

At a regular meeting of the Milnor City Council held on Monday, October 14, 2019, 5:00 p.m. the following members were present: Curtis Anderson, Merrill Decker, Monty Haugen, Eric Hoff and Nannette Severson. Member Charlie Faber joined the meeting later. Also present: Carol Peterson, City Attorney LeeAnn Even, City Engineer Kent Thoreson, Sheriff Travis Paeper, Mary Engst, Travers Storhaug, Robert Lotzer, Donna Johnson, Brooke Peterson, Mitch Tompkins, Danielle Hogness, LuAnn Ellefson, Clementine Severson, Elaine Williams, Paul Grindland, Ryan Smith, Terry Dusek and Jennie Hanna.

Meeting called to order by Mayor, Terry Dusek.

Motion to approve the meeting agenda (Haugen/Hoff, unanimous).

Motion to approve the September meeting minutes (Severson/Decker, unanimous).

Members of the Y.O.U. Inc. board and Danielle Hogness, director of Camryn's Clubhouse, were in attendance to ask the city to grant them a property tax exemption. Attorney LeeAnn Even explained Y.O.U. Inc. would need to present a compelling argument to the council, in order for them to consider it, and the discretionary tax exemption would be based on just the building and improvements, not on the land or special assessments. Mitch Tompkins reviewed the daycare costs and revenue and also explained they would like to do some updates, but the pending property taxes would leave them without money to do this. Hogness explained the number of kids enrolled had gone up, but they have to hire more staff to cover the additional kids, and also although the school provides the preschool teacher, she pays 100% for the teacher's salary and benefits. Member Severson questioned why more fundraising hadn't been done, and Mayor Dusek asked if there was a possibility of a corporate sponsor. The Y.O.U. board said they plan on doing a fundraiser in the spring, but a previous corporate sponsorship hadn't worked out in the past. Severson relayed a number of things the city had donated to get the daycare off the ground, and she felt the city had done enough. Member Decker questioned the impact granting a tax exemption would have on other tax payers. Tompkins stated the Y.O.U. board was asking the city to consider exempting 50% of their yearly taxes for 5 years.

Member Severson made a motion to deny any assistance, explaining the city had done enough, and it was time for the daycare to stand on its own. Member Decker seconded. Mayor Dusek asked for discussion before ordering a roll call vote. Member Anderson stated he believed the city should help, maybe by exempting 50% of yearly taxes for 3 years instead of 5. Member Haugen stated he agreed with 3 years. Member Hoff asked if the daycare's finances could be turned around in 3 years. Hogness stated it would take her 3 years to break even. Dusek asked if Y.O.U. Inc. was ok with 3 years instead of 5. Tompkins stated they would be happy with 3 years at 50%.

Member Severson made a motion to grant a yearly 50% tax exemption to Y.O.U. Inc. for 3 years, on the building and improvements only, not the land or special assessments, with the expressed statement that Y.O.U. Inc. would need to do some fundraising in the future. Member Haugen seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken, with council members Haugen, Severson, Hoff, Decker and Anderson voting aye, no nays. Member Faber was absent. Motion passed.

Ryan Smith reviewed the Maintenance Report. Mayor Dusek requested snow fences be placed along the Peterson Addition and along 7th Street by Lynn and Michelle Odegard's. Smith stated he had a few more places he would like to place snow fence, as well.

Paul Grindland, of Valley Senior Services, was in attendance to request the city take over the electricity bill for the Milnor Community Center, and in exchange, the Senior Citizen's Club would pay rent to the city for the use of the building. Valley Senior Services is funded by mill levies, and they didn't believe

the mill levy dollars should pay the electricity for the entire building, since it also houses the city office. Grindland was requesting the Club be allowed to pay \$350/month to rent the building, which was approximately 75% of the average monthly electric bill. The council agreed the Club could keep the money generated from sub-letting the center. Valley Senior Services agreed to still pay the building's other utilities and phone service. They planned to cut their dumpster service. Mayor Dusek requested they contact the Housing Authority to let them know the plan, as those residents use the dumpster, as well. Carol Peterson stated she is on the board and would relay the message to the rest of the board. Grindland stated they would like to start the rental payments immediately, if possible.

