

CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

July 10, 2023

Mayor Kehn called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

The pledge of allegiance was recited.

Members present Mayor Kehn, Council members Jason Schurz, Carl Bode, Jim Nielsen and Magdalena Popek-Hurst.

Member absent: Terry Schuldt

City employees present were Finance Officer Kylee Urban and Maintenance Supt. Darin Cranny.

Visitors were Gayle Van Genderen of the South Dakota Mail, Ken Payne and Brent Jones, Travis Olsen and Dylan and Kasey Pribyl.

AGENDA APPROVAL

Nielsen made a motion to approve the agenda. Seconded by Popek-Hurst.

All voted aye. Motion carried.

BILLS TO PAY

Bode made a motion to approve the bills to pay. Seconded by Nielsen. All voted aye. Motion carried.

DARRINGTON WATER-OFFICE WATER-\$2.45; DITCHWITCH-PARTS-\$194.60; CENTRAL ELECTRIC-RAMP LIGHTING/WHEELING FEES, POLES-\$5438.84; DAKTRONICS-SCOREBOARD REMOTE-\$490.00; OVERWEG AUTO-REPAIRS/PARTS-\$1439.10; POSTALIA-POSTAGE METER LEASE-\$89.85; TOSHIBA FINANCIAL SERVICES-COPIER CONTRACT-\$172.90; DELTA DENTAL-EMPLOYEE DENTAL-\$366.10; AVERA HEALTH PLANS-EMPLOYEE HEALTH INS-\$5376.36; BORDER STATES-ELEC SUPPLIES-\$9056.24; L & L SANITATION-GARBAGE SERVICES-\$200.00; EAST RIVER ELEC-WHEELING FEES-\$2953.58; SD 811-MESSAGE FEES-\$29.40; VERIZON WIRELESS-TOWER INT/SURFACE PRO-\$158.24; DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY-POWER PURCHASE-\$15245.18; HEARTLAND POWER-POWER PURCHASE-\$6775.86; AFLAC-EMPLOYEE VOL. INS.-\$181.55; RUNNINGS SUPPLY-SUPPLIES-\$458.98; CORE & MAIN-CONTRACTS/SUPPLIES-\$2489.25; BARNES & NOBLE-BOOK PURCHASE-\$247.99; TITAN MACHINERY-SUPPLIES-\$714.50; WESCO-ELEC SUPPLIES-\$340.00; USA BLUE BOOK-POOL SUPPLIES-\$630.40; IRBY-SUPPLIES-\$660.00; HAWKINS-POOL CHEMICAL-\$3069.46; HOMETOWN FAMILY HEALTH-DRUG SCREENING-\$20.00; WHEELCO-REPAIRS-\$398.54; ONSIGHT 24/7-CONTRACT-\$255.75; STITCH-N-TIME-SHIRT EMBLEMS-\$120.00; CINDY GEIMAN-TRAVEL/NOTARY REIMB-\$239.06; TECH SOLUTIONS-IT CONTRACT-\$1448.00; GOLDENWEST-UTILITIES-\$965.31; M & L REPAIR-MOWER REPAIR-\$332.64; S & M PRINTING-BUSINESS CARDS-\$22.00; GUARDIAN-EMPLOYEE INS.-\$930.13; ROADSIDE-FUEL PURCHASES-\$1327.72; SD DOT-FUEL PURCHASES-\$836.10; SD NOTARY-CINDY NOTARY-\$30.00; DAKOTA AGROW-ROUNDUP-\$283.80; PLANKINTON LUMBER-SUPPLIES-\$938.13; KYLEE URBAN-TRAVEL REIMB-\$107.64; DOLLAR GENERAL-POOL SUPPLIES-\$67.74; CHANCE BOYD-CELL PHONE SUBSIDY-\$150.00; BARRY GEIMAN-CELL PHONE SUBSIDY-\$150.00; DARIN CRANNY-CELL PHONE SUBSIDY-\$150.00; JASON SCHURZ-CELL PHONE SUBSIDY-\$75.00; ZACH DEBOER-MURAL PAYMENT-\$2500.00; HILLS RV-POWER FORWARD REBATE-\$320.00; SD DSS-EA REIMB-\$146.33; ALEXIS HAUGE-WSI CERT. REIMB-\$362.05; SCHOENFELDER PORTABLES-TOILET RENTAL-\$480.00; KASE BROUWER-CEMETERY MOWING-\$2800.00; VSP-EMPLOYEE VISION INS-\$167.26; AMERICAN LEGAL PUBLISHING-INTERNET RENEWAL-\$495.00; AURORA-BRULE WATER-WATER PURCHASE-\$12053.80; RONS MARKET-SUPPLIES-\$174.58; ARMARK-RUG CONTRACT-\$33.30; SD MAIL-PUBLISHING-\$2110.81; VISA-SUPPLIES-\$4858.38

MINUTES APPROVAL

Nielsen made a motion to approve the minutes of the June meeting. Seconded by Popek-Hurst.

