

**CITY OF GRAFTON
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMITTEE
MEETING OF APRIL 1, 2019**

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, April 1, 2019.

Chairperson Chris West presided. Members present: Phil Ray, Brian Sieben, Mary Stark, and Greg Young. Others present: Nick Ziegelmann, Chris Lipsh, Dave Fellman, Don Hutson, Tony Dumas, Kevin Sevigny, Russ Geddes, Rock Desautel, Shirley Burns, and Todd Morgan.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

It was moved by Mr. Sieben, seconded by Mr. Young and carried to accept and order filed the Balance Sheets, Income and Expense Statements, and subsidiary reports for all Enterprise Funds for the month ending February, 2019. All members present voted in favor thereof; Chairperson West declared the motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Police Chief Dumas reported the Department is preparing for the predicted flood. All officers are put on call and rotation for the weekend. The Department has also been assisting the County on some burglary cases that have occurred on the outskirts of town and throughout the County.

Power Superintendent Geddes reported his Department is also preparing for the predicted flood. He presented quotes for 8,250 ft. of 4/0 wire. Bids were received from Resco at \$2.685/ft for \$22,151.25, Border States at \$2.40869/ft for \$19,871.69, and Dakota Supply Group, Inc. at \$2.350\ for \$19,387.50. He needs 3 rolls at a minimum but would like to purchase 6 rolls as there are 2 river bores to complete this summer. It was moved by Ms. Stark and seconded by Mr. Sieben to recommend the City Council approve the low bid from Dakota Supply Group, Inc. at \$2.35/ft for \$19,387.50 and to authorize the purchase of 6 rolls, so the total purchase will cost about \$38,775. All members were present and voted in favor thereof; Chairperson West declared the motion carried. When questioned about his supply of transformers and single-phase wire, Superintendent Geddes said they could use a few extra transformers, but they have a roll of single-phase wire and that is not used often.

Street/Wastewater Superintendent Desautel reported that since the last snow fall the Department has been busy thawing storm drains and patching pot holes. They are also preparing for the predicted flood and have run all the pumps to make sure they are ready to go. The sandbagger is ready, and they will test that on Thursday morning by making 500-1,000 sandbags. As soon as the three-wheel sweeper is ready to go he plans to start sweeping, weather permitting it will be next week.

Administrator Ziegelmann reported the Prairie Dog bill passed and was signed by the Governor. He said Grafton won't see funds until 2021, but it would be helpful to put together a sub-committee to prioritize road projects that need to be done as we will receive \$1.1 million every 2 years. Chairperson West asked if Grafton could proceed with projects now and borrow for 2021 reimbursement. Mr. Lipsh said he didn't

think we could use the funds to pay off bonds; it must be used for new projects. Mr. Ziegelmann said decisions need to be made about what type of projects should be completed and at what cost to property owners.

Water Superintendent Sevigny said staff have been working on flood preparations by making sure the pumps are operational and valves are closed. The raw water pumping station on the Red River is prepared so when it becomes inaccessible due to the flood, everything will be in working order. They are also getting ready to repair some of the holes that were dug this winter for water line repairs. Snowbirds are returning so they have been reconnecting water service to homes. Chairperson West congratulated the Water Department on receiving the Safe Drinking Water Act Certificate of Achievement from the North Dakota Department of Health.

NEW BUSINESS

It was moved by Mr. Young and seconded by Ms. Stark to approve a \$100 painting credit to the utility account of the owner of a single-family residence who paints all paintable surfaces or resides the entire residence. Painting part of existing permanent siding or brick home does not qualify; the credit is subject to the inspection and approval of the Building Official. All members present voted in favor thereof; Chairperson West declared the motion carried.

An application from Polly's Lounge, Inc. to close Hill Avenue from 5th to 6th Street June 28 and 29 from 6:00 pm to 2:00 am was considered. Mr. Young questioned if there should be a charge for sweeping the streets after the event each night. Ms. Stark noted there were a lot of minors in attendance last year, however that is permitted. It was noted that access to the other businesses within the block was denied due to the street being blocked off, which caused some unhappy attendees. Police Chief Dumas said from the law enforcement perspective, allowing people to come and go creates havoc because 20-year olds are walking to their cars to get beer and taking it back into the dance area. Administrator Ziegelmann suggested tabling action on this until the City Council meeting and inviting Mr. Tweten to the meeting to answer questions and figure out a way to increase public safety with the youth. It was moved by Ms. Stark and seconded by Mr. Young to table the matter until the City Council meeting on April 8, 2019 and that Mr. Tweten be invited to attend the meeting to answer questions. All members present voted in favor thereof; Chairperson West declared the motion carried.

It was moved by Mr. Young and seconded by Ms. Stark to table consideration of an application for special event alcohol beverage license from Polly's Lounge, Inc. to sell alcohol June 28 and 29 from 6:00 pm to 2:00 am at Summerfest street dances on Hill Avenue from 5th to 6th Street until the City Council meeting on April 8th. All members present voted in favor thereof; Chairperson West declared the motion carried.

It was moved by Ms. Stark and seconded by Mr. Young to recommend the City Council approve the application from the Chamber of Commerce to close Summerfest parade route Saturday, June 29th, 6:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. or following the parade and provide for detour. Shirley Burns, Chamber of Commerce Director, said there may also be a youth run, 5K and bicycle races on the street during the closure, but it would all be within the same time as the street is closed for the parade. All members present voted in favor thereof; Chairperson West declared the motion carried.

It was moved by Mr. Young and seconded by Ms. Stark to recommend the City Council approve the application for beer and wine license from Country Smokehouse, Inc. d/b/a Tiffany's from May 1 – December 31, 2019. All members present voted in favor thereof; Chairperson West declared the motion carried.

It was moved by Ms. Stark and seconded by Mr. Young to recommend the City Council approve a special event alcohol beverage license for Maher El-Sarraf, LLC d/b/a Last Chance Bar and Grill to sell alcohol at the Strand Twin Theater for an Adult Only Take a Chance Movie Night (21 and over) on Monday, April 15th, 6-9 pm. All members present voted in favor thereof; Chairperson West declared the motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The sump pump order is in effect April 1st.

The Board of Equalization meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 9th at 5:30 p.m.

Spring Cleanup begins May 6th.

Arbor Day/City Cleanup is Wednesday, May 15th.

ADJOURNMENT

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

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Chris West, Chairperson

Connie A. Johnson, City Auditor