

Regular Council Meeting

November 11, 2020

The Wakefield City Council met in a regular meeting on November 11, 2020 in the Council Chambers at 407 Main Street at 5:30 P.M. with the following present: **Present:** Val Bard, Ross Hansen, Scott Hansen, Larry Soderberg. Also present: Mayor Eaton, City Administrator Litchfield, City Attorney Miner, Utility Foreman Mogus, Administrative Coordinator Decker, and Clerk Dolen.

Mayor Eaton opened the meeting at 5:30 P.M.

Mayor Eaton informed those present of the Nebraska Open meetings Law, and where a copy of such was posted in the Council Chambers for review.

Action on the minutes from October 14, 2020 meeting -

Val Bard: Present, Ross Hansen: Present, Scott Hansen: Present, Larry Soderberg: Present.

Council Member Val Bard moved to approve the minutes from the October 14, 2020 meeting as written. Council Member Ross Hansen seconded the motion. Motion Carried.

Val Bard: aye, Ross Hansen: aye, Scott Hansen: aye, Larry Soderberg: aye

Action on the October 2020 Treasurer's Report -

Council Member Scott Hansen moved to approve the October 2020 Treasurer's report. Council Member Val Bard seconded the motion. Motion Carried.

Val Bard: aye, Ross Hansen: aye, Scott Hansen: aye, Larry Soderberg: aye

Action to amend water rate Ordinance 3-110 -

Attorney Miner updated the council the amendment to Ordinance 3-110 would be to make clerical changes in the billing dates that are reflected in the ordinance.

Council Member Larry Soderberg moved to introduce Ordinance 3-110, amending the due date for water bills charged to users of water services provided by the City of Wakefield, amending the date said water bills shall become delinquent, and amending the date after which disconnection service may be commenced, and waive the three readings. Council Member Scott Hansen seconded the motion. Motion Carried.

Val Bard: aye, Ross Hansen: aye, Scott Hansen: aye, Larry Soderberg: aye

Council Member Val Bard then moved for final passage of Ordinance 3-110, amending the due date for water bills charged to users of water services provided by the City of Wakefield, amending the date said water bills shall become delinquent, and amending the date after which disconnection service may be commenced. Council Member Scott Hansen seconded the motion. Motion Carried.

Val Bard: aye, Ross Hansen: aye, Scott Hansen: aye, Larry Soderberg: aye

Discussion on sewer rates -

The council then discuss amending the residential sewer rate. Administrator Litchfield shared with the council the recommendations provided by Nebraska Rural Water were to make incremental increases over three years. Mayor Eaton noted that out of 30 Nebraska communities surveyed by Rural Water that Wakefield was tied for the lowest sewer rate. No action was taken until the matter could be studied further.

Passage of Resolution 23-2020 on request to sell Hatchery Building -

Passage of Resolution 23-2020 was tabled until more information could be gathered.

Discussion on Vacant Property Registration Ordinance -

The council then discussed a potential vacant property registration Ordinance. Administrator Litchfield stated that one goal of the registration is to find out what the owner intends to do with the property, which the City could then work with the owner accordingly depending on the plans with the property. No action was taken.

Action on LB840 Sales Tax loan request -

Council Member Val Bard moved to approve the LB840 loan request for \$20,000.00. Council Member Larry Soderberg seconded the motion. Motion Carried.

Val Bard: aye, Ross Hansen: aye, Scott Hansen: aye, Larry Soderberg: aye

Set Public Hearing date for request to rezone Peters property -

Action to set a Public Hearing date on the request to rezone the Peters property was tabled.

Action on additional insurance coverage -

The council then discussed purchasing insurance coverage through Northeast Nebraska Insurance. No action was taken until more information on the coverage could be gathered.

Action on entering into agreement with Cafeteria Plan Administrator -  
Council Member Scott Hansen moved to approve Mid-America Benefits to administer the Cafeteria Plan for eligible City of Wakefield employees. Council Member Val Bard seconded the motion. Motion Carried.  
Val Bard: aye, Ross Hansen: aye, Scott Hansen: aye, Larry Soderberg: aye

Discussion on Rural Housing 360 -  
Brady Weaver addressed the council on behalf of Michael Foods Inc. on the progress of the Rural 360 Housing program. He said Covid had slowed progress but there are several families interested in the participating in the program and that he hoped work could resume again in the near future.

Discussion on drainage at MFI -  
The council then discussed storm water drainage at Michael Foods Inc. Brady Weaver spoke on behalf of MFI and said they would be supportive of making changes. Dan and Kelly Brown also spoke in favor of conducting a study to see what changes could be made.  
Council Member Val Bard moved to contact Olsson about conducting a study on the collection and drainage of storm water at Michael Foods Inc. property and also begin forming a contingency plan for another flood. Council Member Ross Hansen seconded the motion. Motion Carried.  
Val Bard: aye, Ross Hansen: aye, Scott Hansen: aye, Larry Soderberg: aye

Approval of application to join Wakefield Volunteer Fire and Rescue -  
Council Member Scott Hansen moved to approve the application of Jenna McAfee to join Wakefield Fire and Rescue. Council Member Larry Soderberg seconded the motion. Motion Carried.  
Val Bard: aye, Ross Hansen: aye, Scott Hansen: aye, Larry Soderberg: aye

Approve CDBG 18-PW-013 DD#18 -  
Council Member Val Bard moved to approve CDBG 18-PW-013 request for funds #18 in the amount of \$645.00. Council Member Scott Hansen seconded the motion. Motion Carried.  
Val Bard: aye, Ross Hansen: aye, Scott Hansen: aye, Larry Soderberg: aye

Update and Discussion on COVID -  
The council then discussed Covid measures.

Set date for Council Retreat -  
No action was taken on setting a date for holding a council retreat.

Mayor's public comment period -  
Megan Weaver commented on vacant properties during the Mayor's public comment period. Brady Weaver commented on Covid measures.

UTILITY FOREMAN REPORT -

CITY ADMINISTRATOR REPORT: -

Sales Tax Update -

Legislative Update -

RECOMMENDATIONS AND REPORTS FROM: -

Police Review -

Community Redevelopment Authority -

Planning Commission -

Park Board -

Library Board -

Civic Center Board -

Fire Department -

Citizen Advisory Committee -

Cemetery Board -

Hatchery Board -

Rehab Board -

Tree Board -

CLAIMS -

Council Member Val Bard moved to approve the claims. Council Member Scott Hansen seconded the motion. Motion Carried.

Val Bard: aye, Ross Hansen: aye, Scott Hansen: aye, Larry Soderberg: aye

ADJOURN -

Council Member Ross Hansen moved to adjourn at 6:52 P.M. Council Member Larry Soderberg seconded the motion. Motion Carried.

Val Bard: aye, Ross Hansen: aye, Scott Hansen: aye, Larry Soderberg: aye

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Paul Eaton, Mayor

State of Nebraska )

County of Dixon )

City of Wakefield )

I, the undersigned City Clerk of Wakefield, Nebraska, do certify that all the subjects in the attached proceedings, were contained in the agenda for the meeting on November 11, 2020 kept current and available for public inspection at the office of the City Clerk, that such subjects were contained in said agenda for at least twenty-four hours to the meeting, that said minutes were in written form and available for public inspection within ten working days prior to the next convened meeting of said body.

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Zach Dolen, City Clerk