

# Special Wahpeton City Council Meeting

July 26, 2021

5:00 p.m.

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

**Absent:** None

**Staff Present:** Huwe, Hatting, Miranowski, Broadland, DeVries, Thorsteinson, and Amos

**Others Present:** Frank Stanko-Daily News, Larry Oswald and Jeremy Fischer-Montana-Dakota Utilities Company, Dale Rubish-Wahpeton Community Development Corp. President, Damon DeVillers-Interstate Engineering, Alisa Mitskog-North Dakota Representative, Jerri Lynn-Resident

## **CALL TO ORDER**

Meeting called to order by Mayor Dale.

**Natural Gas Capacity Planning** – ND Representative Alisa Mitskog introduced Larry Oswald and Jeremy Fischer of Montana-Dakota Utilities Company (MDU). Oswald said MDU and WBI Energy, Inc., both subsidiaries of MDU Resources Group, Inc., today announced plans for a natural gas pipeline expansion project in eastern North Dakota that will provide more natural gas to customers in Wahpeton. The plan is to construct an approximately 60-mile, 12-inch natural gas pipeline expansion and ancillary facilities in Wahpeton, which will have a 20 million cubic feet per day capacity. Construction is expected to begin in spring 2024 and have the pipeline in service late 2024. Oswald thanked everyone involved in this project. It will be very good for Wahpeton. Discussion held. (Mitskog, Oswald and Fischer exit at 5:09pm)

**Cable TV Franchise Ordinance 1028** – City Attorney Hatting said the first draft of the revised cable television franchise ordinance was provided for review. She noted the City had contracted with River Oaks Communications who made some very good edits to the existing ordinance. Any comments can be directed to Hatting. First reading of the ordinance was requested.

Council member Bohn offered the first reading of the following Ordinance:

**ORDINANCE NO. 1028**  
**AN ORDINANCE REVISING CABLE TELEVISION  
FRANCHISES AND SYSTEMS**

**2022 Preliminary Budget Overview** – Huwe reviewed highlights of the 2022 Preliminary Budget. Quick facts included: Hold level or decrease in the number of mills levied for services for the 11<sup>th</sup> consecutive year at 93.21 mills; Increase in General Fund Expenses of \$225,039; Property taxes on a \$200,000 home for City services 2021 was estimated at \$66 per month - if your home value increased 6% the new amount is estimated at \$70 per month for 2022; Sewer and vector control rates remain unchanged - adjustments were made in the water, garbage, waste reduction and streetlight fees; Capital Improvements Projects (9) with 8 in planning stages / Operating Budgets with 8 of 20 included in the preliminary budget, 12 are pending funding; Payroll expenses are expected to increase \$197,872 (5%), health insurance for employees decreased \$8,785 due to new NDPERS hold level renewal in May, Council added 1 FTE 7/1/21 bringing the FTE count to 43.80.

**Certification of Preliminary Tax Levy** – Huwe reviewed the preliminary certificate of levy depicting a flat mill rate for city services but because there was growth in property valuations it would mean more money than was levied last year. **Motion by Wateland, seconded by Goltz, to approve the Preliminary Certificate of Levy as presented, with a hold level rate plus capturing the growth. Motion carried with all voting ‘aye’.**

## **ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion by Wateland, seconded by Lambrecht, to adjourn the meeting at 5:30 p.m.**

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Mayor Steve Dale

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Lynelle Amos, Finance Assistant