

**BELLE PLAINE CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
APRIL 3, 2023**

REVISED

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

Mayor Woletz let those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. CALL TO ORDER. 2.1. Roll Call.

The Belle Plaine City Council met in Regular Session on Monday, March 6, 2023 at 6:00 PM in the council chambers of City Hall, 218 North Meridian Street, Belle Plaine, MN. Mayor Woletz called the meeting to order with Councilmembers Cary Coop, Patricia Krings, James Evans and Ryan Ladd present.

Also present were City Administrator Meyer, Community Development Director Smith Strack, Finance Director Jirik, City Engineer Duncan, City Attorney Vose, Police Chief Stier and Public Works Superintendent Otto. Wanda Savage served as video recording operator.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA.

MOTION by Councilmember Coop, second by Councilmember Evans, to approve the agenda as presented. ALL VOTED AYE. MOTION CARRIED.

4. PUBLIC FORUM. None.

**Anyone wishing to address the Council of the Whole must submit in writing the subject and intent of request by 3:00 PM on the Tuesday prior to the scheduled Council meeting. Maximum of three (3) minutes per speaker. No official action will be taken.*

No public forum requests were submitted.

5. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA.

- 5.1. Regular Session Minutes of March 20, 2023.
- 5.2. Revised Work Session Minutes of March 20, 2023.
- 5.3. Adopting Ordinance 23-01 An Ordinance Amending Chapter 3, Section 307.01 and 307.06 of the City Code Premises and Resolution 23-040 A Resolution Authorizing and Approving Summary Publication of Ordinance 23-01.
- 5.4. Resolution 23-041 Adopting the Special Assessment for Delinquent Fire Bills.
- 5.5. Resolution 23-042 Re-Appointing Seasonal Life Guards, Water Safety Instructors and Aquatic Staff for the 2023 Belle Plaine Aquatic Center Season.

MOTION by Councilmember Coop, second by Councilmember Evans, to approve the consent agenda as follows: 5.1. Regular Session Minutes of March 20, 2023; 5.2. Work Session Minutes of March 20, 2023; 5.3. Adopting Ordinance 23-01 An Ordinance Amending Chapter 3, Section 307.01 and 307.06 of the City Code Premises and Resolution 23-040 A Resolution Authorizing and Approving Summary Publication of Ordinance 23-01; 5.4. Resolution 23-041 Adopting the Special Assessment for Delinquent Fire Bills and 5.5. Resolution 23-042 Re-Appointing Seasonal Life Guards, Water Safety Instructors and Aquatic Staff for the 2023 Belle Plaine Aquatic Center Season. ALL VOTED AYE. MOTION CARRIED.

6. DEPARTMENT REPORTS.

6.1. Public Works Department.

Public Works Superintendent Otto was present. Otto highlighted the Public Works report and noted swim lesson registration opened today. Otto explained the SWATT Run will happen at the end of the month and staff look forward to a good turnout. Otto explained the last heavy snow resulted in not plowing curb to curb due to soft road conditions.

Councilmember Krings inquired if Ash trees will be taken down and if stumps will be ground. Public Works Superintendent Otto confirmed if ash trees are on public property and diseased they will be taken down and stumps will be ground. Otto noted ash trees that are on private property/boulevard are the homeowner's responsibility to take them down if they are dangerous.

Mayor Woletz noted resident's appreciation for the Public Works crew and their great job with snow removal.

6.2. City Engineer Department.

City Engineer Duncan was present. Duncan highlighted the City Engineer report and noted the Downtown Project will likely not get started until the end of April due to weather.

6.3. Administration Department.

City Administrator Meyer was present. Meyer highlighted the Administration report and noted meetings with several outside agencies in hopes of creating opportunities for the community.

7. PUBLIC HEARINGS. None.

8. BUSINESS.

8.1. Presentation of Claims.

8.1.1. Pay Request No. 1, Ryan Contracting Co., for the 2023 Improvement Project.

MOTION by Councilmember Coop, second by Councilmember Krings, to approve the reviewed claims as presented in the amount of \$237,954.32. Councilmembers Coop, Krings, Woletz and Evans VOTED AYE. Councilmember Ladd VOTED NAY. MOTION CARRIED 4-1.

