

The regular meeting of the Page City Council was held on January 13, 2020 at 7:00 a.m. with Jim Heidorn, Julie Bankers, Natalie Nitschke, Chris Erickson and Lucas Erickson present. Deputy Longlet was also present. Mayor Heidorn opened the meeting.

Motion by Nitschke and second by Bankers to approve the December minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

The Auditor's report was given and the following bills presented for approval:

**GENERAL FUND:** Waste Management - \$94.94; Waste Management (Park) - \$198.96; BEK Communications - \$23.12; John Deere Financial - \$714.66; Payroll Taxes - \$273.06; Otter Tail Power Co. - \$2,134.53; City Auditor - \$1,050.00 (Monthly salary); Teresa Heidorn (December labor) - \$114.00; Cass County Reporter - \$140.94; Clifford Farmers Elevator - \$321.26; Cass County Gov't - \$1,592.80; Jurgen Suhr - \$75.00; ERCU Visa - \$694.89 (NDLC - \$50.00; Pilot Gas - \$15.18; Office Depot - \$121.43; Amazon - \$118.24; Mac's - \$124.98; Runnings - \$191.50; O'Reilly Auto Parts - \$73.56). **WATER & SEWER:** Waste Management - \$1,317.41; Otter Tail Power Company - \$358.63; Cass Rural Water Users - \$1,392.30; Jim Heidorn (City Maintenance) - \$1,917.00; Payroll Taxes - \$156.22; City of Fargo - \$14.00; Judy Johnson (W&S Labor) - \$125.00; Northwestern Power Equipment - \$370.40; ERCU Visa - \$181.62 (Office Depot - \$121.42; Amazon - \$60.20). **HIGHWAY FUND:** CLM Services - \$1,215.00. **STREET IMPROVEMENT SAVINGS:** Cass County Gov't (Specials) - \$22,243.21. The Waste Management invoice for \$198.96 includes a \$125.00 overage service call as dumpster was over-filled. A request will be made to Waste Management for a picture of the dumpster on that date and to make sure dumpster had been emptied the week prior to the overage before this invoice is paid. Motion by L. Erickson and second by Nitschke to approve Auditor's Report and pay bills as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

DEPUTY'S REPORT – Deputy Longlet presented his monthly report. There were three calls for service in December. There was an alarm call, a Juvenile Complaint and a medical call. Deputy Longlet would like to plan a "Cocoa with a Deputy" event and will coordinate with Council to find a good date and time in February. He also stated that a training session with the Page Fire Department is also being set up.

The following items were discussed:

- 1) The Auditor stated that the Burn Permit for the City Landfill has finally been received. This is only good for 60 days so a request for an extension will be made as it is not possible to access the City Landfill at this time.
- 2) Designation of depositories of public funds was discussed. Motion by C. Erickson and second by L. Erickson to designate Hometown Community Bank of Page as the main depository of public funds with a General Funds Savings account and two Repair & Maintenance Savings Accounts for Water and Sewer located at Elm River Credit Union of Page. Motion carried unanimously.
- 3) The Semi-Annual Progress Report and Financial Status Report on the Page Housing Development Rehab project was reviewed and a motion was made by Nitschke and second by Bankers to authorize Mayor Heidorn to execute the documents and submit to the State. Motion carried unanimously.
- 4) The Tax Equalization Meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 13<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 a.m.
- 5) The Auditor announced that this is an election year and candidates for the position of Mayor and two council seats may begin collecting petition signatures. Notices will be placed in local businesses and in the City Newsletter.

- 6) A letter has been received from Mido Communications regarding their Franchise renewal in 2021. They have requested a meeting with the Council sometime in the next few months. The Auditor will email their representative to inform them of the date and times of the City Council meetings.
- 7) An issue with a real estate parcel owned by the City was addressed. This parcel was deeded to the City in 1968 by the County due to unpaid taxes. It is located on some land which is being farmed by a local farmer. The Auditor stated that the City pays specials on this property. The Council agreed that the City Attorney should be contacted on how best to proceed with this issue.
- 8) Gaming Permit – Motion by C. Erickson and second by L. Erickson to approve Gaming Permit for the Page Café for Bingo. Motion carried unanimously.
- 9) Complaints have been received regarding the constant barking of some dogs especially during the nighttime hours. Deputy Longlet stated that there is a County Ordinance regarding this and residents can call the County Dispatch at 701-451-7660 to register a complaint. The Auditor will place information about the ordinance in the next newsletter and have copies of the Ordinance available to anyone requesting a copy.
- 10) A discussion was had on City owned property. It was agreed by the Council that these properties will be shown on the City website as available and any other property in the City privately owned which is available for sale will also be added if the owners so request.
- 11) Bankers stated that she has been working on a “Welcome Packet” for new residents and is near completion. She presented this to the Council for their review. The Council all agreed it looks very good and should be very helpful to new residents.
- 12) Nitschke stated that due to the bad weather so far this year the Park Board was unable to get the ice rink erected. The Park Board is still considering doing Roller Skating in the Auditorium on Sundays.
- 13) Mayor Heidorn requested that the City Council consider buying a Welder unit for the City Shop. An estimate for the cost of a welder and supplies needed would be about \$500. Motion by Nitschke and second by Bankers to approve the purchase of a welder and supplies. Motion carried unanimously.
- 14) Miscellaneous Correspondence was reviewed. No action taken.
- 15) A discussion was had on the recent bad weather in the area. There is a concern about where to house stranded motorists when bad weather occurs. During the last storm 5 people who were stranded on Highway 38 were brought into town by a deputy and accommodations were made for them at the church. As this option may not be available at all times other suggestions were discussed. Nitschke stated that perhaps the Auditorium could be used as a shelter. The Council all agreed this was the best option. Nitschke will check availability of cots with the Salvation Army and pillows and pillow cases will be ordered. She will also check with the local Quilting organization at the Church if they would be willing to donate about 6 quilts to be used for the shelter. Once arrangements for storage of these items in the auditorium and procedures for access to the Auditorium during storms are developed local law enforcement will be informed.

16) Past Due water bills were discussed. Two accounts will be shut off if past due amounts are not received immediately. A discussion was had on the disconnect and reconnect fees. At present the disconnect fee is at \$25.00 and the reconnect fee is also at \$25.00. It was decided that residents who have their services disconnected more than once in a year's time should be charged more. Motion by C. Erickson and second by Nitschke to increase the disconnect fee to \$50.00 and the reconnect fee to \$50.00 for accounts that have services disconnected more than once in a year's time. Motion carried unanimously.

The past due accounts this month are as follows:

Dustin Erickson – over 60 days past due  
Lance Iwen – over 90 days past due  
Nathan Nelson – over 30 days past due  
Kristine Royal – over 90 days past due  
Carol Stafford – over 60 days past due

There being no further business brought before the Council motion was made by Nitschke and second by Bankers to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 8:30 a.m. The next regular Council meeting will be Monday, February 10, 2020 at 7:00 AM.

Judy L. Johnson  
City Auditor