All voted aye. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ken Payne and Brent Jones came to speak on behalf of the VFW Post #6554. They would like to do a BBQ in the park and an open pool day in conjunction with the BBQ. Mayor Kehn offered to host the free pool day on whatever day they plan to do this. The date will need to be figured out.

Terry Schuldt- Schuldt came in to voice his disappointment with the pool. He said they're closed a lot and he's not happy with it, as he had purchased a family pass. Mayor Kehn mentioned that after some looking into it, the pool has only been closed twice due to staffing issues and the rest has been due to weather conditions.

SUMMER REC

Travis Olsen came in to represent the summer rec. committee. He wanted to thank the city for all the work they did to help them out and keeping the fields looking good. He also wanted to thank the city for their support.

PICKLEBALL COURT

Bode suggested that we wait to do any painting on the pickleball court, as it may take professionals to do this. He suggested that we start out with just the necessities such as pole and nets and to tape the lines. The council agreed.

CEMETERY STONES

Kylee, Finance Officer, informed the council that there were some complaints on how some of the cemetery stones were looking. Some looked very bad and some even covered by dirt. The Mayor asked Kylee to look into this and see if Shafer Memorials of Mitchell would be available to continue the stone repairs as they had done in the past or what our other options were to start taking care of them better.

IT CONTRACT

Popek-Hurst made a motion to accept A & B IT Solutions of Mitchell quotes for IT services of \$474.96 monthly managed services (PC Help Desk, M-F/Updating 24/7 EDR Security and Ransomware Protection/ITB Cloud Back-Up); \$500 for installation and implementation and \$239.49 a month for 36 months for new tech equipment. Seconded by Bode. All voted aye. Motion carried.

ARPA MONEY

Finance Officer Kylee explained to the council that the City had designated its ARPA pandemic money for salaries and wages and now the Council needs to consider what areas on which to spend the appx. \$132,000 reimbursement of Federal pandemic funds. Mayor Kehn had a couple suggestions on where, but wants to have Supt. Darin Cranny look up associated costs with getting one of the city's existing wells operational for a secondary non potable water source.

COMMERCE STREET PROJECT

Mayor Kehn informed the council that Agkota Grain elevator was working on getting the calcium chloride put down on Commerce Street, but this takes time. This should be done this week hopefully. He also mentioned that he believes it's not fair that they are paying for all of this themselves when they are city owned roads and there is a lot more traffic than just semis. He got a quote on how much it would be to do the calcium chloride, but would like to see if there is grant funding next year to do asphalt on the road.

MAIN ST. BEAUTIFICATION

Mayor Kehn wanted to let the council know that Harley Douglas refurbished all the trash can planters for her senior project and fixed them up. The city is very appreciative of her hard work. He also mentioned that Aurora Plains Academy would like to get their kids more involved in small projects like this to help the city in exchange for a pool pass for those kids.

COUNCILPERSON

TERRY SCHULDT RESIGNATION

Mayor Kehn informed the council that Terry Schuldt turned in his resignation awhile back and asked for a motion to accept that resignation. Schurz made a motion to accept Schuldt's resignation with appreciation for his years of service on the Council. Seconded by Nielsen. All voted aye. Motion carried.

VICE PRESIDENT APPOINTMENT

Mayor Kehn asked for nominations on a new Vice President. Bode nominated Nielsen. Popek-Hurst nominated Bode. Mayor Kehn entertained a motion to cease all nominations. Nielsen made a motion to cease all nominations. A paper vote was done. Two voted for Bode, two voted for Nielsen were received. A quarter toss was done by Mayor Kehn to break the tie. Bode called Heads. Quarter was tails. Nielsen is now the vice president of the Board.

EMPLOYEE COVID PAY REIMBURSEMENT

Mayor Kehn explained to the council he didn't feel right about how COVID was handled when employees were sick. Employees had to use their own vacation time and didn't have a choice of staying at work. The council agreed it would be best to grant all full-time employees 40 hours of vacation and Anna Cranny at 60% due to her employment status during this time. Schurz made a motion to grant the employees their vacation time. Seconded by Bode. All voted aye. Motion carried.

CONSTRUCTION APPLICATION OF PAYMENT

Schurz made a motion to authorize the application of payment to T.J. Scott Construction for \$50,196.41 for work performed on the City's Lift Station at the Briggs Development. Seconded by Popek-Hurst. All voted aye. Motion carried.

MAIN STREET CAMERAS

Electrical Supt. Chance Boyd is getting a quote for cameras by City Hall for Main Street with the purpose of installing them to deter vandalism and promote safety.

