

**CITY OF GRAFTON  
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMITTEE  
MEETING OF JUNE 3, 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, June 3, 2019.

Chairperson Chris West presided. Members present: Phil Ray, Brian Sieben, Mary Stark, and Greg Young. Others present: Nick Ziegelmann, Chris Lipsh, Dave Fellman, Shane Mohn, Tony Dumas, Kevin Sevigny, Russ Geddes, Shirley Burns, Brad Martinson, 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 April, 2019.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Police Chief Dumas reported the Police Department has been working with the Building Official and City Auditor to enforce the health and sanitation ordinance including removal of junk and abandoned vehicles and yard debris. The 2013 Ford Expedition is still awaiting repairs following a February accident. An officer was sent to Minneapolis for forensic interviewer school which is an interviewing technique for interviewing children who are involved as victims or witnesses of crimes.

Power Superintendent Geddes reported they have been installing high voltage cable. They have installed 1,500 ft and this will continue throughout the summer. Mr. Geddes stressed the need to upgrade the power system with additional vacuum fault interrupters (VFI); VFIs protect equipment and personnel. Unfortunately, it can take months to obtain a quote and 12-20 weeks to build a VFI. He explained the salesperson estimated the VFI with a five-way switch to cost approximately \$45,000. Superintendent Geddes requested authorization to spend up to \$45,000 for each VFI explaining one is needed for the city power system and another is needed for the Flood Risk Reduction Project. There are more VFI to be purchased each year as there are about a dozen on the system that should be replaced. It was moved by Mr. Sieben and seconded by Mr. Young to recommend City Council authorize the Power Superintendent to purchase 2 vacuum fault interrupters at a cost of not to exceed \$45,000 each. All members present voted in favor thereof; Chairperson West declared the motion carried.

Administrator Ziegelmann reported the Power Department is hanging brackets on the light poles for the flower baskets that will be here next week.

Administrator Ziegelmann reported that Rock's Electric Construction Inc. has revamped their quote for the SCADA Phase I project to upgrade the computer at the Law Enforcement Center and create the new SCADA system for \$20,000. This will allow all the lift stations to

communicate with the Street/Wastewater Dept. computer as well as dispatch, for monitoring alarms, usage, etc. The City Administrator explained that Phase II of the project could be incorporated with the AMI system when the City proceeds with that project. The Master Lift Station interface between the transfer switch and radio communication upgrades for \$10,000 is included in this year's budget so that will be completed also. Once this project is complete, the information will be available to monitor on the phones as an app. It was moved by Mr. Young and seconded by Ms. Stark to recommend the City Council approve Phase I of the SCADA system. All those 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 Resolution of Sponsorship for the City to apply for a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) for the Wakeman Avenue Replacement Project. The project is estimated to cost \$185,000 and if approved, the grant could pay up to 100% of the construction cost. All members present voted in favor thereof; Chairperson West declared the motion carried.

The following proposals were received for installing a chain link fence along the north and east side of the compost site located at the corner of Wakeman Avenue and 5<sup>th</sup> Street: Dakota Fence - \$13,251, Newman Fences - \$9,685, and Paulson Fence - \$7,664. Mr. Lipsh asked if any thought was given to cement barriers along those bollards on the north and east side to keep the debris and machines from damaging the fence. Mr. Ziegelmann recommended this purchase be referred to the City Council without a recommendation as Mr. Desautel was unable to be at the meeting this evening and he would know the answers to these questions.

Administrator Ziegelmann reported the Street Department has been grinding stumps, removing the debris, and filling in the holes before they begin street repairs next week. The City will spray for gnats this week as weather permits.

Mr. Lipsh requested Mr. Offutt be called to respray the weeds by the Centennial Center because whatever he used was not effective in killing the dandelions. Mr. Ray said they were bad by the football field and bike path also. Street/Wastewater Dept. Superintendent Desautel will be asked to follow-up with Mr. Offutt.

Water Superintendent Sevigny reported they have been landscaping the sites where they had water break issues last winter. Mr. Sevigny reported they have hired a summer employee and they are pleased with his work.

Mr. Sevigny reported that Spring Cleanup was successful with about 50 students, 10 people from the Life Skills and Transition Center and support staff, and employees who picked up a tandem load of trash around the city and entrances. Arbor Day was held in conjunction with this event and a tree was planted at Leistikow Park in honor of the Grafton High School graduating class. He thanked all the Departments for their assistance in making this project a success. He also thanked the businesses in town that donated towards the lunch for everyone following cleanup. Mayor West thanked Mr. Sevigny for all his work in getting this project organized and completed.

Mr. Sevigny said they were able to access the Raw Water Pumping Station on the Red River 2 weeks ago and found no damage from the spring flooding; the building was inaccessible for about 6 weeks due to the flooding Red River.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

The Health and Sanitation ordinance is being worked on by the City Auditor and Building Official. Mr. Ziegelmann recommended the Council members provide input regarding issues they wish to see addressed.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

It was moved by Mr. Young and seconded by Ms. Stark to recommend the City Council approve the special event alcoholic beverage permit submitted by Last Chance Bar & Grill for a wedding dance at the Armory on Saturday, June 22<sup>nd</sup> from 6:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m. All members present voted in favor thereof; Chairperson West declared the motion carried.

It was moved by Mr. Young and seconded by Mr. Sieben to recommend the City Council approve the special event alcoholic beverage permit submitted by Last Chance Bar and Grill at Heritage Village event center building on Thursday, July 25<sup>th</sup> from 7:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m. All members present voted in favor thereof; Chairperson West declared the motion carried.

It was moved by Mr. Sieben and seconded by Ms. Stark to recommend the City Council approve the special event alcoholic beverage permit submitted by Last Chance Bar & Grill at Heritage Village grounds with bands Friday and Saturday, July 26 and 27 from 9:00 p.m. - 2:00 a.m. When asked if the neighboring properties have been made aware of the event, Brad Martinson reported he has contacted the property manager of the apartments adjacent to Heritage Village and he will contact the property owners to the east of the event. All members present voted in favor thereof; Chairperson West declared the motion carried.

It was moved by Mr. Ray and seconded by Mr. Young to recommend the City Council approve the special event alcoholic beverage permit submitted by Grafton Co. d/b/a Extra End at Heritage Village ground with bands Friday and Saturday, July 26 and 27 from 9:00 p.m. – 2:00 a.m. All members present voted in favor thereof; Chairperson West declared the motion carried.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

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

\* \* \* \* \*

---

Chris West, Chairperson

---

Connie A. Johnson, City Auditor