

Special Wahpeton City Council Meeting
March 24, 2020
5:00 p.m.

Council Present: Mayor Dale, Wateland, Bajumpaa (via teleconference), Bohn (via teleconference), McNary (via teleconference), Miller (via teleconference), and Remily (via teleconference)

Absent: None

Staff Present: Huwe, Lies, Miranowski (via teleconference), Rogahn (via teleconference), Thorsteinson, Broadland, DeVries, Amos and O'Meara

Others Present: Frank Stanko of the Daily News (via teleconference)

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order by Mayor Dale. Due to the current circumstances caused by COVID-19, Dale said with the City Attorney's permission instead of roll call votes there will be general votes on everything and if a nay is heard then will need the name for the record of the nay vote. Lies agreed.

Update on COVID-19 and City Emergency Declaration – Dale provided an update on City response to COVID-19 (Novel Coronavirus). A few notable changes included: 1) Candidates for City Council or Park Board may collect signatures electronically; and 2) Residents concerned with outstanding City utility bills can make payment arrangements at any time. Dale then read a "City of Wahpeton Declaration of Local Emergency due to Coronavirus". Dale also read an Executive Order 2020-01 which was in an effort to control and prevent the spread of COVID-19 within the City with the following orders: 1) All restaurants, bars, cafes, coffee shops and similar on-site dining establishments are closed to on-sales on-site patrons, take-out, delivery or drive-through or off-sale services may continue; 2) Recreational facilities, health clubs and athletic facilities are directed to close and cease operations; 3) Access to City Hall, the City Library, Wahpeton Community Center and all City buildings will be limited to by appointment only; 4) All bids for City-advertised projects, goods and services including improvement district projects solicited pursuant to a request for bid proposals may be submitted electronically by fax or email subject to the same deadlines as an in-person bid opening; 5) Restaurants holding a Class C liquor license may sell off-sale alcoholic beverages to customers of pick up or take-out food orders; and 6) Street parking restrictions may be waived for restaurants and cafes offering take-out, delivery and/or drive-through by the Chief of Police. Resolution 3746 was then presented which would extend the Declaration of Local Emergency that shall be effective for a period of only up to 72 hours to up to 90 days. Lies explained the 90 days is just for convenience and it does not have to last that period of time unless necessary.

Council member Bajumpaa offered the following and moved its adoption:

RESOLUTION NO. 3746
RESOLUTION EXTENDING DECLARATION OF LOCAL EMERGENCY

The motion for the adoption of the foregoing Resolution was duly seconded by Councilmember McNary. Discussion held regarding the date. Motion carried with all voting "aye".

Revolving Loan Fund – Payment Deferral for Customers – DeVries requested the City Council approve giving authorization to halt loan payments and interest collection from any business that has an outstanding Revolving Loan Fund loan or are paying back a Flex PACE interest buydown loan. He reported there are currently 31 RLF accounts and one Flex PACE in payback. If approved a letter will be sent to those businesses offering the service immediately but will have the option to do it or not. The

deferment would be for 3 months (April, May and June) payments and interest with the final pay off of those loans extended 3 months. Discussion held regarding interest. **Motion by Miller, seconded by Wateland, to approve authorization to halt loan payments and interest collection from any business that has an outstanding Revolving Loan Fund loan or are paying back a Flex PACE interest buydown loan for three months (April, May and June) if they so choose.** Discussion held. **Motion carried with all voting ‘aye’.**

DeVries noted he is currently working with the Southern Valley Economic Development Authority and the Wahpeton-Breckenridge Area Chamber of Commerce to visit local businesses and inform them of resources that are available from the Department of Commerce, the Small Business Administration, the Red River Corridor, etc. Miller questioned offering businesses deferral of utilities. Discussion held. Since this was not on the agenda no action was taken.

Bois de Sioux Golf Club – Restaurant Equipment Recommendation ó Broadland explained the Bois de Sioux Golf Club is proposing to replace kitchen equipment, a lot of which was thought to be original to the building. Two bids were received to make the equipment improvements: Sysco at \$13,369.38; and Culinox at \$14,498. **Motion by Wateland, seconded by Remily, to approve up to \$15,000 from Sales Tax for Recreation for the purchase of kitchen equipment at the Bois de Sioux Golf Club Grille Room.** Discussion held. **Motion carried with all voting ‘aye’.**

Westdale 2020 Development Agreements ó The development agreements were provided prior to the meeting. Lies explained language was added regarding COVID-19 to allow for flexibility relating to the deadline for completion of the houses. This is a time sensitive item as the developers would like to start as soon as possible. **Motion by Bohn, seconded by Bajumpaa, to approve the Westdale 2020 Development Agreements between the City of Wahpeton and Burchill Construction, LLC, and between the City of Wahpeton and HS Investments, LLC.** **Motion carried with all voting ‘aye’.**

120 6th St. Asbestos Abatement Bid Summary – Recommendation for Award ó Huwe said City Building Official Johnson has been working with LEGEND Technical Services, Inc. on the asbestos removal at 120 6th Street North. Five bids were received and LEGEND recommends the bid be awarded to the low bidder, VCI Environmental, Inc. in the amount of \$16,450.00. **Motion by Remily, seconded by Bohn, to accept the low bid from VCI Environmental, Inc. of \$16,450.00 for asbestos removal at 120 6th Street North and to proceed with the asbestos abatement.** Discussion held. **Motion carried with all voting ‘aye’.**

East Side Sanitary Sewer Proj. Ph. B Update ó Miranowski explained through communications with the NDLC it has been found Prairie Dog funds are not accumulating as quickly as anticipated. In looking at different funding options for the East Side Sanitary Sewer Project Phase B, one was the Prairie Dog funds and since we can’t anticipate those funds other options need to be considered for the \$3.7 million project. Suggestion was to wait until the bids come in and see where they are at. Interstate Engineering has suggested and Miranowski agreed to push the bid back for a week and put out an addendum in an effort to make the necessary change. Will wait and see when bids come in on April 1st.

Adjournment

Motion by Bajumpaa, seconded by McNary, to adjourn the meeting at 5:27 p.m.

Mayor Steve Dale

Lynelle Amos, Finance Assistant