

Max Council Meeting

The Max City Council met Monday, December 11, 2023 at 7 pm. Council members, Swanson, Adams, Fritel, and Vert Present. Mayor Zabka absent. Also attending were visitors, Ray Iverson, Jody Gullickson, Catherine Turcotte, Michele Peterson-Lies, and Nathan Amick of Ackerman Estvold.

Meeting called to order.

Fritel moved to dispense with reading of minutes from November, 2023, meeting. Vert second. Vote all aye. m/c/a.

Iverson updated council on the Christmas visitation for the museum. He informed that individual visitations are few in numbers, but groups are scheduled in the next week or so to visit.

Amick discussed the water rates report. Council consensus is to table both Water and Garbage rates until the next meeting. Tabled.

Jody Gullickson presented to council quotes and plans for obtaining funding sources to remodel the Auditor's office. Specifically, the need for furniture, carpeting, and repairs to the ceiling from water damage. She informed council that 75% of the project has already been promised, and she will continue with funding endeavors. Also, the auditor's office has already received \$1000 donation from the Red-Light Bar. Iverson volunteered to help find funding sources. Council discussed paying for the ceiling repairs because it is structure of a city building. Vert moved to approve the remodel, and to obtain bids for the ceiling repair. Adams second. Vote all aye. m/c/a.

City maintenance requested needed supplies for upcoming projects and general repairs. Fritel moved to approve. Adams second. Vote all aye. m/c/a.

The court report was presented, and Judge Krebsbach discussed a proposed contract with the county to move all court matters to County District Court. Council consensus is that it is in the best interest of the city to keep the municipal court in the city of Max.

Opening of bids received for Lots 3-6 of Block 9, in the city of Max. Vert moved to accept bid from Jennifer Peterson, and Steven Kittleson, in the amount of \$2,500. Adams second. Vote all aye. m/c/a.

A letter was presented from a resident regarding junk debris clean-up of their property, asking council for an extension of time due to weather. Council agrees to the extension of no later than June 30, 2024.

McLean County is offering for the city Max to purchase Lots 5-7, of Block 2 for \$42. Adams moved to purchase the lots. Fritel second. Vote all aye. m/c/a.

Presented was the 2024 paid holiday schedule consisting of New Year's Day, Memorial Day, 4th of July, Labor Day, Thanksgiving, Christmas Day, and one floating holiday as the official paid holidays.

Council discussed purchasing garbage bags from Rough Rider Industries. Adam moved to approve. Fritel second. Vote all aye. m/c/a.

Council reviewed the 2022 financial Audit from the States Auditor’s office. The city is in good standing with fund balances. Vert moved to approve the Audit. Adams second. Vote all aye. m/c/a.

Discussion was held regarding balancing issues from the beginning conversion from BM software as well as the financial feasibility for the accounting and payroll portions of the software compared to QuickBooks. It was mentioned that this was what the city was doing before 2018, and it seemed to work well. Council agree that keeping the Utility portion and going back to QuicBooks for accounting and payroll is the best option. Vert moved to approve. Fritel second. Vote all aye. m/c/a

Vert motioned to approve Southside Lounge and the Red-Light Bar’s Liquor license for January through June of 2024. Adams second. Vote all aye. m/c/a.

Bills to pay in December were reviewed. Vert moved to approve paying the bills. Fritel second. Vote all aye. m/c/a.

BILLS TO PAY-DECEMBER 2023

ENTITY	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT
Ackerman-Estvold	Asbestos & Water Analysis Reports, Inv #00018230, 00018243	2,105.00
Acme Tools	Weed Trimmer	113.52
Aramark	Rugs and Supplies Inv #2550240436, 2550246392, 2550252384	487.74
Blue 360 Media, LLC	Criminal & Traffic Law Manual	82.95
Circle Sanitation	Garbage Service	4,272.75
EFTPS	Payroll 941 Liabilities-Paid online (Employer Portion) November	851.65
Hach Company	Water Testing Chemicals	76.92
First District Health	Water Testing	30.00
Max Farm Services	Fuel Costs	543.15
McLean County Sherriff's Dept.	Police Protection	2,685.52
MDU	Natural Gas Utility	763.78
Menards	Shop Fluorescent Bulbs	19.98
Microsoft Office	Cloud Storage-paid online	1.99
Municipal Judge	December 2023 Judges Pay	178.00
ND Sewage Pump and Lift	Annual Service at Main Lift	587.28
NPRWD	Purchased Water	4,051.95
NorDak North Publications	Publishing	176.68
One Call	Locates	1.30
Ottertail Power Company	Electric Utility	1,235.38
Plesuck, Robbin	Reimbursement for Christmas Tree plus tax	300.99
Reservation Telephone Company	Phone and Internet Utilities (Paid online)	404.11
State of North Dakota	2022 Financial Review Fees	945.00
US Postal Service	2 rolls regular, 2 rolls postcard, certified letter (Already paid \$110.56)	234.00
	Total	\$17,931.12

Financial reports were reviewed. Fritel motioned to approve the reports. Adams second. Vote all aye. m/c/a.

Swanson directed the auditor to send Pink Slips/and or shut off notices for delinquent bills.

Fritel motioned for the meeting to adjourn. Adams second. Vote all aye. m/c/a.

Meeting adjourned. Next council meeting, due to the holiday is scheduled for January 8. 2024 at 7 pm.

Cody Swanson-Council President

Anita Porter-Auditor