Motion to approve renting the Milnor Community Center to the Senior Citizen's Club for \$350/month, with the city taking over the building's monthly electric bill (Hoff/Anderson, unanimous, with Member Severson abstaining).

Attorney LeeAnn Even agreed to draft a lease agreement between the city and the Senior Citizen's Club stating those terms.

Travers Storhaug was in attendance to question whether the city had determined the property line between his and the city's properties. He would like some trees trimmed, but it isn't known whose property they are on. City Engineer Kent Thoreson said he would determine the property line that week. Storhaug said he had submitted a building permit to build a privacy fence and a shed, but he needs to know where the property line is. His neighbor, Evelyn Loomis, had also submitted a building permit for a privacy fence she would share with Storhaug. He also stated he had talked to Sheyenne Valley Tree Service, and they won't trim the trees if the fence is built beforehand.

Motion to approve building permits from both Travers Storhaug for privacy fence and shed and Evelyn Loomis for privacy fence, pending Kent Thoreson's property line survey (Decker/Hoff, unanimous).

Sheriff Travis Paeper reviewed the Sheriff's Report. He reported it had been an average month, with different issues occurring. He reported the department was still looking to hire an additional deputy.

Kent Thoreson reviewed the Engineer's Report. He reported he hadn't gotten a quote for the culvert repairs, since the crew hadn't been down yet. He stated he was still working on numbers for Carol Peterson's FEMA grant submission for repairs to Old Highway 13. Thoreson presented an estimated cost of \$133,000 for an 80KW generator and for upgrades to the pumphouse. This would cover providing drinking water and fire protection during an electric outage. The project could be submitted for a Drinking Water SRF. Peterson is also working on a FEMA grant for this project, as well.

LeeAnn Even reviewed the Attorney's Report. She discussed her review of the Starion Bond Services Paying Agent and Registrar's Agreement which had been recently signed by the city. She asked if the city wanted to go through the first reading of proposed Ordinance #28, which would limit the height of grass and require yard maintenance. The council decided to table the proposed ordinance until the November meeting.

Carol Peterson reviewed the Economic Development Report. She reported she had submitted the application for the Special Road Fund. She stated Erin Musland would be holding a census meeting in Gwinner on November 6 for the communities of Sargent County. Peterson would like several Milnor residents to attend. Peterson also presented, for approval, the Resolution Authorizing Participation in Sargent County Complete Count Committee for 2020 Census for the City of Milnor. Jennie Hanna read the resolution to the council.

Motion to approve the Resolution Authorizing Participation in Sargent County Complete Count Committee for 2020 Census for the City of Milnor (Haugen/Hoff, with a roll call vote taken, all ayes, no nays).

Peterson presented information and costs for the previously proposed wildlife deck on Storm Lake. She stated the city would have to provide in-kind work, which would include providing equipment and labor to level the area and spread gravel and to oversee construction and labor. In order to move forward with the grant proposal, she would need a motion from the council showing support for building the observation wildlife deck.

Motion to approve Carol Peterson to move forward with the grant proposal for a wildlife observation deck along Storm Lake (Severson/Haugen, unanimous).

Peterson also stated she had met with Mayor Dusek and Member Hoff to discuss incentives for businesses and multi-family units. They had discussed possible tax exemptions. Peterson stressed the city needs to have attractive incentives in place in order to be competitive with other cities.

Motion to formally approve building permit to Richard Murphy and Traci Ose – move in mobile home to Park Lane (Decker/Hoff, unanimous).

Motion to approve gaming permits to Lakeview Golf Course – bingo and meat raffle and Milnor Fire Department – raffle (Haugen/Anderson, unanimous).

