

**CITY OF GRAFTON
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMITTEE
MEETING OF NOVEMBER 4, 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, November 4, 2019.

Chairperson Chris West presided. Members present: Phil Ray, Brian Sieben, Mary Stark, and Greg Young. Others present: Chris Lipsh, Dave Fellman, Don Hutson, Shane Mohn, Tony Dumas, Kevin Sevigny, Roch Tweten, Todd Morgan, and Shirley Burns.

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 September, 2019.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Police Chief Dumas reported that Russ's Auto & Scrap submitted the highest bid for the scrap lot of 8 salvage vehicles and other equipment left over from the City Auction. Chief Dumas reported the Police Department has been serving abandoned vehicle notices again and they are starting to haul vehicles out to the Street Department once again. Chief Dumas also reported they have been working with the Street Department and have written several parking tickets.

The Street/Wastewater Department Superintendent was not able to attend the meeting. The Department has been working on cleaning storm sewer drains but it is getting too cold so they will be quitting that now. The concrete slabs are complete for the lift stations that will be getting new generators. The Master Lift generator will be delivered November 11th and the others are supposed to be delivered by the end of the month. Mr. Desautel has requested prices from electricians to connect the generators to the lift stations but has not received proposals yet.

Water Department Superintendent Sevigny reported the Water Department has finished with anything they can do to assist with installation of Hugo's new water service line. They have most of the fall/winter disconnects done. They are starting to work on some winter projects around the plant.

Mr. Lipsh asked if the late flooding of the Red River has affected the water quality. Superintendent Sevigny said normally with a snow melt flood the turbidity levels are high but very low total hardness and low alkalinity. However, with this being a summer/fall flood they don't have the runoff, so the turbidity is not as high, but the total hardness and alkalinity has been extremely high. Over the years the total hardness and alkalinity has been increasing and it costs more to treat the water. Water Department staff have not been able to access the Red River pumping station since the beginning of October. Mr. Lipsh said he heard NDSU has applied for some major grants to do a study on drain tile in a specific area of the Red River Basin to see if

that affects water quality that is entering the Red River. He wonders how much information from that study will be funneled down to the City. Mr. Young asked if there is a contingency plan for servicing the Red River pumping station during flood events. Mr. Sevigny explained there are two pumps in place so there is redundancy. They could access by boat if they absolutely had to. They were prepared for the high water; and there are alarms to notify them if problems arise.

NEW BUSINESS

Gene Loftsgard reported there are some leaks in the shop area of the Maintenance building and reviewed bids received for work to be completed in 2020: Tecta America \$131,930 with a 15 year warranty, CL Linfoot \$95,900 with a 15 year warranty, Skinner Roofing \$109,350 with a 10 year warranty, and The Insulation Place \$76,970 with a 10 year warranty. There is \$77,036 in the roof budget for 2020. Mr. Loftsgard recommended awarding the bid to the Insulation Place as they are the low bid, they are a local business, and the finished job would have a greater R value than the other companies. It was moved by Mr. Young and seconded by Ms. Stark to recommend the City Council accept the bid from The Insulation Place for \$76,970. All members were present and voted in favor thereof; Chairperson West declared the motion carried.

For the last few years an application for a North Dakota Department of Transportation - Transportation Alternative Program (TAP) grant has been submitted to repair and overlay the bikepath east of Noben Avenue from 5th Street to Highway 17. Since this project has not been approved for that grant yet, the cost estimate could be revised, and the project resubmitted for the next TAP grant period. Mr. Lipsh wants to apply for installation of a bikepath along School Road from the Wash House south to the bikepath on the west side of School Road. Chairperson West reviewed what type of applications were successful in receiving grants last year. After some discussion, it was moved by Ms. Stark and seconded by Mr. Young to recommend the City Council submit an application to repair and overlay the bikepath along Noben Avenue from 5th Street to Highway 17. All members were present and voted in favor thereof; Chairperson West declared the motion carried.

After receiving a request from Roch Tweten to make traffic signals at Hill and 7th Street flashing, the City Administrator contacted the ND Department of Transportation and was advised the City Council could ask that the intersection be examined but it is unlikely they would allow a 24 hour flashing yellow traffic signal at an intersection. If a study indicated the intersection did not warrant a traffic signal, then it would be removed. Mr. Young said the traffic signal currently flashes yellow from 11:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m. and he asked if that time period could be extended. It is unknown what the cost of the study would be. Mr. Lipsh stated if a study is done he would prefer that it be done at Hwy 17 and School Road. Now is not the time to complete a study so staff will work with the NDDOT to learn more details for further consideration and possible action in the spring or fall of 2020.

It was moved by Mr. Young and seconded by Ms. Stark to recommend the City Council approve the application submitted by the Chamber of Commerce for possession and consumption of wine in public areas for a Wine Walk event Thursday, December 5th from 5:00 – 9:00 p.m. A list of participating businesses was included with the application and Achieve Therapy was added to

the list prior to the meeting. All members present voted in favor thereof; Chairperson West declared the motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The November regular City Council meeting will be held Tuesday, November 12th due to the Veteran’s Day holiday on Monday.

The Grafton Volunteer Fire Department has invited all City employees and Council members and their families to a movie night on Monday, November 11th at the Strand Theater.

The Chamber of Commerce Banquet will be held Monday, November 25th. RSVP by Thursday, November 7th if you wish to attend.

ADJOURNMENT

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

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Chris West, Chairperson

Connie A. Johnson, City Auditor