

At a regular meeting of the Milnor City Council held on Monday, September 9, 2019, 5:00 p.m. the following members were present: Curtis Anderson, Merrill Decker, Charles Faber, Monty Haugen, Eric Hoff and Nannette Severson. Also present: Carol Peterson, City Attorney LeeAnn Even, Deputy Richard Bryant, Mary Engst, Travers Storhaug, Jeff Odegard, Robert Lotzer, Ryan Smith, Terry Dusek and Jennie Hanna. City Engineer Kent Thoreson joined the meeting later.

Meeting called to order by Mayor, Terry Dusek.

Motion to approve the adoption of the 2020 final budget (Severson/Haugen, unanimous).

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

Motion to approve the August and Preliminary 2020 Budget meeting minutes (Anderson/Hoff, unanimous).

Deputy Richard Bryant reviewed the Sheriff's Report. He reported on various incidents and on-going investigations during August. He stated he was working to crack down on continuing dog complaints and admitted the department had fallen short in doing that. He reported the department was short a deputy, but they were still searching for viable candidates.

Jeff Odegard questioned the city's responsibility for some trees on a city lot that overhang his property at 306 7th Avenue. He expressed concern regarding some cottonwoods on the lot that have large, dead branches and could cause damage or hurt someone if they fell. Mayor Dusek asked the Tree Committee to look into it and get a quote from Sheyenne Valley Tree Service for the work. Mayor Dusek also requested Kent Thoreson determine the location of the property line between Odegard's property and the city lot.

Travers Storhaug, who is buying Jeff Odegard's property referenced above, also expressed concern regarding drainage of the culvert between Odegard's property and the elevator's property. He stated it doesn't drain properly, but pools in his yard instead of draining to the lake. He asked if he could fill dirt into a low spot in his yard, in an attempt to change the direction of the water. The council decided he could do this, but he would have to do the work on his own.

Carol Peterson presented a Renaissance Zone project application from Travers Storhaug for purchase and renovation of property he was buying from Jeff Odegard at 306 7th Avenue. He stated he planned to replace the siding and windows.

Motion to approve the RZ Project application for purchase with renovation, received from Travis Storhaug, for property located at 306 7th Avenue, legally known as the SW 70' of Lots 23-27 inclusive in Block 16 of the City of Milnor, Sargent County, North Dakota (Parcel Number 25-7404000). Property is located in Renaissance Zone Block 16. (Decker/Haugen, unanimous) Motion carried.

Kent Thoreson reviewed the Engineer's Report. He stated he would renew the city's application for the SRF fund for another year. He reported he and Ryan Smith had checked all the culverts on Main Street. All culverts are open and moving water, but they're rusty. He stated the culvert between Sexton's and Hegle's does need repair, and it would cost about \$3000 to fix both sides. Member Faber questioned the culvert drainage from the Fire Hall and the backup of water to Foley's. Thoreson said he would include the repair prices in the quote.

Carol Peterson stated the Special Road Fund grant application is due at the end of September. If the grant is awarded, 60% of the cost would be paid by the state, while the other 40% would be paid by the city. She would like to put in an application for paving the road going into the park. Kent Thoreson would

need to provide a spec sheet with the grant application. Peterson stated the Special Road Fund availability is infrequent and competitive, and she needed council approval to submit an application.

Motion to approve Carol Peterson submitting an application to the Special Road Fund for paving the road into the park (Hoff/Haugen, unanimous).

Kent Thoreson stated he estimated the update to the pumphouse and a generator would cost about \$125,000. He said he would have the preliminary engineering report at the next meeting.

Member Anderson presented pictures he had received from Robert Lotzer, of bank erosion along Old Highway 13. Robert Lotzer stated the bank needs to be reinforced, otherwise the road could be washed out. The damage is about ¼ mile long. There was a discussion about what material could be used to reinforce it and who could do the work. Kent Thoreson stated he would look into it.

Ryan Smith reviewed the Maintenance Report. He stated the jetter was losing power and pressure when he's running it. He said Sanitation Products has an idea of what the problem could be, but they would need to look at it first. If it's what they think it is, repairs could cost between \$2500 to 3000. They requested the jetter be delivered to Fargo. Member Faber said he would be able to deliver it.

Motion to have Member Faber deliver the jetter to Sanitation Products for diagnosis (Haugen/Decker, unanimous).

Smith also reported that drive parts are no longer available for the sweeper repair. He said the issue could be looked at more next spring, and the maintenance department could make do with the sweeper and the bobcat with the brush attachment.

Carol Peterson reviewed the Economic Development Report. She discussed that she, Jessica Peterson and Erin Musland had had a conference call regarding the upcoming census and what could be done to make sure everyone is counted. There would be more information at the October meeting about this. Peterson also stated she would like to attend the upcoming ND Main Street Summit Conference in Bismarck. The cost is \$150.00, but is shared between the city and Sargent County Job Development Authority.

Motion to approve Carol Peterson attending the ND Main Street Summit Conference for \$150.00 (Haugen/Hoff, unanimous).

Peterson stated up to 50 trees will most likely need to be replaced in the Peterson Addition, along with 2 trees in the park. Mayor Dusek requested the Tree Committee work with Mary O'Neill of the Forestry service for the tree reorder.

Peterson brought up the issue of providing incentives for businesses and multi-family units, which had been discussed at the August meeting. It was decided Peterson, Mayor Dusek and Member Hoff would meet to come up with a proposal which they would present at the October Meeting.

