



**CITY OF BLUE EARTH MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
Monday, October 3, 2022, at 5:00 P.M.**

The Blue Earth City Council convened on Monday, October 3, 2022 at 5:03 p.m. at the Blue Earth City Council Chambers.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Scholtes called the meeting to order at 5:03 P.M.

ROLL CALL

Councilmembers Huisman, Erichsrud, Cassem, Cole, Hanna and Ristau Present.

Staff: City Engineer, Wes Brown; City Attorney, David Frundt; and City Administrator, Mary Kennedy.

DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM

Quorum present.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Scholtes led the Pledge of Allegiance.

CHANGES TO AGENDA

No Change

MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Fiona Green, Faribault County Register; Ben Rosol, Bolton & Menk; Jacque Drew and Marilyn Oswald.

Marilyn Oswald addressed the soil on a past street project, inquiring the contractors testing of the replacement soils mentioned at the last Council meeting.

Next, Oswald inquired what decision was made regarding garbage haulers Scholtes informed Oswald that the Council had decided to make no changes.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes from the Work Session and the Council Meeting of Monday, September 19, 2022.

Motion by Hanna, second by Huisman to approve the Minutes from the Council Meeting of Monday, September 19, 2022. The motion was passed unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA

Scholtes addressed the Consent Agenda.

Olson Event Request

Motion by Cole, second by Erichsrud to approve the Consent Agenda. The motion was passed unanimously.

CORRESPONENCE

Historical Society Annual Contribution Request for \$5,500.00.

Scholtes addressed the Historical Society annual contribution request. Kennedy implied that this is a budgeted item, with the city budgeting \$4,500.00 for the Historical Society annual contribution. Cassem recommended contributing the budgeted amount of \$4,500.00.

Motion by Cole, second by Erichsrud to approve the Historical Society Annual Contribution Request for \$4,500.00. The motion was passed unanimously.

Senior Center October 2022 Newsletter

PUBLIC HEARING

Nothing

REPORTS FROM STAFF

City Attorney Frundt

Frundt addressed the following ordinances:

Ordinance 22-17 Sale to G&S Drainage and Excavation (2nd Reading).

Frundt recommended rezoning the lot and including the wastewater treatment plant as well.

Motion by Huisman, second by Cassem to approve the Ordinance to approve Ordinance 22-17 Sale to G&S Drainage and Excavation.

Mayor Scholtes requested the roll call.

Roll Call:

Councilmember Huisman	Aye
Councilmember Erichsrud	Aye
Councilmember Cassem	Aye
Councilmember Cole	Aye
Councilmember Hanna	Aye
Councilmember Ristau	Aye
Mayor Scholtes	Aye

The motion was passed.

Ordinance 22-18 Ordinance Relating to Keeping of Urban Chickens (2nd Reading).

Mayor Scholtes requested the roll call.

Roll Call:

Councilmember Huisman	Aye
Councilmember Erichsrud	Nay
Councilmember Cassem	Aye
Councilmember Cole	Aye
Councilmember Hanna	Nay
Councilmember Ristau	Aye
Mayor Scholtes	Aye

The motion was passed 5-2 with Councilmembers Erichsrud and Hanna voting Nay.

Code Enforcement Property

Huisman asked for an update on the status of the warrant for the nuisance abatement at 517 East 6th Street. Frundt stated that no response had been received from the property owner. Frundt shared that further steps would be taken locally.

City Engineer Wes Brown:

2022 Street Project Updates:

Rosol gave 2022 Street Project updates.

Grading crew is currently working on boulevard preparation for sod along the streets that have been paved. The contractor is responsible for watering and maintenance of the sod for 30-days, and the property owner becomes responsible after that. Scholtes asked when the watering credit becomes effective. Kennedy reminded the Council that the City's credit to the sewer accounts for watering becomes effective based on household averages during next spring's watering.

The concrete crew will continue to pour sidewalk and driveways along 4th Street and Gorman Street this week.

Information will be provided by mail regarding tree replacements to those on the project that had tree removals.

Wes Brown

Preliminary Engineering Report

Brown reviewed the Preliminary Engineering Report with the Council. The map indicated the proposed project being Moore Street from 4th Street to 1st Street, Galbraith Street from 3rd Street to 1st Street, Ramsey Street from 5th Street to 1st Street, 1st Street from Ramsey Street to its east dead end, and 3rd Street from Main Street to Rice Street.

