

**CITY OF GRAFTON
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMITTEE
MEETING OF AUGUST 3, 2020**

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, August 3, 2020.

Chairperson Chris West presided. Members present: Phil Ray, Brian Sieben, Mary Stark, and Greg Young. Others present: Dave Fellman, Don Hutson, Shane Mohn, Nick Ziegelmann, Tony Dumas, Anthony Erickson, Tom Dusek, Rock Desautel, 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 June 2020.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Police Chief Dumas reported the Department has been preparing for the City Auction. They have also been preparing to relocate the Department from the Law Enforcement Center to City Hall if there is no agreement on the LEC agreement. He reported the Department has recently towed four or five junk and abandoned vehicles and they will be removing vehicles from 12th Street Bowl parking lot Monday of next week if they have not been removed by then. Mr. Sieben asked if all the vehicles parked in the parking lot north of the Frosty Fox are compliant to be there. Chief Dumas said most of them are permitted, but owners of those that are in violation have been given notice to remove them. One individual who passed away had several vehicles; those vehicles will be ticketed and towed, and the estate can take care of it.

Street/Wastewater Superintendent Rock Desautel proposed scheduling City Cleanup August 25 and 26 with dumpsters available at Refuse Disposal Service for residents to dispose of their items. He does not want staff to handle items due to the COVID-19 pandemic as there are many more cases now than there were in the spring. Refuse Disposal will be open from 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. and people will need to bring proof of city of Grafton residency as the City will pay Refuse Disposal for this service.

Superintendent Desautel reported the Department has one more frost boil to dig and they plan to complete that tomorrow. The contractor, Knife River, informed him they have been rained out at some other job sites so they may not be in Grafton until September 2nd. Mr. Desautel said some of the frost boil spots will require 6” of asphalt overlay.

Superintendent Desautel reported to date he has marked 83 diseased trees, 50 of which are located on the berm.

KLJ Engineering is preparing an estimate for repairing 11th Street. It may have to wait until next year. Street/Wastewater Superintendent Desautel recommended installing drain tile under all reconstructed streets to improve their longevity.

Water Department Superintendent Tom Dusek reported the Water Department flushed the hydrants to eliminate the water taste and odor problem; everything is back to normal now. There have been a couple water breaks this month; one of the breaks occurred this past Sunday. Kilmer Excavating was called in and they worked on it most of the day. The south water tower will be cleaned in September. Mr. Young congratulated the Water Department on continuing to maintain high standards as reflected in the inspection results from the North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality.

NEW BUSINESS

It was moved by Mr. Young and seconded by Ms. Stark to recommend the City Council approve the application for special event alcohol license submitted by The Grafton Co. d/b/a Extra End to sell alcohol at the Strand Twin Theater for a fundraiser on August 20th from 5:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m. Mr. Hutson expressed concern about approving this type of event with the recent increase of COVID-19 cases in Walsh County. All members present voted in favor thereof; Chairperson West declared the motion carried.

It was moved by Mr. Sieben and seconded by Mr. Young to recommend the City Council approve the application to close 8th Street from the railroad tracks east of Frosty Fox to Stephen Avenue submitted by Alan Collette Farming Assn. for harvest from September 8th to October 1st from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. All members were present and voted in favor thereof; Chairperson West declared the motion carried.

It was moved by Ms. Stark and seconded by Mr. Ray to recommend the City Council approve the application to sell alcohol at a special event submitted by Last Chance Bar & Grill at the Corn Hole tournament in Leistikow Park on September 19th from Noon – 9:00 p.m. All members present voted in favor thereof; Chairperson West declared the motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

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

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Chris West, Chairperson

Connie A. Johnson, City Auditor