supplies 43.44, Meierhenry Sargent professional 21760.00. Motion was made by Gruis seconded by Mosiman to pay all bills. Roll Call: All ayes. Motion carried. Absent: Pitlick.

**MEETING ADJOURNED:** Motion made by Gruis seconded by Mosiman to adjourn at 9:45 p.m. The next regular City Council meeting will be on Monday, June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020 at 7:30 p.m.

---

Gary Wickersham, Mayor

---

Rondha Hiller, Finance Officer

Published May 14<sup>th</sup>, 2020 at the total approximate cost of \$