

Minutes of the Cando City Council

The following is subject to the City Council's review and revision

The Cando City Council met Tuesday, May 3, 2022 at 7:00pm at the Towner County Courthouse, with Mayor Bjornstad presiding. Councilors Holien, Olson, and Bjornstad, were present, with Councilor Gibbens present via video.

Motion by Councilor Bjornstad was seconded by Councilor Holien to approve the agenda, with the addition of tree damage in the park to New Business. All voted aye and the motion passed.

Motion by Councilor Gibbens was seconded by Councilor Bjornstad to approve the minutes from previous meeting, all voted aye. Motion passed.

Visitors and Delegations: Joni Morlock, Towner County Auditor was present to discuss the City Tax Assessor position, how it affects the City, and what the City Assessor does. The City Assessor, Jerry Ratzlaff, has retired. Auditor Morlock presented the Council with the option to partner with the County, at an increase in cost as this will drastically change the workload of the County Tax Department. More specific cost estimates will be provided at the next Council meeting. Johnny Walston, representing the TCMC construction project was on video to discuss the details of a building permit. Any contractor questions pertaining to this project should now be funneled to Johnny, and Johnny will be one requesting info from the City from here on out. Motion made by Councilor Gibbens was seconded by Councilor Olson to hire Shums Coda Associates, upon TCMC's recommendation, to provide the permit service that would meet the criteria TCMC needs for a building permit, contingent on an agreement from TCMC, stating they will cover the cost of this service. All voted aye and the motion passed.

Old Business: The ARPA annual report is complete. The new guidelines take away most of the restrictions pertaining to the use of this funding. The next installment should be received this fall. A committee decided on some potential uses for the ARPA money, but recent events may change what the City decides to use this funding for. Towner County has declared a State of Emergency due to flooding. The City's lift stations are not keeping up with the water, among other issues. Citizens are reminded that you are not supposed to be discharging sump pumps into the regular sewer system. Sump pumps should be draining to the streets and utilizing the storm sewers. The RFQ process is well on its way, with several firms requesting more detailed information about our sewer project needs. The deadline is the beginning of June, with full interviews to follow.

New Business: The Arbor Day Celebration will be May 13 at 1:30 pm in the park. Building permits for Chelsea Gable and Haylee Senger were acknowledged. A citizen concern about burning within city limits was discussed. Residents are reminded there is no burning leaves, grass, sticks, or trash within the city limits. A discussion was also had on sump pumps and where they should be discharged. Residents are also reminded that sump pumps should not be draining into the sewer. They can be drained to the street and into the storm sewer. Subcommittees will be updated after the election to make sure city representation is happening, and being reported back to the council. Motion by Council Olson was seconded by Councilor Gibbens to approve a fireworks permit for Sheila Laternus. Public Works worked throughout the whole weekend as there were pump issues at the lagoon. There were five applications for the part time opening in the department, with interviews scheduled in the next week. The free dump days will be rescheduled to May 14-15, weather permitting. The campground will be opening soon. The grandstands at the fairgrounds were discussed as they were condemned years ago. Since it may not be demolished in time for the Corday Foundation event, some snow fence will need to be purchased and block it off. There is also a shed and the pavilion that will need to be removed, but someone might want to buy them. The details will be drafted and brought back to Council at the next meeting. The sign for the campground will start to be designed soon. Defensive driving courses for city employees will be scheduled when the work load lightens. Supervisor training is scheduled for June 14. The Newly Elected Officials Training is in Bismarck July 14. The Auditor's Office is requesting more hours for the Deputy Auditor. Motion by Councilor Olson was seconded by Councilor Bjornstad to approve the Deputy Auditor to work up to 32 hours per week. All voted aye, and the motion passed. Housekeeping services for City Hall was discussed. An ad will be placed in the paper and on Facebook.

Bills: Motion by Councilor Olson was seconded by Councilor Bjornstad to pay the bills. All voted aye, motion passed.

At 9:00 p.m. the meeting was adjourned by motion.

Amanda Hoover
City Auditor