SUMMER SEWER RATES

Finance officer Kylee explained to the council that there has been a lot of complaints due to sewer rates being calculated by water usage. She told the council that a lot of people said they used to get different summer usages that were averaged by winter usage, but there is nothing stated in our ordinances that would allow this. All sewer usage is being calculated by water usage and there is nothing stating this should be any different in our ordinance. Schurz mentioned that the city of Mitchell does the same thing, and he knows all of their sprinkler systems get metered through water as well. We are no different than them. The council agreed they did not want to change anything and to leave it as is.

BUILDING PERMITS

JOHN & SUSAN STEELE-404 S MAIN ST.-REPLACE DRIVEWAY; CAROLINA GUEVARA-405 S LAWLER ST.-SMALL WOOD DECK; BRIAN & JENNA REIS-409 E 1ST ST-GARAGE; MICHAEL & ANNETTE MCREYNOLDS-108 E 2ND ST-CONCRETE SIDEWALK; RICARDO CARBAJAL-312 N MAIN ST-CEMENT PAD; JENSEN DESIGN-

715 PIRATE DR.- NEW HOUSE; KATLYN BRIGGS & CHRIS ZANOTTO-803 TITAN TRAIL-NEW HOUSE; LLOYD JONES JR.-206 W 1ST ST-GARAGE; CHRIS SCHLEUNING-208 E 3RD ST- GARAGE; TRAVIS & JENNIFER SCHULDT-304 S LAWLER ST.-DECK; PLANKINTON LUMBER COMPANY-109 E 1ST ST-DEMOLITION

NUISANCE PROPERTIES

Mayor Kehn reported that one of the nuisance properties have been torn down and others are in the process. He also said there were very tall weeds growing in an area where the city guys spent a lot of time cleaning up and trying to make look nice. A letter has been sent to the owner, if nothing is done about this, legal action may be pursued. Nielsen also mentioned a mobile home on Third Street that needed to be cleaned up of brush and weeds and that a dog has been running loose in his ward, and he did contact the Sheriff's Department.

MAINTENANCE SUPT. REPORT

Clean up days are done. This is something that needs to be discussed. Way too much stuff being put out that can't be picked up resulting in way too much time being wasted. I had to change the starter on the red truck one morning before we could get started on cleaning up. I think it was Tuesday. It took us a good part of 4 days. Did some weed spraying this month. Need to get more done, but we're gaining. I do my daily pool check. I average at least 1 hour there daily. Sometimes it's 2, sometimes it's just a little bit. Just depends on what I need to do each day. If you want my honest opinion, we need to raise the lifeguard pay immediately, and quite a bit. We don't have enough lifeguards now to keep it open every day like it should be. If we don't compete with local businesses on what they are paying, we are soon going to have a \$350,000 outdoor bathroom for the park and no pool because we have no help. I do not care what other towns are paying their lifeguards. That really doesn't matter. What matters is we pay enough to have kids apply. There has been a LOT of time and money spent up there by us, the pool committee, etc. For us to cheap out and not pay enough for help to get lifeguards staffed should not be an option. I'm sorry I know I'm not the mayor or a council member but I'm one of the people that has put in a tremendous amount of time and work there and wanted to voice my opinion. We've done quite a bit of street patching. We have worked on them for 4 days so far. We have quite a bit more to do, just need to make more time. We'll get there. I checked into the generator requirements for city hall, and we have no requirement to have one. My suggestion would be to just get rid of the one we have back there now, and we can use a portable one to run a few things if necessary. As for the lift station generators I mentioned at the last meeting, somewhere between \$1000 and \$1500 for each one is what they will cost. We have a portable one for the shop and one for city hall on hand now. We'd just need to get these 2 I mentioned. I strongly recommend we purchase these. If there is an outage and we don't have a generator for a lift station, we could cause a lot of damage to people's homes/basements. The old out houses are torn down at west side park and some temporary port-a-potties are there. It's not ideal, but these are much better than the out houses. They come and stock them and clean them once a week. We will get new bathrooms there sometime soon.

