

North Powder City Council Meeting
October 4, 2021
7PM Wolf Creek Grange

Attendance: Councilors Mike Morse, Joyce Lawyer, Logan McCrae, Vicki Townsend, Justin Wright, and Jeff Grende, City Recorder Beth Wendt, Public Works Director Rick Lawyer, Don McClure, Maryanne Ritches, Lynne Martin, Carol Bouchard, Lindsey Thompson, Dave Hoene, Jeff & Wynn Nielsen, George Marsten, Karlie Martin, and Dick Alexis.

Council President Mike Morse called the meeting to order and the Pledge of Allegiance was said.

Mayor Assignment: Logan wondered if the mayor had to be someone from the council or if it could be someone from the general public. Beth said anyone interested in the position was welcome to submit a letter of interest as long as they meet the criteria of having lived in the City for at least one year prior to the appointment and they must be a legally registered voter in North Powder. She read Section 30 of the City Charter explaining the process for replacing an elected official. She thought the appointment should happen soon because there are things that require the Mayor's attention. If the Mayor is appointed from the City Council that Council position then becomes vacant and it is filled in the same manner. Vicki was the only Council member who expressed interest in stepping into the Mayor position. So far, no one else has expressed interest. Jeff suggested posting the opening to see if we get more interest. Beth stressed that the Council doesn't want to put off appointing a Mayor for too long. It was agreed to post the opening and make a decision next month.

Public Comment: Don McClure said he received a letter stating that his services were no longer needed. He responded to accusations made by a neighbor. In regards to the 25 MPH speed sign, he was never contacted by the State Police and when Beth asked him not to put it up, he gave it away. When Beth gave him a list of addresses with violations, he talked to people and had mostly good responses. He denied charges of harassing the neighbor's family and wanted the Council to hear his side of the story. Jeff noted that the terms of dismissal had nothing to do with the neighbor's complaints. It was a contractual issue. The City's Enforcement Contract is actually with Shawn Wood. Don said when Shawn called him he felt it would be a way to help the community and a friend at the same time. He added that there are violations of City Ordinances, including a cow in the back yard and shared with a chicken and a turkey. He read pieces of the animal ordinance and the ordinance regarding public nuisance. Even though he had been warned not to, he had hoped to help and to be a part of the community. Jeff Nielsen tendered his resignation from the Budget Committee to be effective immediately.

Agenda: Mike asked for changes to the agenda. Joyce motioned to accept the agenda. Vicki seconded. All were in favor.

Minutes: Mike asked for acceptance of the minutes of the September 13th Public Hearing and Council Meeting. Jeff made a motion to accept the minutes from the September 13th Public Hearing and the City Council Meeting. Joyce seconded. All were in favor.

Accounts Payable: Beth reviewed changes and additions to the Accounts Payables. The total Accounts Payables came to \$21,011.16 which included the payment of \$4975 to the Rural Fire Department the next quarter contracting services. Wastewater grant bills came to \$13,533.43. We should have one more bill from Anderson Perry that will finish the Design Grant. Logan made a motion to pay the bills. Vicki seconded. All were in favor.

Library Report: Joyce reported that Maggie has been doing some on-line training for youth services, fundamentals of how to help kids read at their score levels and youth safety programs.

The Library has received a Reading Program Grant and Maggie is working on state reports. The Library now has the capability of helping with job searches on-line. The Library Board has been asking about plans for the new library. They wondered who they should talk to about getting an estimate so they can start working on grants after they get a floor plan.

Public Works Report: Rick commented that he has spent a lot of time working on the playground. There has been a major problem at the lagoons. A major pipe went septic so Rick has been trying to clean it before he can irrigate or dump to the river.

There is still a lot of work to do for the DEQ Audit. Most of it is for permits for the new project.

The VAC Trailer has been returned. They were able to get a lot of excavation done.

We still need to get well #5 back online. We are due for testing before the end of the year. Vicki wondered if the part had come in yet. Rick said no, and he is still looking for someone to fix it.

Vicki asked if Rick had new cameras. Rick hasn't had time to order them. He added that there are some really nice solar, wireless cameras that would send info to his phone. He suggested we get 2 or 3 for the well and move the recycle dumpsters down there.

Logan noted that Rick found a VAC truck but couldn't purchase it because funds were approved for a plow truck. He suggested we could change the intent of the approved funding so Rick could buy a plow truck or VAC truck. Rick added that the VAC truck sold for \$15,000. Logan made a motion to approve up to \$30,000 for the two pieces of equipment, a VAC truck and a plow truck, with a cap of \$20,000 on either piece. Vicki seconded. All were in favor.

Ordinance Enforcement Report: Beth talked to Shawn Wood and told him the Council was cancelling his contract. Shawn said it would be another 6 weeks or so before he is able to do anything anyway but he would still help if we need him. Beth asked if the Council wanted to start advertising for another enforcement officer. Vicki commented that Shawn did a good job. In the meantime she suggested that the collective Council should do enforcement. Jeff disagreed and added that it shouldn't be a City employee either. He felt it should be a separate affiliation. Joyce suggested that violations could be brought to the City Council and we could write a letter. Vicki agreed that some things are very worrisome and they need to be taken care of. Karlie wondered if the position had to be opened up like any other City employee. Jeff clarified that it is a contracted service, not an employee. It was the consensus of the Council to put it out that we are looking to contract for ordinance enforcement. Jeff thought in the meantime, if a complaint is made, it will come to the City Council to be dealt with.