8.2. Resolution 23-043 Accepting the Preliminary Engineering Report and Call for the Public Hearing on the 2024 Improvement Project.

City Administrator Meyer explained City Engineer Duncan has completed the 2024 Preliminary Engineering Report as directed. Meyer noted the project is will be done in conjunction with Scott County as a cooperative with the City taking the lead on the project.

City Engineer Duncan reviewed the project with a brief slideshow to explain the existing conditions, proposed conditions, cost, how the City proposed to pay for the project and the proposed project schedule. Duncan explained the 2024 Improvement Project consists of a Mill and overlay segment on State Street from 300 feet east of City limits to Eagle Street along with a full reconstruction of State Street from Eagle Street to Walnut Street. Duncan explained the proposed 2024 Improvement Project is part of a sequenced core improvement projects beginning with the 2023 project and concluding with a potential MNDOT project on TH 25. Duncan reviewed the street improvements which include concrete curb and gutter and concrete walk with ADA ramps on the north side of State Street from Cherry Street to Walnut Street and the South side of State Street from Willow Street to Walnut Street. Duncan noted intersection along with continuous decorative lighting is planned with the project. Duncan reviewed the road specifications, sidewalk and driveway along with the reconstruction portions replacement of sanitary sewer, manholes and castings, water mains, hydrants and gate valves and storm drains. Duncan explained the estimated costs for the fill and overlay and full reconstruction are approximately \$6,000,000.00 with the County participation of \$3,200,000.00 and the City participation of \$2,800,000.00. In closing Duncan highlighted the City Assessment Policy.

Councilmember Ladd inquired who determines the need for sidewalks. City Administrator Meyer explained the sidewalk on the north side was determined by the County noting that being it is thier road

they would place that. Meyer noted the City adopted a sidewalk and trail plan which the four blocks on the south side of State Street falls into that plan. Ladd opined this area of land is landlocked and he is not sure there is a need for the sidewalk. Ladd explained he got a lot of complaints from residents on the sidewalk being added to South Main Street and can imagine the residents affected by this sidewalk would not be happy either.

Mayor Woletz questioned who pays for the sidewalk required by the County and the sidewalk required by the City. City Administrator Meyer explained the sidewalk is billed by the required cost participation by the County, the City will be billed for our participation of the North Sidewalk and the City will pay for City required sidewalk on the south side and use the assessment policy to pass on the cost. Woletz clarified the County will cost share the north sidewalk and the city will pass on the south sidewalk based on if it is new or reconstruction. Woletz noted new sidewalk is assessed at 100%, thus mandating the new sidewalk is going in on the south side and requiring the residents to pay for it. Woletz explained he struggles with the idea of the City mandating new sidewalk is going in and requiring the homeowners to pay for it, despite the need for a walkable City.

Councilmember Evans requested staff point out which blocks currently have sidewalk on and which blocks sidewalk would be new. City Engineer Duncan explained the blocks with sidewalk are not continuous.

Mayor Woletz inquired how the City will pay for the project. City Administrator Meyer explained every year the City bonds for the project and we pay off the bond over a number of years. Meyer explained the city has created a ladder system over the last 20 years, in order to do improvement projects one bond falls off and another one comes on in order not to create spikes in tax levy.

Councilmember Krings inquired if there will be bump outs on Linden and State Street and if not why. City Engineer Duncan explained there are no bump outs planned and if Council wants to discuss that further it can be considered. City Administrator Meyer explained due to the fact that State Street is a County road bump outs would not meet design standards. Krings inquired if any date has been determined for the Walnut Street and inquired if State Street will have the same lighting as in the Downtown. Duncan explained Walnut Street has not had a timeline announced yet however MNDOT has the project on their radar. Meyer explained State Street has been designated as a lighting corridor and the lighting is proposed to be the same as in the Downtown. Krings noted if State Street and East Main Street are not designated as lighting corridors they should be considered as well.

MOTION by Councilmember Krings, second by Councilmember Coop, to approve Resolution 23-043 Accepting the Preliminary Engineer Report and Call for the Public Hearing on the 2024 Improvement Project. Councilmembers Krings, Coop, Evans and Woletz VOTED AYE. Councilmember Ladd VOTED NAY. MOTION CARRIED.

