

**CITY OF GRAFTON
CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 12, 2016**

The regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Grafton, North Dakota was held in the Council Chambers, City Hall, Grafton, North Dakota at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, September 12, 2016.

Mayor Chris West presided. Members present: Dave Fellman, Chris Lipsh, Shane Mohn, Phil Ray, Brian Sieben, Mary Stark, and Greg Young. Member absent: Don Hutson. Others present: Nick Ziegelmann, Nick Hall, Russ Geddes, Rock Desautel, Alex Droske, Kevin Sevigny, Todd Kjelland, Mike Steinfeldt, and Ron Kerner.

CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor West announced prior to approving the consent agenda he wanted to discuss the tree removal bids as approved at the September 6th Council meeting. Mayor West said he received a call from Brian LeBlanc of Agassiz Excavating stating he would like the opportunity to amend his bid as was the option allowed to LaFreniere Construction. Mayor West explained LaFreniere Construction was the low bid, but then more trees were added to the pile and LaFreniere added \$6,986 to his bid without the other bidders being contacted. The bid from Agassiz Excavating allowed for a price per load for every load after 200 loads because at the time he submitted his bid he knew the pile was not closed off and was continuing to get larger every day. Mr. Young said he believed the process followed was fair because the bid from Agassiz Excavating with the extra loads would have exceeded LaFreniere's amended bid. Mr. Fellman said he believes the fair thing would be to contact both parties and allow them to submit a final bid and accept the lowest bid. Mr. Lipsh said LaFreniere's amended bid could have been a change order handled in house, but staff wanted to be as transparent as possible and brought it before the Council; the Council then went with what they felt was the best bid at the time because the other bid was an open ended bid. It was moved by Mr. Mohn and seconded by Mr. Lipsh to approve the Consent Agenda, including concurring in award of tree removal bid to LaFreniere Construction, as follows:

IV. CONSENT AGENDA

4.1 Approval of Minutes:

- a) City Council regular meeting of August 8, 2016 and special meeting of September 6, 2016.

4.2 Reports of Officers:

- a) City Auditor-Treasurer
- b) Municipal Judge
- c) Chief of Police
- d) Building Official
- e) Parks and Recreation
- f) Others, if any

4.3 Game of Chance Application:

- a) 920 – Walsh County Gun Club
- b) 921 – Our Saviour's Lutheran Church
- c) 922 – Life Skills and Transition Center

4.4 Site Authorization Applications:

On roll call vote the following voted in favor thereof: Mr. Lipsh, Mr. Mohn, Mr. Sieben, and Mr. Young. Members opposed: Mr. Fellman, Mr. Ray, and Ms. Stark. Member absent: Mr. Hutson. Mayor West declared the motion carried. Mayor West said that we will have to take this situation as a lesson and in the future make sure we know the final project before we request bids.

BILLS, CLAIMS AND ACCOUNTS

It was moved by Mr. Fellman and seconded by Mr. Young that the General, Special, Capital Projects, Debt Service, and Enterprise Funds bills be approved for payment in accordance with the listing submitted; said listing to be a part of these minutes as if herein set out verbatim. On roll call vote the following voted in favor thereof: Mr. Fellman, Mr. Lipsh, Mr. Mohn, Mr. Ray, Ms. Stark, Mr. Sieben, and Mr. Young. Those opposed: (None). Member absent: Mr. Hutson. Mayor West declared the motion carried.

REPORTS OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES

On recommendation of the Public Utilities Committee, it was moved by Mr. Young and seconded by Mr. Sieben to approve the application from Darryl Collette Farm to close 8th Street between the railroad tracks and Stephen Avenue approximately 10 days within the time period of September 5 – October 1 to provide for safe unloading of potatoes. All members present voted in favor thereof; Mayor West declared the motion carried.

City Administrator Ziegelmann reviewed the recommendation of the Public Utilities Committee that the City participate in the Red River Valley Water Supply Project and provided costs based on the number of cfs that are nominated for the project. The City will determine its investment by choosing how many cfs it wants to reserve; he recommended the City purchase 2 cfs, but he is not opposed to 3 cfs if the City Council prefers. Mr. Ziegelmann explained that in talking with Steve Burian of AE2S he is optimistic that 130 total cfs is attainable from all the investor, which would bring the cost per cfs down to \$10,800 and obviously less if they get more than 130 cfs. Mr. Mohn prefers the City invest at 3 or 2.5 cfs so there is sufficient water resources for the future if the City has a large water user industry or provides water to Drayton, etc. After some discussion, it was moved by Mr. Sieben and seconded by Mr. Young to enter into a contract with Red River Valley Water Supply Project for 2 cfs payable by June 30, 2017 from the Water Department. On roll call vote the following voted in favor thereof: Mr. Fellman, Mr. Lipsh, Mr. Ray, Mr. Sieben, Ms. Stark, and Mr. Young. Those opposed: Mr. Mohn. Member absent: Mr. Hutson. Mr. Mohn stated he is in favor of participating in the project but he feels it should be at the 2.5 or 3 cfs level. Mayor West declared the motion carried.