We had to resort to a water restriction for our citizens temporarily. There were WAY too many people watering all day long. I did not want to do this anymore than anybody else. Our normal usage during the colder months when nobody is watering is between 40000 and 50000 gallons per day. We used 157,000 gallons in one day. That's 50,000 gallons more than I've ever seen used. 100,000 gallons is not uncommon during the summer months, and we can handle that. Rural water had to give us more water than we are contracted to get just to try and fill the water tower up. I drove around for many hours on a day we had off trying to find a leak because they thought we had one. We did not. Later that week the girls went through every meter to compare what we had going through our meters to the main meter coming into town. Now that it has rained, and with the restrictions on, our usage dropped to between 50000 and 70000 gallons daily. We lifted the restriction on Friday, it will be in the paper on

Wednesday. Hopefully people will be more careful with their usage. The water tower is scheduled for cleaning and inspection this Wednesday. We will be draining it beforehand. This is normal maintenance that is scheduled every 3 years. We spent one whole day at the ball fields before the girl's tournament making it look as good as we can. I spent a couple hours on the road going there trying to get it in a little better shape. The county has agreed to chip in half if we decide to chip seal the road out there. There is discussion on putting a bigger water line out there so if that gets done that will need to be done first. The line would be in the ditch, but there would be a lot of heavy equipment on the road and dirt piled on the road, so we want the line done first. We swept main streets, sprayed sidewalks for weeds, and made it look as good as we could before the yearly rummage sales. Spent a couple of hours cleaning out the wet well at the lagoon on a Friday. The next week I spent over 3 full days flushing sewer lines. Usually, it doesn't take quite that long but it had been a while and I wanted to do as thorough of a job as I could. They are supposed to spray commerce street this week for dust control so I had Barry start preparing that today and we will get that as good as we can in the next couple of days. My bottom blade is bent badly on the maintainer. I caught a couple of manholes this winter and it's not good. The blades won't even bolt up. There are destroyed blades on it now that I just keep getting by with, but I can't take them off or I'll never get another one on. I may have found a replacement in Aberdeen; I'm waiting for a call back as I type this. I do not know the cost. If they have one and it's reasonably priced, I'm going to get it. If I can't find one, I MIGHT be able to fix this one. The thing is I can't do it here, we do not have the tools I need (plasma cutter, big press, big welder). If it comes to that I'm going to see if the state would let me bring it to Mitchell and rebuild it in their repair shop. I do not know if they would or not, but it doesn't hurt to ask. There's been a lot of other little things done this month too, this covers the bigger ones.

ELECTRICAL SUPT. REPORT

We had two outages caused by birds this month. One was at the lagoon, the other was on the corner of 3rd and Walnut. We did have a short outage over at Carl's house as we didn't have enough room to land secondaries in that transformer since the lift station got moved over there. Been doing a lot of underground, Briggs development has taken most of my time. Everything is energized and ready out there. We ended up adding 5 streetlights out in the development then moved one at the intersection of Main and 7th street to feed it easier than where it currently is. We got behind Pam's house energized as well; we just needed to set up a time to start switching those houses over. We worked from Pam's West to the intersection of 7th and Kimball. We are almost done there, and then I have locates called in to go out to Bev Scotts and going back towards 6th street along Kimball Street. This will all eventually be tied back by the courthouse. I don't have too many pad mount transformers left as of right now. I do have some on order, but they are very hard to get and are backordered in some cases YEARS out. Whatever we don't have we will have to just cover the holes in our pads for the time being and won't be able to switch anyone over until they show up. I sent an email to Lyndon from On sight about cameras, never got a response so I did call them last week. Someone is going to come and look at what we are wanting for the front of city hall. While they are here, I am going to get a quote to add 2 more cameras in the Pool Park to better cover the West side of the park and the basketball courts. We aren't going to start this until school is back in session, so we don't have to worry about kids in the park while working. I had Cindy order some speakers and a radio with Bluetooth for the pool. Darin built a little shelf for the radio to sit in the electrical room. I had speaker wires already run in the soffit when we roughed the building in and it didn't take very long to install. The speakers are tucked up under the soffit so the weather shouldn't destroy them even though they are supposed to be weather rated. I did help do some street patching, sewer jetting, and street sweeping this month. Most of my time was spent doing underground.

EXECUTIVE SESSION-PERSONNEL AS PER SDCL 1-25-2 (1)

Mayor Kehn entertained a motion to enter into executive session. Nielsen made a motion to enter executive session.

The council entered executive session at 8:31 p.m.

Mayor Kehn declared the council out of executive session at 8:42 pm with no action taken.

MAYORS REPORT

Mayor Kehn reported that Lori Bathke Crago got ahold of him and let him know their family wanted to do a little library over at the westside park! Kathy Guindon will be bringing over the other little library tomorrow to put in front of city hall as well!.

Next meeting he'd like to do executive session for employee reviews. He also informed the council that today the pool was scheduled to be closed due to life guard sports commitments and not enough lifeguards available. He also wanted to let the council know that he would like to get together with the other towns in the county and go over our contract of law. He also feels it shouldn't be as difficult as it is to try to visit with the sheriff on issues.

Gayle Van Genderen wanted to compliment the City on the many updates on the main and baby pool, its cleanliness and she is very impressed with it and also commended the lifeguards.

Meeting adjourned at 9:07 p.m.

Brad Kehn, Mayor

ATTEST:

Kylee Urban, Finance Officer