

**BELLE PLAINE CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
AUGUST 7, 2023**

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

Mayor Woletz led 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, August 7, 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, James Evans, Ryan Ladd and Patricia Krings present.

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

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA.

MOTION by Councilmember Ladd, second by Councilmember Evans, to approve the Agenda with the removal of agenda item 5.1. for revisions. ALL VOTED AYE. MOTION CARRIED.

4. PUBLIC FORUM.

4.1. Deb Traxler – Road Repairs and Removal of Ash Trees.

Deb Traxler addressed the Council and read into record her letter sent to the Council regarding road repairs and removal of ash trees.

Mayor Woletz thanked Traxler for her comments.

4.2. Kevin and Cindy Berger – Conditional Use Permit for Our Lady of the Prairie Church.

Cindy and Kevin Berger addressed the Council regarding consideration of a CUP for the painters camping on church property.

Mayor Woletz thanked the Bergers for their comments and requested further discussion at the Work Session.

**Anyone wishing to address the Council 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.*

5. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA.

~~5.1. Regular Session Minutes of July 17, 2023.~~

5.2. Work Session Minutes of July 17, 2023.

5.3. Special Closed Session Minutes of July 31, 2023.

5.4. Resolution 23-092 Accepting Donation of Planters from the Belle Plaine Chamber of Commerce.

5.5. Resolution 23-096 Approving Staff Changes for the Aquatic Center for the 2023 Season.

5.6. Resolution 23-097 Grant Funding Assistance for the 2023 Improvement Project.

5.7. Resolution 23-098 Resolution Authorizing Advertising to Seek Candidates for a Certified Mechanic Position.

MOTION by Councilmember Coop, second by Councilmember Krings, to approve the Consent Agenda as follows: 5.2. Work Session Minutes of July 17, 2023; 5.3. Special Closed Session Minutes of July 31,

2023; 5.4. Resolution 23-092 Accepting Donation of Planters from the Belle Plaine Chamber of Commerce; 5.5. Resolution 23-096 Approving Staff Changes for the Aquatic Center for the 2023 Season; 5.6. Resolution 23-097 Grant Funding Assistance for the 2023 Improvement Project and 5.7. Resolution 23-098 Resolution Authorizing Advertising to Seek Candidates for a Certified Mechanic Position. 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 street sign replacements have started to meet the new standards, renovation at Fountain Park has been completed with final comments from the DNR on the uniqueness of the project.

Councilmember Ladd inquired on the progress of filling potholes. Public Works Superintendent Otto explained filling of potholes will continue throughout the summer.

Mayor Woletz inquired on where staff were starting with the sign replacements. Public Works Superintendent Otto explained the replacements will be spread out and noted those street signs not replaced will get extensions. Councilmember Ladd inquired on the reason for the fail. Otto explained it was a 3M issue which was not caught during the warranty.

6.2. City Engineer Department.

City Engineer Duncan was present. Duncan highlighted the City Engineer's Report and provided a brief update on the Downtown Street Project. Duncan explained the well project will begin next week.

Councilmember Ladd inquired if the Downtown Improvement Project is on time. City Engineer Duncan explained he believes the project is on time. Ladd inquired if days were lost for the watermain replacement. Duncan opined it is likely a wash as the contractor did not have to work around the main.

Councilmember Evans confirmed that as of August 14th the 100, 200 and 300 blocks of East Main will all be shut down. City Engineer Duncan confirmed.

6.3. Administration Department.

City Administrator Meyer was present. Meyer highlighted the Administration report and noted the Episcopal Church Restoration project has received approval for milestone one. Meyer explained the plaster and electrical have started.

Councilmember Ladd inquired if the Restoration project is on budget. City Administrator Meyer confirmed.

Mayor Woletz inquired when major progress will be seen. City Administrator Meyer noted once staff have received an update Council will be notified. Meyer explained no extension has been requested at this time.

Councilmember Ladd inquired on item number one on the Administration report. City Administrator Meyer explained early in July a template of the colored concrete was poured for consistency, color and finish.

7. PUBLIC HEARINGS. None.

8. BUSINESS.

8.1. Presentation of Claims.

8.1.1. Pay Request No. 5, Ryan Consulting Co. for 2023 Improvement Project.

MOTION by Councilmember Coop, second by Councilmember Woletz, to approve the reviewed claims as presented in the amount of \$1,937,523.33. Councilmembers Coop, Woletz, Krings and Evans VOTED AYE. Councilmember Ladd VOTED NAY. MOTION CARRIED. 4-1

8.2. Ordinance 23-04: An Ordinance Amending Chapter Five Section 507.02 of City Code Pertaining to Allowing Disabled Persons to Operate Motorized Golf Carts on City Streets.