Rosol addressed the condition of the streets and underground utilities of the project area, with a full reconstruction of streets and utilities proposed for the scope. The existing utilities that were replaced

along 1st Street, 2nd Street, 4th Street, 5th Street, and Gorman Street will remain in place. The proposed street reconstruction will include a 36-foot-wide bituminous with concrete curb, gutter, storm sewer, sanitary sewer, and water system.

Brown reviewed the street reconstruction cost estimate \$4,754,600.55 and the breakdown of that total.

Hanna recommended holding off on a street project for 2023, stating she feels the project assessments would cause hardship to property owners with the increased cost of living expenses. Scholtes explained that holding off on the project wouldn't change the needs of the city and recommended to the Council to keep moving forward as planned. Scholtes suggested the possibility of bonding for the project after completion rather than up front, noting this was the way the city had funded street projects in the past.

Scholtes introduced the following resolutions:

Resolution 22-24 Ordering Preparation of Report.

Motion by Huisman, second by Cassem to approve the Resolution 22-24 Ordering Preparation of Report. The motion was passed unanimously.

Resolution 22-25 Receiving Feasibility Report and Calling for Hearing on Improvement.

Motion by Huisman, second by Cassem to approve Resolution 22-25 Receiving Feasibility Report and Calling for Hearing on Improvement on December 5, 2022, at 5:05pm. The motion was passed unanimously.

Cassem asked Brown if the City would be applying for the LRIP Grant to fund street improvements in front of Yeager's and Subway. Brown shared that the program was not available this year because a Bonding Bill was not passed.

Senior Center

Included in packet.

REPORTS FROM BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Library Board Meeting 10.10.22

Economic Development Authority Meeting 10.13.22

Housing and Redevelopment Authority Meeting 10.10.22

Rural Entrepreneurial Venture Meeting 10.13.22

Faribault County Fitness Center Board Meeting 10.11.22

Blue Earth Airport Advisory Commission Meeting 10.4.22

Joint Animal Control Meeting 10.4.22

Planning Commission Minutes 9.28.22

Blue Earth Airport Advisory Commission Meeting 10.4.22

Motion by Huisman, second by Hanna to approve the reports from the Boards and Commissions. The motion was passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

No Old Business

NEW BUSINESS

Sewer Forgiveness

Kennedy addressed the Sewer Forgiveness Request for Kiera Meyer located at 316 South Galbraith Street. The request is due to the watering of the property owner's lawn.

Motion by Huisman, second by Cole to approve the Sewer Forgiveness Request for Kiera Meyer 316 South Galbraith for \$459.99. The motion was passed unanimously.

Blue Earth Fire Department Policies

Next, Scholtes brought forth the Blue Earth Fire Department Policies. Kennedy noted that these policies were a direct copy of the BEFD By-Laws and recommended that the Council review the policy language. Cassem questioned who the department president was. Frundt implied that the policy is old and may no longer exist the way it was written, recommending updating the policy.

Bogan Property Request

Scholtes addressed the Bogan Property Request for a \$42.50 reimbursement for fertilizer purchased for lawn reseeding on the Sailor Street Project.

Motion by Hanna, second by Ristau to approve the Bogan Property Request, the request is for \$42.50 reimbursement for fertilizer. The motion was passed unanimously.

Gjere Variance Request Resolution 22-26

Scholtes addressed the Ben Gjere Variance Request Resolution 22-26. Scholtes reviewed the recommendation from the Planning Commission to approve the request for a variance to the 3-foot setback, allowing the fence to be constructed on the property line.

Motion by Erichsrud, second by Cassem to approve the Ben Gjere Variance Request Resolution 22-26. The motion was passed unanimously.

City and School District Joint Powers Draft Agreement

Kennedy brought forth the City and School District Joint Powers Draft Agreement, advising that the school board would be reviewing the agreement at their next meeting, recommending the Council review the agreement and bring forth any questions.

TRANSFER OF FUNDS AND OTHER BUDGETORY MATTERS

Investment Schedule

PAYMENT OF CLAIMS AND APPROVAL OF CLAIMS AND APPROPRIATIONS

Motion by Huisman, second by Ristau to pay the bills. The motion passed unanimously.

CITY ADMINISTRATORS REPORT

Payroll Summary

NEXT WORKSESSION ITEMS

2023 Budget Discussion.

ADJOURN

Motion by Huisman, second by Erichsrud to adjourn the meeting. The motion was approved unanimously. Mayor Scholtes adjourned the City Council Meeting at 6:00P.M.