

**CITY OF GRAFTON  
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMITTEE  
MEETING OF JULY 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, July 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, Brian Erovick, Kevin Sevigny, Russ Geddes, Rock Desautel, and Todd Morgan.

**FINANCIAL REPORTS**

It was moved by Ms. Stark, 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 May, 2019.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Assistant Police Chief Erovick reported Summerfest went very well; there were a few Minor in Possession/Consumption tickets issued. The street dance ended early on Saturday evening due to the rain. Lucas Campoverde was hired a couple of weeks ago to fill the vacancy in the Department. He was formerly an officer in Fargo and has commented how much nicer the interactions with citizens are in Grafton.

Mr. Young asked if there was any ordinance regarding camping in yards. Mr. Erovick said he was not aware of anything prohibiting that.

Power Superintendent Geddes reported temporary power setup and teardown for Summerfest went well. The 2 VFI switches were ordered and there is an estimated delivery date of 16 weeks. The Department will be doing a river bore tomorrow and will use a bore rig they are demoing for possible future purchase. Mr. Geddes reported the LED streetlight fixture inventory is depleted for this budget year. Mr. Lipsh asked if the light poles on the bikepath along Noben Avenue will be revamped for LED lights. Mr. Geddes explained they have 20 light fixtures to repair Noben bikepath lights. Valley Brake is making adapters for every other pole for these fixtures; they will see how they work before doing more.

Street/Wastewater Superintendent Desautel presented a picture of a dead cottonwood tree located on private property at 1041 Western Avenue. The tree has been dead for approximately 2 years and after the last wind storm the Street Dept. had to pick up a lot of branches and bark off the street. The tree overhangs 2 sidewalks and is a danger to anyone using the sidewalks or street. It was moved by Mr. Young and seconded by Mr. Ray that the dead tree at 1041 Western Avenue endangers the life, health, safety or property of the public and is hereby declared a public nuisance in accordance with the City of Grafton Code of Ordinances Section 23.5-4. The ordinance requires removal of the tree by the property owner and if the property owner does not

remove it, the City will do so and bill the cost to the property owner. Administrator Ziegelmann said the City may need to work with the property owner as this is a large tree and it will be a costly removal. All members present voted in favor thereof; Chairperson West declared the motion carried.

Mr. Desautel reported Summerfest went well. He is marking diseased elm trees for removal and asked if anyone sees a diseased tree that he missed, they give him a call.

Administrator Ziegelmann reported the Storm Sewer and Lift Station Project has begun. Mr. Lipsh and Mr. Sieben, Council members along the streets that will be dug up, visited the neighbors to inform them about the project and potential timeline. The first stage is to mill the asphalt and start replacing the storm sewer pipe next week in 15<sup>th</sup> Street from Edgewood Avenue to Lavergne Avenue and then proceed with the same work from Lavergne Avenue towards Western Avenue before moving south along Lavergne Avenue. Mr. Young noted there will have to be some dust control on the project. Administrator Ziegelmann asked if a couple more roads should be milled and overlaid since the milling team is already here; he suggested Cherry Street and Lawler Avenue since they are in the vicinity. Committee members expressed concern for setting a precedence without having the property owner contribute towards the cost. Administrator Ziegelmann recommended establishing a sub-committee to inspect the streets and develop a long-term plan for maintenance.

Mr. Young requested that at Summerfest next year the barricades be placed closer to the buildings rather than across the sidewalks when they are removed from the street.

Water Superintendent Sevigny reported the CO2 storage tank was drained over the last 2 months and this past Wednesday CO2 Systems Incorporated replaced everything in the system other than the tank. The CO2 system will now be on a 2-year schedule for testing and maintaining the system. Water Department staff has been cleaning around the building after the construction project and summer staff has been trimming the grounds.

Mr. Young, Chairperson of the City Cemetery Sub-Committee, reported that following the City Council meeting last month he, Committee member Shane Mohn and Building Official Scott Boura marked City Cemetery monuments that need leveling as they are sinking and tipping. Wayne Coulthart has the equipment to level them and will provide a proposal to level the monuments marked.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

A draft ordinance to allow the City Auditor to issue special event permits for possession and consumption of alcoholic beverages in public places was presented for review. There were questions as to what the City Council wants to consider consumption or sale such as if alcohol is included with the sale of a ticket and is a privately-owned business serving to customers considered a public place. The City Attorney will clarify these questions for first reading, which will be proposed at the City Council meeting.

Administrator Ziegelmann asked whether the City should apply for a Special Roads Fund grant from the ND Department of Transportation; he suggested repair of the road from 5<sup>th</sup> Street to the golf course as that would be an eligible project. Committee members asked Mr. Ziegelmann to prepare a rough cost estimate for further consideration at next week's City Council meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT**

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

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Chris West, Chairperson

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Connie A. Johnson, City Auditor