Mayor Woletz introduced Ordinance 23-04.

Police Chief Stier reviewed the memo.

Councilmember Krings inquired if Subdivision 4 should be adjusted as no county streets were mentioned. City Attorney Vose read the proposed text aloud and explained he would interpret it as you can operate golf carts on City streets and would not be allowed to operate on County but could cross them. Vose noted adding the word County would be acceptable.

Councilmember Ladd inquired why only disabled people are allowed. Police Chief Stier explained the direction of the Council was to update the current code. Ladd opined motorized golf carts are a family friendly means of travel. Mayor Woletz noted it could be discussed further at the Public Safety Committee however, the current Ordinance is before the Council for review.

Councilmember Krings requested the second sentence on subdivision 5 be removed. Police Chief Stier noted he believes the second sentence is more clarifying as fog or smoke are not inclement weather.

Mayor Woletz explained the recommendation as it stands is to add county to subdivision 4 and Council can vote to approve the Ordinance with further discussion at Public Safety.

8.2.1. Approve Ordinance 23-04: An Ordinance Amending Chapter Five Section 507.02 of City Code Pertaining to Allowing Disabled Persons to Operate Motorized Golf Carts on City Streets.

MOTION by Councilmember Krings, second by Councilmember Woletz, to approve Ordinance 23-04: An Ordinance Amending Chapter Five Section 507.02 of City Code Pertaining to Allowing Disabled Persons to Operate Motorized Golf Carts on City Streets with the change to add county to subdivision 4. ALL VOTED AYE. MOTION CARRIED.

8.2.2. Resolution 23-093 Approving Summary Publication of an Ordinance pertaining to allowing Disabled Persons to Operate Motorized Golf Carts on City Streets.

MOTION by Councilmember Coop, second by Councilmember Krings, to approve Resolution 23-093 Approving Summary Publication of an Ordinance pertaining to allowing Disabled Persons to Operate Motorized Golf Carts on City Streets. ALL VOTED AYE. MOTION CARRIED.

8.3. Resolution 23-094 Approving Fire Relief Schedules I and II for 2023, and Establishing the Annual Benefit Amount at \$3,400.

Finance Director Jirik explained annually the City Council must approve Schedules I and II for the Fire Relief Association. Jirik explained the relief association requested an increase of \$300 for an annual amount of \$3,400.00 for an annual benefit which is comparable to neighboring City's.

Mayor Woletz inquired on the next year's proposal. Finance Director Jirik explained the resolution is only for this year.

MOTION by Councilmember Evans, second by Councilmember Krings, to approve Resolution 23-094 Approving Fire Relief Schedules I and II for 2023, and Establishing the Annual Benefit Amount at \$3,400.00. ALL VOTED AYE. MOTION CARRIED.

8.4. Resolution 23-095 Authorizing the City of Belle Plaine to Submit A Point Source Implementation Grant (PSIG) Application to the Minnesota Public Facilities Authority (PFA) and to Authorize City Officials to Execute a Grant Agreement on Behalf of the City of Belle Plaine for the WWTF Project.

City Administrator Meyer explained this resolution is to authorize the application to apply for grants and low interest funding for the Waste Water Treatment Facility Project. Meyer explained the application is part of the process and must be filled and does not authorize the project but rather allows for outside funding if the project moves forward.

MOTION by Councilmember Krings, second by Councilmember Coop, to approve Resolution 23-095 Authorizing the City of Belle Plaine to Submit A Point Source Implementation Grant (PSIG) Application to the Minnesota Public Facilities Authority (PFA) and to Authorize City Officials to Execute a Grant Agreement on Behalf of the City of Belle Plaine for the WWTF Project. ALL VOTED AYE. MOTION CARRIED.

8.5. Discussion: Request for Saw Cutting Outside of Work Hours.

City Administrator Meyer explained there was some discussion during the weekly meetings regarding the pouring of the colored concrete in the Downtown. Meyer explained during the initial pour saw cutting was happening outside of approved operating hours. Meyer explained with added pours coming up a request to allow cutting outside of the approved work hours was requested. Meyer explained staff would add a condition that a 24-hour notice to the surrounding areas would be included if approved.