Recorder Report: Water overages for September were \$1540.22. We used 3.6 million gallons of water. Beth has ordered a new copier/printer for City Hall. She confirmed that it should cost about the same, \$84.20 per month. The contract includes printer cartridges and repairs and services.

So far we haven't been able to find anyone to take charge of a fall clean-up day.

The next LOC Small Cities Meeting will be a virtual meeting on Wednesday, Oct. 13 at 11AM.

The Auditors are scheduled to be here November 3rd. She and Jason have started gathering information for them.

The ARPA request has been filed and accepted. We received our first installment of \$51,057.71. We should receive the second payment next year. Beth is still checking to see how the funds can be spent. It may be possible to use part of the money for a new City Hall as long as we can justify that it is COVID related, such as a bigger lobby that allows for more social distancing and the division wall between city employees and the general public. Jeff thought ductless mini split AC/Heat pumps would qualify for ARPA funding.

Mayor's Message: Mike thanked people for letting him know what they think and feel. He felt it was important to know that. He also thanked Beth again for doing such an incredible job.

New Business: None

Old Business:

Playground: The playground equipment is set in the ground. George acknowledged the people who helped with the playground installation and provided meals for the volunteers. RD Mac donated \$800 worth of concrete for the footings. There is still some work to be completed: the teeter totter needs to be rotated and tires set under the seats; the merry-go-round needs to be bolted together; the ADA ramp and signs need to be installed; fill dirt needs to be added to the top level of the sono tubes; clamps need to be drilled and expansion rivets set; all bolts need to be checked and tightened; the perimeter boundary needs to be set; and wood chips need to be spread. A Safety inspection should be done once a month to be sure all bolts are secure and we will probably have to add 3 to 6 inches of wood chips every year. We should also have the whole playground inspected annually by a certified inspector. Joyce had some questions about plaques for thank-you's. Beth had pictures from the work party.

Radar Speed Signs: Beth reported that she has been waiting for a response from ODOT regarding the speed signs.

City Hall & Library: Logan passed out a bid sheet for City Hall. Currently materials are going up and down in both cost and delivery time. Logan suggested in order to simplify things for contractors, he separated the labor from the materials. He estimated the cost of materials would be about \$24,000 and contractors can bid on the labor only. We have one bid so far, but we should have at least 3. In order to structure it to "pay as you go" for labor, the project has been broken down into individual tasks. Logan went over the proposed floor plan. Beth thought the City Council should approve the floor plan. Logan noted that the building committee agreed to move forward with the piece of the building that most everybody agreed on. Once that is finished we can look at what to do with the rest of the space. Jeff added that the Council should also allocate and approve space for the Library so they can start working on that. Logan continued to explain that the bid sheet also included notes for the contractor regarding how payments will be done, etc. The City will contract separately with an electrician for the electrical part. The bathrooms are useable but will need some work. He thought that could be done separately. Joyce made a motion to accept the proposed floor plans for City Hall. Jeff seconded. All were in favor.

Logan reiterated that in order to move forward, we need to get 3 bids. He suggested that the garage doors could go to the contractor. Rick thought he could use one or two of them at the City shop. Jeff thought we were going to try to sell them. Logan just didn't want them to see them laying around. If the contractor takes the doors, we could adjust the labor cost accordingly. There will still be doors available from the Library side. Logan volunteered to do the leg work to get supplies. Vicki made a motion for Logan to be the City representative for the City Hall side of the building. Jeff seconded. Motion carried with 4 in favor. Logan abstained.

Logan disclosed, for the record, that his cousin will be submitting a bid, but all bids will be submitted to Beth before coming to the Council.

Wastewater Project Update: Beth reported that the Construction Grant application has been submitted. The only things needed to close out the Design Grant are the final bill from Anderson Perry and a signature from the Tribes on the SHPO MOA. The next round of grants, for construction, will be awarded in December.

Council Comments:

Jeff commented that he was glad the Council was moving forward.

Logan asked if we should allocate space to the Library so they can move forward with a floor plan. Joyce thought they were interested in the entire City side of the building.

Joyce noted that she applied for a grant from the Buerkel foundation for a roof for the fire station. She asked for \$20,000. She got a bid for \$60,000 for a new metal roof and gutter with heat tape. To redo the roof with what is already there, it would be \$38,564 unless we have to tear out something. Then there would be an additional cost. Rick added that there are already 2 layers and in order to put on a third, it would require approval from the building inspector. Logan thought the inspector's report said the roof should be good for another 5 years. Jeff thought we should work on the roof next year. Joyce was concerned that the wall is deteriorating. Logan added that the walls were not sealed. Rick commented that water is running down the walls so at the very least, the gutters should be taken off because they are causing damage.

Vicki thought things were going well and she was proud to be on the Council.

Meeting adjourned at 8:25PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Attest:

Beth Wendt
City Recorder