

The Max City Council met Monday, January 6, 2025 at 7:00 pm. Mayor Zabka and council members; Swanson, Fritel, Adams, and Westman were present. Visitors in attendance were Kathy Huettl, and Bonnie Torrence, reporter, from the McLean County Independent.

Meeting called to order.

Swanson moved to approve and dispense with reading December, 2024, meeting minutes, Fritel second. Vote all aye, m/c/a.

Kathy Huettl discussed the possibility of getting gaming funds to replace the roof of the Over 55 Club building, but it will require 3 estimates for the cost of the project. Huettl asked if the city should get the estimates, or allow the club to obtain them. She informed council that she already had inquiries about the project. Council consensus is for the club to get the estimates. The club has already given \$1,200 to the city to hold for the project. Council is open to discussion about providing funds, if necessary, as more details become known.

A demolition permit was presented by Kathy Huettl, of Planning and Zoning, to remove an old house, on Lots 4-5, block 14, for development purposes, to place a new home there sometime in the near future. Adams motioned to approve, Westman second. Vote all aye. m/c/a.

Maintenance presented a quote from ND Sewage Pump and Lift Station Service Company, Inc. for the recommended replacement of the pumps for the Lift Station. The estimated cost is \$25,145. Council discussed that there will be electrical work needing to be done as well. Council consensus is to get estimates for those costs before a decision is made. Tabled until next meeting. Maintenance asked if the landfill should be closed during the winter because of the weather, and the condition of the road into the landfill. Council consensus is, that it should be left up to Maintenance's discretion. Maintenance informed council that the dishwasher in the shop is never used, nor is it working, and suggested it be taken out. Council agreed. Discussion was held on trees needing trimmed on a resident's property that is hindering driver's visibility of a stop sign, and part of the view of Carvell St. and 7<sup>th</sup> Ave. Council directed the auditor to send a letter to the property owners to ask for them to trim their trees.

Presented to the city was a letter from NPRWD informing the city of water rates rising .25 per 1000 gallons, the change in rates is to the city and will NOT affect Max City water customers.

Presented were letters from Wold Engineering, and the ND DOT, explaining the Chip Sealing of HWY 83 from Totten Trail to HWY 23. As well as Mclean County Road 2, during the 2025 construction season.

An estimate was presented for the cost of magnetic signs for the city vehicles. The cost is approximately \$400 for 4 signs. Council decided on the color of Royal Blue. Adams motioned to approve the purchase of the magnetic signs. Westman second. Vote all aye. m/c/a.

The auditor updated council on the outcome from sending the lead line information letters. There have been 26 responses providing the material type of pipes from the meter to the service line. Information is still needed from approximately 80 more residents in the city.

Presented from the auditor, was the need for a new Coffee Pot with Auto Shutoff, for the Hall Kitchen. Westman motioned to approve the purchase. Adams second. Vote all aye. m/c/a.

Discussed was the idea of having a service window installed at the Auditor’s office, and installing new vanities in the bathrooms. Council directed the auditor to get estimates. Tabled until estimates are obtained.

Discussion was held on employee evaluations coming up in January. Mayor Zabka, and Council President Swanson, will schedule them.

Bills were presented to be paid in January, 2025. Fritel motioned to pay the bills. Swanson second. Vote all aye. m/c/a.

<b>ENTITY</b>	<b>Electric Utilities</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>
Blue Cross Blue Shield of ND	Medical Insurance (Employer Portion)	1,000.00
Circle Sanitation	Garbage Service Contract	4,212.00
Craig Smith	Reimburse for Dakota Home & Leisure/Ice Melt	43.96
D & L Auto	Tire Repair	30.00
Dakota Fluid Power	Loader Hose Assembly	67.07
EFTPS	Payroll 941 Liabilities-Paid online (Employer Portion) DEC 2024	923.47
Fire Extinguishing Systems	Quarterly Fire Suppression System Inspection	404.80
First District Health	Water Testing	30.00
Max Farm Services	Fuel Costs	540.06
McLean County Sherriff's Dept.	Police Protection	2,739.23
MDU	Natural Gas Utilities	373.22
Microsoft Office	Cloud Storage	2.14
Municipal Judge	Monthly Pay	178.00
NAPA	Battery & Core Charges	136.23
ND Pump & Sewage	Sewer Lift Annual Service	700.00
ND State Tax Treasurer	State Employment Tax	66.00
ND Workforce Safety	Workman's Comp	949.13
ND UI ICE	Unemployment Insurance	275.34
NorDak North Publications	Publishing- estimated	133.84
NPRWD	Purchased Water	3,595.85
Ottertail Power Company	Electric Utilities	1,373.25
QuickBooks	December Subscription -25.00 is for accounting service	379.00
RTC	December Phone Bill-Estimated	406.00
Sign Solutions	Stop signs	214.80
Sweeney Controls	Water Tower Annual SCADA	540.00
US Postal Service	2 Rolls Post Card stamps	112.00
<b>Totals</b>		<b>19,425.39</b>

Financial reports for the year 2024, and the Quarter 4 Budget review, were presented. Discussed were the positive balance transfers to investment accounts in 2025. More discussion to be held after the Auditor submits the Reviews to the State, and their final report is in. The 2024 Budget looks to be within the budget ranges, with the exception of the General Fund, being negative \$1,807.61, due to mid-year

changes the state recommended, during the 2023 Financial Review process in July of 2024. Adams motioned to approve the reports. Fritel second. Vote all aye. m/c/a.

A request for needed office supplies was submitted, including a new paper shredding machine. Adams motioned to approve the purchases. Westman second. Vote all aye. m/c/a.

Discussed were delinquent city utility accounts. Council directed the auditor to send pink slips and/or shut off notices as needed.

Westman motioned for the meeting to adjourn. Swanson second. Vote all aye. m/c/a.

Due to scheduling conflicts, the next council meeting, is to be held on Wednesday, February 05, 2025 at 7:00 pm.

Aaron Zabka, Mayor

Anita Porter, Auditor