Mayor Dusek stated there needed to be an appraisal done on the grocery store before he could meet with the lead lender.

The following bills were presented and approved (Severson/Haugen, unanimous).

<u>Check #:</u>	<u>Fund:</u>	<u>To Whom:</u>	<u>Amount:</u>
18180	General	SC Water Resource District	11,468.00
18181	General	Sargent County Recorder	20.00
18182	General	Sargent County Auditor	2143.79
18183	General	Carol Peterson	1050.00
18184	General	Airborne Custom Spraying Inc	2257.50
18185	General	Auto Value Wahpeton	83.07
18186	General	Crossroads Electric Inc.	87.84
18187	General	Dickey Rural Networks	344.23
18188	General	Jet-Way Multiple Services Inc	1255.00
18189	General	Lee's Service Station	411.00
18190	General	Milnor Market	12.89
18191	General	Otter Tail Power Company	1414.72
18192	General	Red River Valley & Western RR	100.00
18193	General	Ryan Smith	52.58
18194	General	Sakry Plumbing	768.39
18195	General	Sanitation Products Inc	708.80
18196	General	Sargent County Insurance	9.00
18197	General	The Sargent County Teller	230.63
18198	General	Waste Management of WI-MN	1179.00

18199	General	Payroll Account 61-639	5279.50
18200	General	Storbakken Sanitation Inc.	4466.00
18201	General	Verizon Wireless	77.04
18202	General	Milnor Postmaster	55.00
18203	General	Library Fund	44.99
18204	General	Airport Authority	147.27
18205	General	Debt Service Fund	5725.66
18206	General	Milnor Park Board	2386.16
18207	General	Library Fund	233.40
18208	General	Void	0.00
18209	General	Airport Authority	139.73
18210	General	Payroll Account 61-639	5417.50
18211	General	Blue Cross Blue Shield of ND	2636.41
3006	Debt Service	Southeast Water Users	4048.80
3007	Debt Service	Dakota Valley Electric Coop	381.00
3008	Debt Service	John Deere Financial	13.26
3009	Debt Service	ND Department of Health	16.00
3010	Debt Service	North Dakota One Call Inc	10.80
3011	Debt Service	Payroll Account 61-639	912.10
3012	Debt Service	Milnor Postmaster	110.25
3013	Debt Service	Payroll Account 61-639	1037.32
5405	Payroll	Terry J. Dusek	138.52
5406	Payroll	Jennie M. Hanna	1333.31
5407	Payroll	Richard A. Kaufmann	1175.22
5408	Payroll	Ryan J. Smith	1600.29
5409	Payroll	Nationwide Retirement Solutions	327.40
5410	Payroll	Jennie M. Hanna	1237.38
5411	Payroll	Richard A. Kaufmann	1492.18
5412	Payroll	Ryan J. Smith	1643.72
5413	Payroll	Nationwide Retirement Solutions	343.02
5414	Payroll	Blue Cross Blue Shield of ND	402.09
5415	Payroll	Unum Life Insurance Company	15.90
EFTPS 10	Payroll	Internal Revenue Service	2829.97
857	Airport	Airport Association of ND	75.00
858	Airport	Bison C Store	48.68
859	Airport	Dickey Rural Networks	117.03
860	Airport	Southeast Water Users	37.76
861	Airport	Green Iron Equipment	105.28
862	Airport	Midwest Pest Control	80.00
863	Airport	Arrowhead Transport Inc.	489.78
864	Airport	Bison C Store	52.48
865	Airport	Monty Haugen	600.00
866	Airport	Bobcat of Gwinner	41,692.00

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Street Imp #01-06 SC Water Resource District

1400.00

The regular November meeting will be held at 5:00 p.m., Monday, November 11, 2019 (The regular meeting was moved to November 4, 2019).

Motion to adjourn (Anderson/Hoff, unanimous).

Jennie Hanna, Auditor

Terry Dusek, Mayor