8.3. Authorizing Purchase of Squads:

8.3.1. Resolution 23-044 Authorizing Purchase of a 2022 Chevrolet Tahoe for the Police Department.

8.3.2. Resolution 23-045 Authorizing Purchase of a 2023 Dodge Charger for the Police Department.

Police Chief Stier explained in the 2024 Budget year it is budgeted for the replacement of one squad and the addition of another squad. Stier explained there is a shortage of squads and no date for opening the 2024 purchase. Stier explained Matt Saxe Chevrolet has acquired a 2022 Demo with 1400 miles and Waconia Dodge has notified staff that Dodge has reopened the 2023 ordering window allowing for accepting orders for the 2023 Dodge Chargers. Stier explained the Public Safety Committee has reviewed the requests and recommends approval.

Councilmember Ladd noted for transparency reasons can you please explained why you prefer the Tahoe. Chief Stier explained the he likes the Tahoe because it can go from two wheel drive to four wheel

drive and the Dodge Charger has AWD. Stier noted with 4WD we are able to get where we are going in all conditions. Stier explained the other option is a Ford F150 noting all gear would need to be kept in the truck bed and potentially need a topper. Ladd inquired if all manufactures having this supply and demand crises. Stier confirmed. Ladd inquired if it would be beneficial to the City to purchase two dodge chargers now and inquired if the City is in need of the replacement car now. Stier explained with the approval we would have three Tahoe's and three Chargers. Ladd noted there would be a 2 to one ratio for squads. Stier confirmed. Ladd opined it is important that we as a community support our police department.

Councilmember Evans inquired if the Dodge Charger doesn't come in will we see another resolution requesting a different vehicle. City Administrator Meyer confirmed and noted if approved this resolution authorizes the placing of the order and does not guarantee the squad. Meyer explained we won't know until closer to the end of the year if we are able to get the 2023 Charger, if not we will be back with an update.

Councilmember Ladd clarified in 2024 we will not have any other squad purchases unless something happens. Police Chief Stier confirmed unless there is an accident that cannot be fixed.

Mayor Woletz noted per discussions at Public Safety and to be clear for the residents vehicles are hard to come by and the ordering does not guarantee a vehicle. Woletz explained given the fact that we have one available in town it is a good decision to secure that vehicle.

Councilmember Ladd requested Chief Stier highlight the equipment change over. Chief Stier explained any equipment that can be retrofitted and reused with the exception of lighting will be reused in the Dodge Charger. Ladd clarified the Tahoe is partially outfitted and inquired if sticker packages will be needed for both vehicles. Stier confirmed the Tahoe is partially outfitted with some lights and is set up for additional lighting to be added. Stier noted the Charger will be identified with stickers.

8.3.1. Resolution 23-044 Authorizing Purchase of a 2022 Chevrolet Tahoe for the Police Department.

MOTION by Councilmember Evans, second by Councilmember Ladd, to approve Resolution 233-044 Authorizing Purchase of a 2022 Chevrolet Tahoe for the Police Department. ALL VOTED AYE. MOTION CARRIED.

8.3.2. Resolution 23-045 Authorizing Purchase of a 2023 Dodge Charger for the Police Department.

MOTION by Councilmember Coop, second by Councilmember Ladd, to approve Resolution 23-045 Authorizing Purchase of a 2023 Dodge Charger for the Police Department. ALL VOTED AYE. MOTION CARRIED.

9. ADMINISTRATION.

9.1. Upcoming Tentative Meetings.

1. Public Safety, Monday, April 10, 7:30 AM.
2. EDA Committee, Monday, April 10, 5:00 PM.
3. Planning Committee, Monday, April 10, 6:30 PM.
4. Public Works Committee, Wednesday, April 12, 3:00 PM.
5. Parks Commission, Monday, April 17, 5:00 PM
6. City Council, Monday, April 17, 6:00 PM.
7. Work Session, Monday, April 17, 6:15 PM.

The Council was reminded of the upcoming tentative meetings as listed.

Mayor Woletz clarified the Public Works committee as the day was misprinted but the date was correct.

10. ADJOURN.

MOTION by Councilmember Coop, second by Councilmember Evans, to adjourn the regular session at 6:54 PM. ALL VOTED AYE. MOTION CARRIED.

Respectfully submitted,

Renee Eyrich
Recording Secretary