On recommendation of the Ways and Means Committee, it was moved by Mr. Young and seconded by Mr. Lipsh to special assess uncollectible nuisance bills in accordance with the list presented for one year at 4.30% interest. On roll call vote the following voted in favor thereof: Mr. Fellman, Mr. Lipsh, Mr. Mohn, Mr. Ray, Mr. Sieben, Ms. Stark, and Mr. Young. Those opposed: None. Member absent: Mr. Hutson. Mayor West declared the motion carried.

On recommendation of the Ways and Means Committee, it was moved by Mr. Lipsh and seconded by Mr. Fellman to approve for sale the list of abandoned vehicles and obsolete equipment prepared by the Department Heads in accordance with the list presented with the exception of S-01, which will be removed from the list. On roll call vote the following voted in favor thereof: Mr. Fellman,

Mr. Lipsh, Mr. Mohn, Mr. Ray, Mr. Sieben, Ms. Stark, and Mr. Young. Those opposed: None. Member absent: Mr. Hutson. Mayor West declared the motion carried.

On recommendation of the Ways and Means Committee, it was moved by Mr. Fellman and seconded by Mr. Lipsh to approve the application from Scare Oaks to use City-owned woods adjacent to the golf course sheds for a Haunted Woods Charity Fundraiser Fridays and Saturdays October 1-31 from 8:00 p.m. – 12:00 a.m. contingent upon receipt of the Certificate of Insurance as proof of sufficient insurance. All members were present and voted in favor thereof; Mayor West declared the motion carried.

REPORTS OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES

City Administrator Ziegelmann explained a strategic session was conducted about a year ago for the Life Skills and Transition Center to lobby and market the facility to make it as useful as possible in an attempt to limit the risk of closure of the facility. The Economic Development Committee accepted a proposal from Praxis and the Red River Regional Council to provide those services. He added that this is a one year commitment in which the City partnered with the Walsh County JDA.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Mayor West reviewed a status report for the Flood Risk Reduction project from Kadrmas, Lee, & Jackson, Inc. The plan is about 95% complete, KLJ continues to work with the State and the Railroad; and, the City will meet with the State Water Commission October 12th to ask for project funding. Mayor West said he and Mr. Ziegelmann did meet with a few members of the State Water Commission and the new director and do not see any issues so far. One of the questions they had was regarding the fish passage part of the project and that part of the project seems to be developing as well. Mayor West hopes to bid the project this winter.

NEW BUSINESS

Power Superintendent Russ Geddes provided a map which showed all of the underground faulted power lines that have been replaced and future planned projects. There were electrical outages at Hardees, 14th Street, west of Hugo's, and Marketplace. The final handout showed where street lighting was updated at Lessard Avenue.

There are two gas boilers and one electric boiler at the Water Plant; the gas boilers are very old and replacement parts are no longer available. Lunseth Plumbing and Heating Co., who is the contractor working on the Water Plant Phase III project, recommended replacing one of the gas boilers with a 1,000,000 BTU boiler, either a like model boiler for \$31,455 or a high efficiency boiler for \$38,890; the other gas boiler could remain in use while the replaced boiler could be used for parts. Discussion was held whether there would be return on the investment if the high efficiency boiler was purchased. Power Department Superintendent Geddes explained they will be taking advantage of the newly installed generator at the Water Plant and that this will require the gas boiler to run more than in the past years. Mr. Sevigny stated they currently have 2 boilers which are 1 million BTU each and one electric boiler which is 410,000 BTU; they run primarily off the electric boiler except when they are running from the generator. Administrator Ziegelmann explained there is \$20,000 in reserves for a boiler plus \$10,000 in the 2017 budget; the remaining balance would have to come from the Water Department capital outlay. On recommendation of staff, it was moved by Mr. Mohn and seconded by Mr. Lipsh to purchase a high efficiency gas boiler from Lunseth Plumbing & Heating Co. for the Water Plant in the amount of \$38,890. On roll call vote the following voted in favor thereof: Mr. Fellman, Mr. Lipsh, Mr. Mohn, Mr. Ray, Mr.

Sieben, Ms. Stark, and Mr. Young. Those opposed: None. Member absent: Mr. Hutson. Mayor West declared the motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Annual North Dakota League of Cities Conference is in Bismarck September 15-17, 2016.

ADJOURNMENT

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

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Chris West, Mayor

Connie A. Johnson, City Auditor