

Wahpeton City Council

April 4, 2022

5:00 p.m.

Present: Lambrecht, Carlson, Goltz, Wateland, Dale, Bohn, Woods II, Fobb, and McNary

Absent: None

Also Present: Huwe, Hatting, Rogahn, Broadland, DeVries, Bakken, Thorsteinson, Johannessen, and Amos

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order by Mayor Dale.

PUBLIC HEARINGS/CITIZEN CONCERNS/ETC.

Syttende Mai Proclamation – Sons of Norway – Wateland read a proclamation recognizing Syttende Mai Norwegian Constitution Day May 17th, 2022 in the City of Wahpeton.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS (presented by the Mayor) –

Approval of minutes of regular meeting held March 21, 2022

Games of Chance Licenses, Site Authorizations & Special Permits:

Wahpeton Fire Dept – Raffle Permit

Head of the Red Youth Activities – Site Authorization at City Brew Hall

Head of the Red Youth Activities – Site Authorization at BDSGC Grille Room

Other Games of Chance and/or Special Permits:

Three Rivers Gymnastics – Site Authorization at Prante's

Three Rivers Gymnastics – Site Authorization at Three Rivers Gymnastics Site

Three Rivers Gymnastics – Site Authorization at the Boiler Room

Colfax Park Board – Raffle Permit

Wahpeton High School Baseball – Raffle Permit

Presentation/Approval of Reports

Midco 2021 Cable Television Franchise Agreement Activity Report

Spring Clean-Up Week May 16th-20th

Mayor Dale asked if there were any items to be removed from the consent agenda and there were none.

Motion by McNary, seconded by Woods, to approve the Consent Agenda items as presented. Motion carried with all voting 'aye'.

REPORTS FROM CITY OFFICERS AND STAFF

FINANCE DIRECTOR

2022 Fireworks Retail Licenses – Huwe said the City of Wahpeton may grant up to seven retail Fireworks Licenses each year to allow merchants to sell fireworks from June 27th to July 5th. The license applicants for 2022 were all license holders in 2021. That list includes Little Unny's, Jerry's Fireworks, Sturdevant Properties, Wahpeton FFA – Ace Hardware, and Ben Franklin Fireworks. **Additional Fireworks License Inquiry** – An additional inquiry was received requesting consideration by the Council to issue an additional license. She requested this inquiry be referred to the Finance Committee. Mayor Dale will refer this item to the Finance, Personnel & Economic Development Committee. Huwe requested approval of 2022 Fireworks Retail Licenses to date be tabled until discussion of an additional license has been held.

Referrals to Finance Committee: Huwe said the Finance Committee discussed development agreements for the former Central School site and the proposed Rosewood 3rd Addition. Additionally, Burchill Construction is considering exercising the option clause in their Westdale 2021 Development Agreement.

She requested the Central School Site, Rosewood 3rd Addition, and Burchill Westdale 2021 development agreements be referred to the Finance Committee. Mayor Dale will refer these items to the Finance, Personnel & Economic Development Committee.

Election 2022 – Huwe said the City has received and confirmed eight candidacy filings to fill the five open offices on the City Council. Two filings have been received for the three open positions on the Wahpeton Park Board. Mayor Dale has filed for re-election, Council members Jason Goltz and Brett Lambrecht have also filed for the office of Mayor. Chad Perdue has filed for Ward 1. Tiana Bohn has filed for re-election in Ward 3. Lane Wateland and Kelly McNary have filed for re-election At-large. Cory Unruh also filed for an At-large Council position. Brian Watson and Debra Tobias have filed paperwork seeking re-election to the Wahpeton Park Board At-large. Information and the required filing forms are available on the City’s website and are due to City Hall by 4:00 p.m. on April 11th. It was noted to anyone considering filing, if you submit a petition prior to April 11th, the signatures can be reviewed and verified, and in the event there are signatures that are disqualified, a candidate will have time to acquire more signatures prior to the filing deadline. If a petition is filed on April 11th, it may be best to have 5 to 10 extra signatures to make sure the filing would be considered complete even if some of the signatures are disqualified.

ASSESSOR/BUILDING CODES

City Board of Equalization Meeting Tuesday, April 12th at 5:00 p.m. – Dale gave a reminder and noted a quorum is needed for the Equalization meeting so anyone unable to attend should let Broadland know.

LIBRARY DIRECTOR

Library Report – Bakken reported National Library Week 2022 begins this week, April 4-9. The theme is ‘Connected to the Library’. Tuesday is National Library Workers Day and people are encouraged to stop by the library and greet the staff. Friends of the Library will host an open house on Thursday to celebrate “Take Action for Your Library Day”, or a day to recognize those that advocate for libraries. Used book donations will also be accepted that day. People are encouraged to consider becoming a Friend of the Library. On Friday, April 8th, Leach Library celebrates its 98th year. The library will have a table at the Week of the Young Child event and attendees are encouraged to stop by at the Community Center. The 25th year since the Flood of 1997 is commemorated this year. The children of the Red River Valley will participate in the Red River Kids Reads discussion. Communities involved are Wahpeton, West Fargo, Fargo, and Grand Forks. A book titled ‘Storm Warning’ written by an area author, Elizabeth Raum, tells a story of that time in history and copies are available for pickup for free in the children’s library for anyone to enjoy. Book discussions will be held April 18th and 21st. Federal tax forms are still available at the library. Kercher is taking appointments to visit local schools and daycares regarding the summer reading program, ‘Oceans of Possibility’. Normally scheduled events will continue for the next two weeks. The library will be closed April 15th and 16th.

