

Wahpeton City Council
February 1, 2021
5:00 p.m.

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

Absent: Carlson

Also Present: Huwe, Hatting, Miranowski, Thorsteinson, DeVries, Bakken, Amos, and O'Meara

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order by Mayor Dale.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS (presented by the Mayor) –

Approval of minutes of regular meeting held January 19, 2021

Games of Chance Licenses, Site Authorizations & Special Permits:

Other Games of Chance and/or Special Permits:

NDSCS General Athletics – Raffle Permit

Richland County Pheasants Inc. – Amended Site Authorization at Wahpeton Community Center (date change from 3/6/21 to 6/1/21)

Knights of Columbus – Amended Raffle Permit (date change from 11/10/20 to 3/31/21)

Presentation/Approval of Reports

ND League of Cities Legislative Blogspot Week 4

Testimony in Support of HB 1159 Natural Gas Infrastructure

ND DOT COVID Relief Distribution Notice

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

Motion by Fobb, seconded by Bohn, to approve the Consent Agenda items as presented. Motion carried with all voting ‘aye’.

REPORTS FROM CITY OFFICERS AND STAFF

FINANCE DIRECTOR

67th Legislative Session Update – Huwe reported today is day 18 of the Legislative Session – meaning they are 23% through the 80-day limit. There 886 bills and resolutions introduced, 208 have had hearings so far and 47 bills have failed. February 8th is the deadline for bills needing appropriations approval and cross-over is February 26th. We will continue to monitor legislation sensitive to cities and to provide testimony and/or input when possible.

Debt Refinancing Proposal from Colliers – request referral to Finance Cmt. – Huwe said Colliers Securities has prepared a refunding summary of the City's 2010 and 2011B bond series. Current interest rates are low enough to consider refinancing the outstanding debt with potential interest savings of approximately \$100,000. She requested the debt refinancing proposal be referred to the Finance Committee. Mayor Dale will refer this item to the Finance, Economic Development & Personnel Committee.

Homestead Development Overview – request referral to Finance Cmt. – Huwe said the Wahpeton Community Development Corporation has been working on project opportunities on the land they own south of 16th Avenue and West of the Hwy 210 By-pass. The chairman of the WCDC would like to update the Finance Committee and Council on the current status of the Homestead Development. She requested the Homestead Development Overview be referred to the Finance Committee and encouraged all Council members to attend. Mayor Dale will refer this item to the Finance, Economic Development & Personnel Committee.

Police Dept. Computer Network Update – request referral to Finance Cmt. – Huwe explained the computer network at the Wahpeton Police Department was installed in 2016. Changes in technology and the age of the hardware necessitate updating. She requested the Police Department computer network update be referred to the Finance Committee. Mayor Dale will refer this item to the Finance, Economic Development & Personnel Committee.

Residential Lot Development RFP – request referral to Finance Cmt. & Special Council Meeting – Huwe said the request for proposals for the Westdale Affordable Housing Project are due on February 5th. We would like to turn them around quickly for developers to purchase materials and schedule construction. To expedite this process, she requested the Residential Lot Development RFP's be referred to the Finance Committee and a Special Council Meeting be scheduled for February 8th for Council consideration of the submittals. Mayor Dale will refer this item to the Finance, Economic Development & Personnel Committee, and a Special Council meeting is scheduled for February 8th.

2020 Audit the week of Feb. 15th – Huwe reported the North Dakota State Auditor's Office will be performing the field audit portion of the 2020 Financial Audit the Week of February 15th, which should coincide well with regularly scheduled meetings.

It was noted City Hall will be closed on Monday, February 15th in observation of Presidents' Day.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

Community Director Report – The Win Column – This issue featured events to begin or return in 2021.

DeVries reported a 'Thank you' was received from the United States Census 2020, thanking the City of Wahpeton for making the 2020 Census Community Partnership and Engagement Program a success and helping achieve a successful 2020 Census.

DeVries then provided an update on the Recreation Center Committee saying the group has decided to interview all three architectural firms who submitted proposals.

LIBRARY DIRECTOR

Library Report – Bakken reported the library will continue with appointments and curbside pickup this week but plan to open its doors next Monday. It is planned to continue with curbside pickup to accommodate those who need it. Library hours will be Monday-Thursday 9:00am to 6:00pm, and Friday 9:00am – 4:00pm. Mask usage will be strongly encouraged, along with social distancing and sanitization of computers. This is the second week of the Mid-Winter Reads Program which runs through March 5th. Bakken announced Leach Public Library received the 2020 North Dakota Star Library award from the State Library and ND Libraries Coordinating Council, and reviewed some of the criteria met to be considered for the award. Leach Library also received a Certificate for Achieving the Excelling Level from ND Library Coordinating Council in 2019, and was one of four libraries in the state that met the criteria standards. Bakken said 2020 tax forms are available at the library. She announced the library will be closed on Monday, February 15th in observation of Presidents' Day.

PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR

Public Works Report – For the Public Works Committee's benefit, Miranowski announced the bids were received for the soil testing of the contaminated soils with a cost of \$735, and it can be tested in winter. Regarding Airborne Custom Spraying, he said the changes suggested at the meeting were made and the agreement has been forwarded to the Mayor for signature. Miranowski then reported the water in the parking lot at the post office on the north side is their service line. City crews are working to help solve the issue.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR & COUNCIL

Resolution 3770 Extending Declaration of Local Emergency –

Council member Bohn offered the following and moved its adoption:

RESOLUTION NO. 3770
RESOLUTION EXTENDING DECLARATION OF LOCAL EMERGENCY

The motion for the adoption of the foregoing Resolution was duly seconded by Councilmember McNary. Discussion held. Motion carried with a roll call vote 7-0.

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 January 25th.

Home Repair & Improvement Program Funding Options – discussion

Westdale II - Affordable Housing Project Next Steps – discussion

400 Block Default Update – discussion

Public Works & Public Safety Committee Report

Bohn said the Public Works & Public Safety Committee met at 5:00 p.m. on January 26th.

Part-time Police Officer Position – motion to approve – Motion by Bohn, seconded by Woods II, to approve hiring two Part-time Police Officers. Motion carried with all voting ‘aye’.

Airborne Custom Spraying Vector Control Agreement – motion to approve – Motion by Bohn, seconded by McNary, to approve the Airborne Custom Spraying Vector Control Agreement with a change as described for public announcements. Motion carried with a roll call vote of 7-0.

2021 Sealcoat Project – motion to approve – Motion by Bohn, seconded by Fobb, to approve the 2021 Sealcoat Project as presented with the addition of the 200 Block of 4th Avenue North. Motion carried with all voting ‘aye’.

Contaminated Soil Disposition – discussion

Urban Deer Hunt – discussion completed

Yard Junk/Clutter Updates – discussion

Building Official Updates – discussion

Referrals

SCHEDULING OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS

The following Committee Meetings were then scheduled:

- a. Finance Committee February 8th, 5:00 PM
- b. Special Council Meeting February 8th, 6:00 PM
- c. Public Works Committee February 9th, 5:00 PM

Adjournment

Motion by Wateland, seconded by Lambrecht, to adjourn at 5:26 p.m. Motion carried.

Mayor Steve Dale

Lynelle Amos, Finance Assistant