

Minutes from the October 19, 2023 Bayard City Council meeting.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Tom Wardyn.

Roll call was taken with councilmembers Nathan McAlister, Jack Stone and Arnie Kesselring present. Absent were councilmembers Heather Bielenberg and Brandon Patrick. City employees LeeRoy Wagner, Don Olesen and Gina Arnold were present. Guests were Tina Beaman and Peggy Hoyt from Peoples Bank, Brandon and Adrian Boyle, Merle Kent Shawd, Taylor Teays, Sue Dorr, Ryan Billheimer, Norma Olesen, and Clint Fichter.

Minutes were read and discussed, McAlister made a motion to approve the minutes with the corrections done, Stone 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. All in favor, no nays, motion carried.

Open forum was opened with Merle Kent Shawd voicing concerns about a property that neighbors his. He states that it is just a mess and wanted to know what could be done to get it cleaned up. His concerns is that he was told there were animals living in there. It was discussed who owns the property, and that there will be an effort to contact them. Brandon and Adrian Boyle were asked to be at the meeting to discuss their claims against the quality of the water in Bayard. It was asked what proof they had to put it out on social media that would back up their comments. It was asked what tests were performed on the water, and what lab the samples were sent to. Brandon had to step out of the meeting, so his wife Adrian answered the questions asked by the council, Ryan Billheimer, and Clint Fichter. She stated that the tests were performed with at home test kits, and that as of the meeting date, no lab was used. The City has to send in samples regularly to a lab, and the DNR for monitoring and have had no issues with the test results. Clint Fichter, the Attorney for the City of Bayard explained the rights that the City has for handling these slanderous comments, and advised that if these false claims continue, to pursue legal action. Further more is was suggested that if you suspect something is wrong with the water, to please contact a city council member, or come to the council meetings to voice your concerns, so that it can be addressed correctly.

Library report-handouts

Ambulance report-none

Peggy Hoyt, and Tina Beaman were here to give a short presentation on the Housing 25 project, this will offer a 50/50 grant for applicants who are cleaning up/improving their property. There is an application process, then if you are awarded you would make the improvements, then be reimbursed 50% of the costs. They are seeking donations to help fund this project. There will be more information on this and will possibly be sent with the water bill in January or February.

Firemans report- They will be getting the new truck we will need to insure it and remove the insurance from the old truck.

Discussion and action on the waste water lagoon project. Bob was unable to be at the meeting, but wanted Clint to pass on the information that things are progressing and there needs to be a motion for the Mayor and Clerk to File for a voluntary Annexation Application for the land purchased for the project. McAlister made a motion to for the Mayor and clerk to file the voluntary Annexation Application. Kesselring 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. All in favor, no nays motion carried.

Claims were reviewed and discussed. McAlister made a motion to approve the claims, Kesselring 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. All in favor, no nays. Motion carried.

Claims for the waste water lagoon project were reviewed and discussed. McAlister made the motion to approve the claims, Kesselring 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. All in favor, no nays. Motion carried.

Financials were reviewed and discussed, Clint states that we are still on track and we will continue to keep a close eye on things, there have been a lot of expenses in the water department so we will need to monitor that account closely. McAlister made a motion to approve the financials, Stone 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. All in favor, no nays. Motion carried.

Water/sewer/Street reports- well #2 will be capped off. Zeb Rural Water will be doing this. The baffels in the underground storage were discussed. It was suggested that we look into replacing them. They help to regulate the chlorine. This would be something to tie into the water project. The high service pump has a bearing going out. It will get fixed next week. The water main break has been repaired. LeeRoy reports that all the signs have arrived and he is getting them put up. The parks have been closed for the winter. The plow needs new stripper blades.

Nuscience letters will be going out and served by the sheriff. The county approved the sale of the county shed to the City of Bayard. So that will be on the claims when the County provides us with a bill of sale for the property.

Mcalister made a motion to adjourn, Kesselring 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. All in favor, no nays. Moiton carried.

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