

City Council Meets:

City Contributes To MCMC Project

By Mary Kilen

Stanley City Council held their regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, Nov. 10. Highlights of the meeting included discussion on a server training ordinance, approval of funding for the MCMC building project, and a decision on the required payback of the EDC loan with Gerich Enterprises.

Planning and Zoning Recommendations

Planning and Zoning committee chairman Todd Heidbreder reported on the committee's meeting the previous evening. They had just one item on their agenda, a public hearing on a conditional use permit from Dakota Petroleum Services to allow living quarters within an I-3 Heavy Industrial zone. Residential or living quarters are prohibited in this zone by the planning and zoning ordinance. Heidbreder said that the applicant was not present at the hearing.

The committee had discussed their work to redo the ordinances and they were not in favor of approving the application. They were concerned about safety and setting any precedence by allowing the application.

After discussion, the council moved to concur with the committee and denied the application.

Planning and Zoning Administrator Amanda Dennis had just one permit for this month. The council moved to approve the following building permit: 311 Railroad Ave., new front deck. Dennis reported she would be attending her final class for assessor training in Mandan the following week.

Server Training Ordinance

Chief of Police Sam Pesik presented the council with information from Upper Missouri District Health Unit on a server training ordinance. Chelsea Ridge was at the meeting and said the goal was to provide the training for bartenders, servers and bar owners to reduce alcohol related harm. She said that the training includes related laws, eliminating serving to underage persons and over serving. The training can be offered through the North Dakota Safety Council or online.

Council members expressed some concerns about the impact and additional responsibilities for bar owners and their employees. In the end, they tabled it for the next meeting, asking for more research and information on other cities' ordinances like this.

Housing Authority Bonds

City Auditor Ada Arneson presented the council with information on the housing authority's bonds. They had four banks put money towards their twenty year bonds, which are up for renewal. The council moved to approve the resolution to approve the issuance of the refunding of the bonds and the authorization of the operation and deficit agreement.

Gaming Permit

The council moved to approve the gaming permit for the Blue Jay Athletic Booster Club for a raffle from November 23 though February 18. Proceeds will be used for the high school basketball programs.

Gaming Reports

The council received and reviewed the third quarter gaming fund reports from The Five Spot Bar and the Beach Bar.

Legislative Services

The council received a letter from Shane Goettle offering legislative services as a Special Assistant City Attorney for the upcoming legislative session. The council discussed the contract and moved to table the issue. They will ask Goettle to come to their next meeting and provide more information on the services offered.

MCMC Contribution

The council revisited the contribution to the MCMC building project. The city has $500,000 in their budget for 2026. The council moved to approve the contribution, designating for the MRI machine. The city also has $1 million budgeted next year to repair the street once the construction is complete.

NDDOT Chip Seal

The council reviewed the letter from the NDDOT on their proposed chip seal for 2027 which will include Highway 8 as it goes through Stanley on Main Street and 6th Avenue.

Engineer's Report

Patrick Carabello of Brosz Engineering presented the council with information on the city's plans for a chip seal project in 2027. They are working on plan sheets and maps for the council to review at their next meeting. The council asked him to look at where the state chip seal leaves off and provide estimates for the remaining portions of 6th Avenue.

Carabello reported they continue to look through the information the DEQ will require for the state funded lead service line replacement plan. He would like to meet with public works to go through that information and then come back to the council.

He also discussed the DWR proposed changes to their cost share



program. He said that they are likely to reduce the percentages they fund as they look at the next biennium. He will keep the council updated on any changes.

The final walkthrough was held with DEQ on CIP3. Brosz is now working through the closeout paperwork on that project.

Police Report

Chief Pesik requested approval for the NDDOT grant application for next year for speed and DUI enforcement overtime. The council moved to approve the application.

Pesik also discussed amending the city's parking ordinance as relates to the 72 hour parking rule. The ordinance allows for removal for vehicles in disrepair left or abandoned for more than 72 consecutive hours. Another portion of the ordinance says that vehicles or trailers left unattended and parked for more than 72 hours which directly interfere with snow removal can be removed. He said that 72 hours is a long time after it snows. He would like the ability to start removing vehicles after 72 hours without the snow requirement. The council moved to have the city draft an amendment to the ordinance to consider at their next meeting.

Pesik said that he is planning to host a public presentation on scams, especially those they are seeing in the city. He is currently scheduling that for December 1 at 5:30 p.m. at City Hall.

Public Works Report

Public Works Director Dave Brown asked the council for their input on the roll-off that is currently at the landfill. In the past, they have moved it to the public works building for the winter, but that has become costly. They were having it replaced every four to six days at a cost of $460 each time. The council moved to suspend having the roll-off available until Spring.

Auditor Report

City Auditor Ada Arneson discussed the city's credit cards, noting that when they were replaced they were only given one card while in the past they had two. When department heads travel, they take a city credit card for expenses. With just one, that would mean there would not be one at city hall. The council moved to request a second card and leave the credit card limit the same.

The council moved to approve the transfers as presented by the auditor's office to the special assessment accounts. They also approved the payroll correction transfer. The council also discussed not allowing private water or sewer costs to be assessed to the property owner in the future. The issue with this is if the special assessments are not paid on time, it can be three years before the property owner pays those taxes while the city has been responsible for those payments.

Attorney Updates

The council discussed the mineral lease request from Murex Petroleum for the city's mineral interests under the city. They discussed that the city is still receiving royalty payments each month on that lease. City Attorney Ryan Sandberg will review the city's current leases before taking any action on the Murex request.

Sandberg also discussed the quit claim deed for the 12-plex purchased by Jesse Weyrauch, LLC. The plat cannot be filed until the special assessments are paid. The council moved to cancel the city share of those assessments, Weyrauch is responsible for those accrued after he signed the purchase agreement. The property is also getting close to ready for a certificate of occupancy, with Weyrauch saying he will be putting the property up for sale.

The council entered executive session to discuss the EDC loan with Gerich Enterprises. Following the session, the council moved to accept the payment made previously by Gerich's as payment in full for the loan.

Council Concerns

Councilman Chad Hysjulien discussed tree removal from private property when needed for ease of construction with city projects. He moved that the city approve up to $150 for a tree for tree replacement in those cases if the property owner brings a receipt for purchase to the city. This would be a one time only replacement. Patrick Carabello said they do talk to property owners and will continue to do that going forward but they still sometimes find issues as the projects progress.

Hysjulien also said that when attending a county commissioners meeting, he asked if they would consider cost-sharing if the city were to pave 3rd Avenue, the airport road to the bypass. The city spends considerable time and money on blading and oil and dust suppression on that road. This is a busy road and it provides access for emergency services as well. The council approved having Hysjulien continue discussions with the county on this possibility.

The council also discussed the judge's report and the amount of older information and outstanding fines. City Attorney Sandberg said they could convert them to civil judgements or move to erase older fines. For now, the council will just ask that the report be limited to the last month's activity when provided for their review.