

**CITY OF GRAFTON
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMITTEE
MEETING OF NOVEMBER 2, 2015**

The regular meeting of the Public Utilities Committee of the City of Grafton was held in the Council Chambers, City Hall, Grafton, North Dakota immediately following the 5:30 p.m. Ways and Means Committee meeting, Monday, November 2, 2015.

Chairperson West presided. Members present: Chris Lipsh, Shane Mohn, and Brian Sieben. Member absent: Len Wysocki. Others present: Greg Young, Don Hutson, Dave Fellman, Mary Stark, Nick Ziegelmann, Tony Dumas, Russ Geddes, Mary Kay Burns, Ryan Johnston, and Todd Kjelland.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

It was moved by Mr. Lipsh and seconded by Mr. Mohn to accept and order filed the Balance Sheets, Income and Expense Statements, and subsidiary reports for all Enterprise Funds for the month ending September, 2015. All members present voted in favor thereof; Chairperson West declared the motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Police Chief Dumas reported Officer Kathryn Fruetel has resigned and will be pursuing a career outside of law enforcement. He reported the 2015 Expedition broke down last week; it has been repaired and is back in use as of today.

Chief Dumas reported the 2015 State Legislature made the possession of marijuana and paraphernalia a B Misdemeanor which means those charges can be handled in Municipal Court if the City adopts an ordinance. The City Prosecutor and Chief Dumas think it would be advantageous for the City to adopt an ordinance as there have been about 21 cases so far this year which had to be cited in District Court.

Chief Dumas reported the City Prosecutor would like to see the animal ordinance revised to remove the breed banned from the City. Chief Dumas said it is also difficult to impound an animal with the current ordinance in place as the Court must determine the dog to be dangerous before it is removed. Chairperson West expressed concern that people will then bring the bull terrier breed back into town and the ordinance was originally adopted because that breed was problematic. Mr. Mohn stated he would like to see the leash law included in any revisions made to the animal ordinance. Chief Dumas said that it is very hard to enforce a leash law.

Chief Dumas reported that Halloween went well.

Power Department Superintendent Russ Geddes reported the bushing at the Power Plant did break so they have temporarily fixed it and it will have to be permanently repaired in the spring.

Mr. Geddes said the primary switch by the hospital was installed last week. The Department has been working on a lot of meter change outs and street light repairs. Mr. Geddes reported the new roof at the Power Service Center is good with no leaks.

City Administrator Ziegelmann reported Street Department staff has started cleaning storm drains of leaves, etc.

The North Industrial and Mobile Lift Stations were renovated a couple weeks ago.

Spruce Valley Construction should start digging the new line for the Lessard Lift Station relocation project next week. Kilmer Excavating will be digging a ditch this fall to direct drainage to the culvert at the south end of Lessard Addition and will do some ditching south of 17th Street to improve drainage there also.

City Administrator Ziegelmann explained there will be a resolution presented to the City Council next week regarding financing for renovating the Mobile lift station and the North Industrial Lift Station. The City was informed that financing those renovations would not be eligible for the SRF loan as they were not included in the facility plan and as an option, financing is available from the State Capital Financing Program at the same interest rate. The plan is to borrow \$150,000 to renovate the two lift stations and pay the loan in 5 years at 2.50% interest.

A status report of the Water Plant Phase III Project was provided by AE2S; the building is enclosed and the project is progressing well. Mr. Ziegelmann presented Change Order No. 1 for a net increase of \$40,151, which is mostly due to structural issues as they were putting up the block work. It was moved by Mr. Mohn and seconded by Mr. Sieben that it be recommended to City Council to approve Change Order No. 1 with Swanberg Construction Inc. for an increase of \$40,151. All members present voted in favor thereof; Chairperson West declared the motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

It was moved by Mr. Lipsh and seconded by Mr. Mohn to recommend the City Council approve the application from the Chamber of Commerce to close 5th Street from School Road to Hill Avenue and Hill Avenue from 5th Street to 11th Street for Winterfest Lights Parade on Saturday, December, 19th from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. The detour route is 4th Street, Wakeman Avenue, 5th Street and Cooper Avenue. The City Administrator reported there is a group of citizens working with the Chamber to do some Winterfest events for the month of December. They have asked the City to make application to the ND Department of Transportation to close down Hwy 81 for the parade on December 19th. Mr. Ziegelmann has required the group to select an alternate route of 5th Street to Griggs Ave just in case the ND Department of Transportation does not grant approval in the short timeline. All members present voted in favor thereof; Chairperson West declared the motion carried.

Mr. Ziegelmann reported the Winterfest Committee also plans to have prizes for commercial and residential Christmas lights/decorations. He said he has approved a credit to utilities for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners.

Mr. Ziegelmann reported that he and Chief Dumas will meet with Superintendent Jack Maus from the Grafton Schools and Jon Markusen of KLJ to discuss a Safe Routes to School application for 15th Street and Lavergne Avenue. They are considering pedestrian crossing lights and some internal walkways to the school. Mr. Zeigelmann explained the school is eligible to apply for the TAP so the City will join forces with them and submit one application.

After some discussion, it was moved by Mr. Mohn and seconded by Mr. Lipsh to recommend the City Council approve raising the pest control rate from \$3.00 per month to \$5.00 per month. All members present voted in favor thereof; Chairperson West declared the motion carried.

City Administrator Ziegelmann proposed adjusting the garbage and rubbish rate from \$15.89 per month to \$18.00; 55% of the \$2.11 increase is the amount of the MAR-KIT contract increase and that will leave a balance of \$1.50 from the increase. He is still trying to get an answer from Refuse Disposal Service as to how much they need to renew the residential collection and transfer contract. A proposed garbage and rubbish ordinance will be brought before the City Council next week for consideration of first reading.

It was moved by Mr. Mohn and seconded by Mr. Lipsh to recommend the City Council approve the Solid Waste Disposal Agreement with MAR-KIT Landfill Joint Powers Board for 10 years at \$50 per ton for a minimum tonnage of 2,100 tons per year. All members present voted in favor thereof; Chairperson West declared the motion carried,

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Mr. Lipsh, seconded by Mr. Mohn and carried to adjourn the meeting.

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Chris West, Chairperson

Connie A. Johnson, City Auditor