POLICE CHIEF

Operation Zero Street Closure Request – August 20th – Thorsteinson presented a request from one of the local veterans’ organizations for the street closure of Dakota Avenue from 2nd Street to 4th Street on August 20th from 11:00 a.m. to midnight for motorcycle parking and street dance for Operation Zero, which is a veterans suicide awareness and prevention program. He said it has been done in the past with no difficulties so saw no problem with doing it again. **Motion by Wateland, seconded by Goltz, to approve the Street Closure of Dakota Avenue from 2nd Street to 4th Street on August 20th from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 midnight for supporters of Operation Zero to hold a Street Dance. Motion carried with all voting ‘aye’.**

PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR

Public Works Report – Referral to PW Committee – Eastside Sanitary Sewer Phase B Part II Review Bids and Award Project – Mayor Dale will refer this item to the Public Works & Public Safety Committee.

Shared Use Path Master Plan – Mayor Dale will refer this item to the Public Works & Public Safety Committee.

Hydrant Meter Policy Update – Mayor Dale will refer this item to the Public Works & Public Safety Committee.

Official Tree List – Mayor Dale will refer this item to the Public Works & Public Safety Committee.

Rogahn noted a Public Input meeting regarding the Downtown Side Streets Phase II Project would be held Tuesday, April 5th from 4:30-6:30 p.m. with a presentation at 5:30 p.m. He then reported on the Public Works/Street Department tasks/activities in the past few weeks that have been completed or that are being worked on.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR & COUNCIL

Dale addressed an email received from a resident, Jerri Lynn, who was present via teleconference, regarding what she felt was a conflict of interest for City Attorney Hatting to represent both the City of Wahpeton and the Wahpeton Community Development Corporation, and her supposed dual role in drafting the Homestead Development Agreement between both parties. Wahpeton Community Development Corporation President Dale Rubish addressed the issue saying the WCDC has entered into an agreement with Attorney Don Krassin for legal representation of the WCDC. This took place prior to January 17th, 2022. All documents being drafted between the WCDC and the City have been reviewed/approved by Krassin.

REPORTS FROM THE CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEES & BOARDS

Finance, Personnel & Economic Development Committee Report

Wateland said the Finance, Personnel & Economic Development Committee met at 5:00 p.m. on March 24th. **Twin Town Business Partners Funding Request – motion** to approve \$10,000 from sales tax – **Motion by Wateland, seconded by Lambrecht, to approve the Twin Town Business Partners Funding Request of \$10,000 for 2022 from Sales Tax for Economic Development. Motion carried with a roll call vote of 8-0.**

Development Agreement Former Central School Site – discussion

Development Agreement for Rosewood 3rd Addition – discussion

Development Agreement Homestead Addition – motion to approve – **Motion by Wateland, seconded by McNary, to proceed with the Homestead Addition Development Agreement. Motion carried with a roll call vote of 8-0.**

City Policy on BND Loan Participation – motion to require payback on all BND Loan participation – **Motion by Wateland, seconded by Fobb, to approve making it City Policy that all Bank of ND Loan Participation must be Repaid. Discussion held. Motion carried with all voting ‘aye’.**

Public Works & Public Safety Committee Report

Bohn said the Public Works & Public Safety Committee met at 5:00 p.m. on March 29th.

Review Bids and Award Project for Lift Station #8 Generator – motion to award bid to Scott’s Electric \$108,605 – **Motion by Bohn, second by Lambrecht, to award the Lift Station #8 Generator Project to Scott’s Electric, Inc. in the amount of \$108,605. Motion carried with a roll call vote of 8-0.**

Review Bids and Award Project for VFD’s for Flood Pump Stations – motion to award bid to Scott’s Electric \$468,110 – **Motion by Bohn, second by Woods, to award the VFD’s for Flood Pump Stations 2, 3, 4, 5 & 6 to Scott’s Electric, Inc. at a cost of \$468,110. Motion carried with a roll call vote of 8-0.**

Approval of 5 Year Agreement with Sweeney Control for Storm Pump Station Maintenance – motion to approve 5 yr agreement \$33,625 – Motion by Bohn, second by McNary, to approve the 5-Year Storm Pump Station Maintenance contract with Sweeny Controls at a cost of \$33,625. Discussion held. Motion carried with a roll call vote of 8-0.

Review of Bids for and Award Project Northern Dewatering for By-Pass of Lift Station #1 - tabled

Ordinance Regarding Violations for the Tree and Yard Waste Disposal Site – discussion

Review Engineering Design Standards

Review Development Standards

Yard Junk/Clutter Updates – discussion

Building Official Updates – discussion

Referrals – See PW Director’s Report

NEW BUSINESS

Mayor’s Minute Update – Dale talked about the proposed Community Wellness and Activity Center and how it is believed it would help attract people to our community, not only as visitors but as potential residents. A small strategic focus group of local leaders met recently to review the Community Wellness and Activity Center concept, and recognized the importance of this concept and how it can promote added development and help reduce property tax as well as attract desperately needed workforce. He felt promoting the development of the entire parcel of land owned by the WCDC west of the bypass should be at the forefront. He would like to schedule another focus group soon consisting of young families in Wahpeton and what their vision of Wahpeton would be 40 to 50 years from now. Those interested in being involved can contact him.

SCHEDULING OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS

The following Committee Meetings were then scheduled:

- a. Finance Committee April 11th, 5:00 PM
- b. Public Works Committee April 12th, 5:00 PM (Immediately following the Equalization Meeting)

Adjournment

Motion by Wateland, seconded by Lambrecht, to adjourn at 5:40 p.m. Motion carried.

Mayor Steve Dale

Lynelle Amos, Finance Assistant