Member Hoff questioned whether there was an available map of utilities in the city. Mayor Dusek wasn't sure if the city had one, but he thought MDU could possibly provide one. Dusek also stated MDU would be finishing up work in the next couple of weeks.

Motion to approve the Pledge of Securities from Sargent County Bank ended June 30, 2019 (Anderson/Haugen, unanimous).

Motion to approve off-site alcohol permit to Lakeview Golf Course for the Weber/Biss wedding dance at the MACC on October 5 (Severson/Faber, unanimous).

Motion to approve gaming permits to Lakeview Golf Course – raffle, Milnor Lutheran WELCA – raffle, and St. Arnold’s Christian Mothers - raffle (Hoff/Haugen, unanimous).

Mayor Dusek stated the golf course drain is now open and flowing and the lake is now down about a foot.

Mayor Dusek discussed the status of the Milnor Market grocery store and asked the council whether they would be willing to agree to buy the building back, if needed. There was a discussion regarding the importance of having a grocery store in town. Dusek stated, with council approval, he would meet with the lead lender to find out what the cost would be. Once he met with the lead lender and received more information, there was a possibility he would call an executive meeting with the council.

Motion to approve Mayor Dusek meeting with the lead lender to determine the cost of buying back the building that is currently operating as Milnor Market (Severson/Haugen, unanimous).

Although the Y.O.U. Inc. board were unavailable for the meeting, there was a discussion regarding granting a property tax exemption to Y.O.U. for the daycare. LeeAnn Even advised it would be a discretionary exemption, and there would need to be a compelling argument by Y.O.U. for the council to grant an exemption. Mayor Dusek questioned whether the council could grant an exemption for a specific time period, but Even said it would have to be all or nothing, according to the state statute. If the council did agree, in the wording, it would need to specifically state this exemption is only for the daycare, which would prevent other 501c3s from making the same request. Dusek questioned whether the Y.O.U. board could do a fundraiser to help offset the cost of the property taxes. It was decided to table a decision until the October meeting, and Dusek requested that both the Y.O.U. board and new operator, Danielle Hogness, be in attendance.

It was decided to table the yard height limit ordinance decision until the October meeting.

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

<u>Check #:</u>	<u>Fund:</u>	<u>To Whom:</u>	<u>Amount:</u>
18156	General	Sargent County Auditor	2143.79
18157	General	Carol Peterson	1050.00
18158	General	Auto Value Wahpeton	118.88
18159	General	Dakota Plains Ag	144.70
18160	General	Dickey Rural Networks	340.93
18161	General	Electric Pump	502.96
18162	General	Jerome & Kristie Johnson	50.00
18163	General	John Deere Financial	40.84
18164	General	Lee’s Service Station	305.00
18165	General	ND Sewage Pump and Lift	16,685.00
18166	General	Office Depot	150.59
18167	General	Otter Tail Power Company	1606.39
18168	General	Richard Kaufmann	236.49
18169	General	Team Laboratory Chemical Corps	1180.50
18170	General	The Sargent County Teller	299.26
18171	General	Waste Management of WI-MN	1179.00

18172	General	Payroll Account 61-639	4937.77
18173	General	Verizon Wireless	110.67
18174	General	Storbakken Sanitation Inc.	4494.00
18175	General	Library Fund	48.35
18176	General	Airport Authority	97.03
18177	General	Debt Service Fund	4272.73
18178	General	Milnor Park Board	1554.99
18179	General	Payroll Account 61-639	5039.53
2996	Debt Service	Southeast Water Users	2045.70
2997	Debt Service	Dakota Valley Electric Coop	391.00
2998	Debt Service	John Deere Financial	33.28
2999	Debt Service	ND Department of Health	16.00
3000	Debt Service	ND Dept Environmental Quality	223.63
3001	Debt Service	North Dakota One Call Inc	87.60
3002	Debt Service	Payroll Account 61-639	877.10
3003	Debt Service	Milnor Postmaster	110.95
3004	Debt Service	Payroll Account 61-639	955.32
3005	Debt Service	Blue Cross Blue Shield of ND	2636.41
5393	Payroll	Terry J. Dusek	138.52
5394	Payroll	Jennie M. Hanna	1179.63
5395	Payroll	Richard A. Kaufmann	1124.92
5396	Payroll	Ryan J. Smith	1551.19
5397	Payroll	Nationwide Retirement Solutions	306.96
5398	Payroll	Jennie M. Hanna	1167.56
5399	Payroll	Richard A. Kaufmann	1239.94
5400	Payroll	Ryan J. Smith	1646.99
5401	Payroll	Nationwide Retirement Solutions	325.48
5402	Payroll	Blue Cross Blue Shield of ND	402.09
5403	Payroll	Unum Life Insurance Company	15.90
5404	Payroll	ND State Tax Commissioner	309.25
EFTPS 9	Payroll	Internal Revenue Service	2612.53
852	Airport	Dakota Plains Ag	123.50
853	Airport	Dickey Rural Networks	116.97
854	Airport	Mead & Hunt	12,424.00
855	Airport	Midwest Pest Control	60.00
856	Airport	The Sargent County Teller	39.00
1064	Library	Milnor Public School	441.19

The regular October meeting will be held at 5:00 p.m., Monday, October 14, 2019.

Motion to adjourn (Severson/Anderson, unanimous).

Jennie Hanna, Auditor

Terry Dusek, Mayor