Councilmember Ladd inquired if this request is for the sidewalk or mainly the parking areas. City Administrator Meyer explained it was the parking area. City Engineer Duncan explained the timing issue is the parking area as they are large slabs which needs to be cut at a certain time to prevent random cracking as if it cracks it needs to be removed. Ladd inquired why concrete was decided on for the parking surface. Duncan explained this project was a number of years in the making and started with porous pavers for storm sewer infiltration and moved through some other options before settling on colored concrete. Ladd inquired why can't we hand cut the concrete when wet. Duncan explained hand tooling joints was moved away from and explained saw cutting creates a much better end product. Duncan noted he could get confirmation and provide a better answer from an expert for the Council.

Council and staff held discussion on temperatures affecting the drying of concrete, timing of pouring and cutting and what would happen if the Council did not agree to the longer hours for cutting.

MOTION by Councilmember Krings, second by Councilmember Coop, to approve the contractors request for sawing outside of work hours. ALL VOTED AYE. MOTION CARRIED.

8.6. Resolution 23-099 Approving Purchase Agreement and Authorizing Execution Thereof.

City Administrator Meyer explained Resolution 23-099 is approving a purchase agreement for two separate parcel numbers. Meyer explained Council held discussion in closed session and a sales price has been agreed upon. Meyer explained the agreement is with the bank who is the seller and noted the City Attorney reviewed the purchase agreement. Meyer noted the purchase price is \$1,850,000.00 with the City paying the remaining taxes due this year and a 90-day close.

Councilmember Ladd inquired if Council should disclose what the City is going to be doing with the property if purchased. City Administrator Meyer explained the resolution to approve the purchase agreement is before Council and noted Council can hold discussion at their discretion. Mayor Woletz noted Council should stick to the approval and further discussion can happen in work session once the agreement is signed.

Councilmember Krings inquired where the funds would come from to purchase the property. City Administrator Meyer explained capital funds are available for land purchase. Krings inquired on staff's opinion if the purchase was a good move. Meyer explained staff has provided background information including past listing prices.

Discussion regarding disclosing of the proposed use of the property or not was held between Councilmember Ladd and Mayor Woletz. Ladd noted it is beneficial for the public to know why the City is purchasing the property and Woletz noting there is no purchase until the purchase agreement is signed.

Councilmember Ladd explained the City is looking to purchase the property to move the Police Department into the 15,000 square foot building. Ladd inquired what the renovations would cost. City Administrator Meyer explained staff have only an approximate estimate of \$4 million or so in renovations. Ladd noted a total cost of \$6 million with 30 acres of land. Meyer stated approximately. Ladd noted the property is a great location and easy access to throughways for the Police Department.

Councilmember Krings opined the purchase is a good investment for the future.

MOTION by Councilmember Coop, second by Councilmember Ladd, to approve Resolution 23-099 Approving Purchase Agreement and Authorizing Execution Thereof. ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN. ALL VOTED AYE. MOTION CARRIED 5-0.

8.7. Resolution 23-100 Appointing Randi Fiskwold as Interim Aquatic Center Manager for the remainder of the 2023 Season.

Councilmember Ladd inquired what happened. Public Works Superintendent Otto explained when the City hired the event coordinator the aquatic center manager position was merged. Otto explained staff have found a lot of policies for updates and events which need more attention. Otto noted with Randi onsite it seems appropriate to manage the Aquatic Center for the remainder of the season.

MOTION by Councilmember Evans, second by Councilmember Krings, to approve Resolution 23-100 Appointing Randi Fiskwold as Interim Aquatic Center Manager for the remainder of the 2023 Season. ALL VOTED AYE. MOTION CARRIED.

9. ADMINISTRATION.

9.1. Upcoming Tentative Meetings.

1. Public Safety, Tuesday, August 8, 7:30 AM.
2. Public Works Committee, Wednesday, August 9, 3:00 PM.
3. Downtown Music and Food Trucks, Wednesday, August 9, 4:30-8:00 PM.
4. EDA Committee, Monday, August 14, 5:00 PM.
5. Planning Committee, Monday, August 14, 6:30 PM.
6. Finance Ways and Means, Wednesday, August 16, 5:00 PM.
7. Parks Committee, Monday, August 21, 5:00 PM.
8. City Council, Monday, August 21, 6:00 PM.
9. Work Session, Monday, August 21, 6:15 PM.

The Council was reminded of the upcoming tentative meetings as listed with the addition of Finance Ways and Means.

10. ADJOURN.

MOTION by Councilmember Coop, second by Councilmember Krings, to adjourn the regular session at 7:10 PM. ALL VOTED AYE. MOTION CARRIED.

Respectfully submitted,

Renee Eyrich
Recording Secretary