

**CITY OF GRAFTON
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMITTEE
MEETING OF AUGUST 5, 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, August 5, 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, 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, 2019.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Police Chief Dumas reported Legislature changed a marijuana offense from a B Misdemeanor to an Infraction effective August 1st, which means the current charge is a civil offense rather than the former criminal offense. He said City Ordinance will need to be updated to comply with Century Code; the Auditor will work with the Attorney to amend the current ordinance.

Chief Dumas reported effective August 1st North Dakota Century Code 40-05-06 gives municipal entities the ability to increase by 100% any traffic fines, excluding specific areas. Chief Dumas recommends adopting the ordinance that Wahpeton did; they reiterated the Century Code and doubled the fines. An ordinance will be drafted to bring to Committee.

Power Superintendent Geddes reported staff completed all the power line relocation for the flood storm sewer project. He is going to wait to energize the single-phase line crossing 15th Street between Dogwood Avenue and Lavergne Avenue until the contractor is finished digging.

The power outage on Friday was caused by a hot blade at the south substation. The Minnkota Communication crew was on site and saw it; they called Minnkota dispatch who was able to open the breaker so the Power Dept could isolate, clear and reroute the power. Minnkota crews came up that day to repair the substation.

Superintendent Geddes reported the Ditch Witch bore rig they demoed to bore power lines under the river worked excellent. They hope to purchase a similar rig with the funds budgeted in capital outlay next year.

Mr. Young asked how long the storm sewer project has delayed the Power Department projects. Mr. Geddes said the Department's scheduled work has been delayed about 2 weeks, but it would

have been most of the summer except they shortened one of the crossings by adding a junction box.

Following Request for Proposals for AMI engineering services, no proposals were received. Administrator Ziegelmann requested authorization to consult with Widseth Smith and Nolting as they are the firm who provides engineering service to Northern Municipal Power Agency. He will work with them to modify the scope of work to get a proposal from them. The Committee concurred with that plan.

Street/Wastewater Superintendent Desautel reported following publication of a Request for Bids, the following bids were received for 1 200 kw diesel 3-phase 277Y/480Y generator and 3 50kw diesel 3-phase 120Y/208Y diesel generators. Bids were received from Butler Machinery Company for \$139,378 (\$88,335 for 3 - 50 kw and \$51,043 for 1-200 kw), Interstate Power Systems for \$110,760 (\$70,920 for 3 -50 kw and \$39,840 for 1– 200 kw), RDO Equipment Company for \$107,461.76 (\$69,982.89 for 3 - 50 kw and \$37,478.87 for 1- 200 kw), and Technology International, Inc. for \$116,000 (\$69,750 for 3 - 50 kw and \$46,250 for 1 - 200 kw). Mr. Desautel reported RDO (90 days delivery) and Interstate Power Systems (10-12 weeks delivery) were the low bids and they are very close to the same except Interstate Power Systems has a 5 year/3,000-hour warranty versus RDO's 2 year/2,000-hour warranty. The Interstate Power Systems exhaust system decibels is quieter than RDO's and since it will be in a residential area, he would prefer a quieter machine. The bid specs included motorized intake louvers and RDO does not have that listed on their bid, but they said they do have it. Interstate Power System has a heated enclosure and RDO does not; both have John Deere engines. Mr. Desautel said the City has 2 Interstate Power Systems generators and we will have 3 once the storm sewer project is complete so because of the before itemized differences and to have continuity for maintenance, etc. with the City's 3 more Interstate generators, he recommends accepting the bid from Interstate Power Systems. It was moved by Mr. Sieben and seconded by Mr. Ray to recommend the City Council accept the bid from Interstate Power Systems for 3-50 kw diesel generators for \$70,920 and 1-200 kw diesel generator for \$39,840 for a total of \$110,760.00. All members present voted in favor thereof; Chairperson West declared the motion carried.

Mr. Desautel said the Department has been repairing some sanitary manholes and they will be digging up the street in a couple spots to repair frost boils. They are also cutting down diseased elms on City-owned property.

Administrator Ziegelmann reported Tony Anderson Construction is the contractor for the Highway 17 maintenance project. There will be 2 to 3 days of them filling in and repairing bad sections of the road then they will leave; they will move the barricades out the way and the following week they will do the microsurfacing for a few days. Fifteen days later they will stripe the highway.

Mr. Young asked Mr. Desautel what his procedure is for dutch elm diseased trees in the back yards of residents. Mr. Desautel said he walks through properties, sends notices to property owners if they have a diseased tree, and if the property owner does not remove the tree, the City hires SOS Yard and Tree Care (Shane Schrank) is called to remove it and the property owner is billed the cost. There are about 12 trees he needs to have removed.

Water Superintendent Sevigny reported he has had a summer employee this year and it is working out very well. He assisted in painting so everything in the plant has been painted. The Department has been very busy doing locates. They had 2 disconnects for the hospital project and one of the water services had only been shut off at the main and it would have ended up underneath the new addition. By disconnecting the service line from the main a future water leak has been prevented.

Mr. Sevigny said every year they get calls from citizens for fire hydrants for decorative purposes. They are selling 4 of them at the City auction this year that are about 50-60 years old.

They have a contractor pouring concrete to cover watermain breaks in streets that were dug in the winter.

Mr. Young reported the City Cemetery Sub-Committee accepted a proposal from Wayne Coulthart to raise 20 monuments in the City Cemetery for \$4,775. Mr. Young said he has pictures of some of the work Mr. Coulthart did in the Grafton Lutheran Cemetery and Mr. Coulthart will begin working at the City Cemetery in 3-4 weeks.

NEW BUSINESS

It was moved by Mr. Young and seconded by Ms. Stark to recommend the City Council approve the Application for a Permit for Temporary Street or Public Property Closure for Special Events submitted by Darryl Collette. The application is to close 8th Street from the corner of Manvel Avenue to the corner of Stephen Avenue from 7:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. September 7th through October 7th or when harvest is complete, to provide a safer environment during harvest. All members present voted in favor thereof; Chairperson West declared the motion carried.

Administrator Ziegelmann reported no Ways and Means Committee and no Public Utilities Committee meetings will be held in September as the first Monday is the Labor Day holiday.

Administrator Ziegelmann said the City is working with Joe Watkins of Ecolab to try control the gopher population in the greenspace bowl on 5th Street across from Leistikow Park.

ADJOURNMENT

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

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Chris West, Chairperson

Connie A. Johnson, City Auditor