

# MINUTES OF THE AKELEY CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING HELD AT AKELEY CITY HALL 6:00PM, FEBRUARY 8<sup>TH</sup>, 2023

The Akeley City Council met in a regular meeting Wednesday, February 8<sup>th</sup>, 2023. Mayor Brian Hitchcock called the meeting to order at 6:00pm.

Council members present: Brian Hitchcock, Dan Riggs, Billy Krotzer, Dale Nelson, and Bobbie Wosika

Council members absent:

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by the Council and attending audience.

## Consent Agenda:

- Minutes from January 11<sup>th</sup>, 2023 Regular Meeting
- Minutes from January 11<sup>th</sup>, 2023 Public Hearing
- Minutes from February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2023 Special Meeting
- Treasurer's Report for January
- Total disbursements including all automatic payments equaling \$133,335.25. Check numbers #20965 to #21037. Total receipts including all automatic deposits equaling \$61,968.06.
- Administration Finance Report for January
- January Permits Issued – 0
- **Motion by Bobbie Wosika to approve the consent agenda adding discussion on Juneteenth under new business, seconded by Billy Krotzer, passed.**

## City Hall – Kristi Kath

- Resolution 9-2023 is a resolution dissolving the HRA. Transferring all assets to the city in the amount of \$13,178.70.
- **Motion by Dan Riggs to approve resolution 9-2023, seconded by Billy Krotzer, passed.**
- Discussion on where the funds will be deposited. Brian states that the bathroom project is where he thinks would be the best option on where the funds should go. Rest of council agreed.
- **Motion by Brian Hitchcock to deposit the HRA assets in the amount of \$13,178.70 to the Community Projects Fund, seconded by Dan Riggs, passed.**
- Resolution 10-2023 is a resolution amending the consignments resolution due to not having an attorney picked out. There are two different options. Jon Baker and Zachary Johnson. Kristi states that Zachary Johnson has had a lot of experience in being a city attorney. He has discounted rates for cities. 0-25 hours is \$200.00 an hour, 26-50 hours is \$150.00 an hour, and 51+ hours is \$100.00 an hour.
- **Motion by Bobbie Wosika to approve resolution 10-2023 with Zachary Johnson named the city's attorney, seconded by Dan Riggs, passed.**
- Discussion on land that is going for auction from Hubbard County. It is parcel numbers 29.37.04400 and 29.37.04500. It was tax forfeited. Brian states that it might be a good for the city to get it. The building is causing damage to City Hall and if the city owned it, it could be used for a various amount of things. The city has 60 days from the date on the letter to decide what they would like to do. If they do not get an answer the land will go to auction.
- **Motion by Brian Hitchcock to table the land for auction until next regular meeting, seconded by Dale Nelson, passed. Dan Riggs abstained.**

## Police Department – Jimmy Hansen

- Jimmy states everything is going well.

## Liquor Store - Lacey Hitchcock

- Lacey was absent.

## **Parks - Billy Krotzer**

- Nothing to report.

## **Water/Sewer/Maintenance Report-Reid Watson/Mike Hubner**

- Kristi discussed the Calcium Chloride Contract. She states that Reid suggests going with what the city has been getting every year. The total cost would be \$2,683.30.
- **Motion by Dan Riggs to approve the 2023 calcium chloride contract in the amount of \$2,683.30 to come from the same account that it did last year, seconded by Billy Krotzer, passed.**
- Discussion on the Neptune upgrade. Kristi states that what the city uses now is beyond it's last leg. If anything were to go wrong with what the city uses now, there would be no parts to fix it because they are no longer being made. Reid will need to finish up the rest of the properties that need to be switched from probe to radio reads. The cost of the upgrade is \$8,400.00 with an annual fee of \$1,200.00. This is more of an FYI that must happen.
- **Motion by Dan Riggs to approve the Neptune upgrade from Ferguson Water Works in the amount of \$8,400.00, seconded by Bobbie Wosika, passed.**

## **East Hubbard County Fire District –Dan Riggs/Bobbie Wosika**

- Report of January minutes.
- Billy Krotzer stated that the fire department finally got the grant. They already have the air packs and have been training with them.
- They have gotten four new members in the last six months. They have all passed EMR training.

## **Old Business**

- Anthony Collyard was there to discuss the MnDot Co-Op Agreement. Dan asks why the city cost is so much more than what was proposed earlier. The total city cost is \$192,889.93. Anthony states that prices have gone up a lot in the last year. Kristi also states that it was not known before what it was going to cost for water main work which the cost of just that work is \$83,734.65.
- Resolution 11-2023 is a resolution that the City of Akeley enter into MnDot agreement number 1052337 with the State of Minnesota Department of Transportation. The payment will need to be paid in May. This is an estimate so it could change. It could either be lower or higher. Until they get bid numbers, they really can't determine the cost.
- **Motion by Dan Riggs to approve resolution 11-2023, seconded by Billy Krotzer, passed.**
- Chuck Andres discusses the site plans for the bathroom project. He asks the council to approve the site plan that was included in the packet.
- There was a discussion on the placement of the bathrooms in the ally way and that would close it off to any traffic and is currently in the way ATV's get through town. This placement was different from anything the council had previously seen.
- There was further discussion and all on the council agreed that they do not want to close the ally and asked chuck to have the site plan redone and then brought back to the council for approval.
- Chuck had also asked the council to change the highway 34 project so that the currently planned boulevard could be changed into a place that ATV's could use. Nels Kramer was also present and voiced his opinion on the same matter. Brian stated that changing the project now is not an option and that it was not previously considered due to the prohibitive expense to the city.
- Chuck also asked the city if they would draft a letter of support to be sent to Dave Shotzko for the continued progress of the previously planned helipad on the DNR land next to the park.
- There was discussion by council and also John Stewart who previously worked for the DNR and had spearheaded the project.
- There was further discussion on the positive aspects of having the helipad.
- **Motion by Bobbie Wosika approving Kristi drawing up a letter to send to Dave Shotzko for the helipad, seconded by Billy Krotzer, passed.**

- Kristi states that Hubbard County will be paying for the notification in the newspaper for the city going to mail in ballots for the special election. Hubbard County will also be sending out postcards to citizens notifying them of the mail in ballots.

### **New Business**

- Discussion on Juneteenth being added as paid holiday. It was tabled until the next meeting.

### **Public Forum**

- Neil Elavsky was there to voice his concerns once again with the Liquor Store management. After a brief time, council halted his comments due to the repetition of his statements from previous meetings.

**Motion by Bobbie Wosika to adjourn 7:06pm, seconded by Billy Krotzer, passed.**

**Respectfully Submitted by,  
Michaela Dunham  
Deputy Clerk**