

Cooperstown City Council

November 6, 2017 – City Hall – 7:00 PM

Mayor Paintner called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. Members present included Paul Paintner, Lee Watne, Welton Cochrane, Rick Cushman, Nic Zimprich, Tim Erickson and Bryan Ressler. Others in attendance: Blaine Larson, Nancy Lunde, Phyllis Ratcliffe, Mark Urness and Ervin Vogt.

Agenda & Minutes: Cushman moved, Zimprich seconded, to approve the agenda with additions and corrections. Motion carried unanimously. The minutes from the October 2, 2017 meeting were approved with a motion from Cushman, seconded by Watne. Motion carried unanimously. Zimprich moved, Cochrane seconded, to approve the minutes from the October 6, 2017 Special Meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Paintner asked for a motion to adjourn the regular city council meeting. Cochrane moved, Cushman seconded, to adjourn the regular city council meeting.

Mayor Paintner opened the public hearing at 7:05 pm. Members present included Paul Paintner, Rick Cushman, Lee Watne, Tim Erickson, Nic Zimprich, Bryan Ressler and Welton Cochrane. Others in attendance were Ervin Vogt, Mark Urness, Phyllis Ratcliffe, Blaine Larson and Nancy Lunde.

Blight Hearing: Ervin Vogt attended the hearing. He stated he has removed many pounds of aluminum cans. Welton Cochrane asked questions regarding the many vehicles located at the residence. Mr. Vogt stated that they are not all licensed and insured. He stated he hopes to have all the vehicles in his junkyard and his personal yard crushed this spring. Mayor Paintner stated that Mr. Vogt had informed the City Council last year that he would remove all the vehicles. The Mayor also stated that vehicles cannot be left on the streets, they need to be removed in the winter for snow removal. Motion by Cochrane, seconded by Erickson to declare the property at 1001 Howard Avenue SE to be in violation of Ordinance No. 2017-3 and owner must abate all items in violation of this ordinance within 15 days. If not abated the city will remove cars to a property chosen by the owner. Roll call vote: Aye: Cochrane Nay: Ressler, Zimprich, Erickson, Watne and Cushman. Motion failed.

Mayor Paintner asked for a motion to adjourn the hearing. Cushman moved, Cochrane seconded, to adjourn the hearing. Ressler moved, Zimprich seconded to reconvene the regular city council meeting.

South Central Dakota Regional Council: There was discussion of the grant received from South Central Dakota Regional Council in the amount of \$162,175.00. The City's portion of the total project of \$230,000.00 is \$67,825.00. The grant is for the Cooperstown Water and Sewer Replacement project on Odegard Avenue. Cushman moved, Erickson seconded, to accept the grant offered to the City of Cooperstown by South Central Dakota Regional Council for the Cooperstown Water and Sewer

Replacement Project on Odegard Avenue. Motion carried unanimously. Nancy gave a brief explanation of options available to the city regarding the City's portion of this project. The city can either take a new loan with the Health Department or use the existing revenue for expenses on the City's portion. The Corps of Engineers Waterline Replacement project cost has come in way under what was projected, thus leaving extra revenue unused which could fund the City's portion of this new project. The city could also take another loan with the Health Department without further raising utility rates as the raise in rate for the Corps project was sufficient to cover this new project also, since it did come in way under the projection. The city council will re-evaluate the utility revenue in the spring and determine if it is sufficient to fund the City's portion of the costs of the new project. Mayor Paintner emphasized the importance of the keeping the annual dues paid to South Central Dakota Regional Council as this grant would not have been available to the city of these dues had not been paid. Earlier in the year the Griggs County Commissioners made the decision not to maintain these services and not pay these dues. The cities of Griggs County urged the commissioners to pay these dues with the 3 cities paying their ¼ share.

Sales & Use Tax-Tax Cap: Nancy Lunde provided information to the council regarding the Cooperstown Sales & Use Tax rate. Currently the city's portion is 1 ½ %. Many cities in North Dakota are increasing their sales tax by ½% or 1% to make up the state aid revenue that has been lost. Nancy also informed the city council that the city currently has a city sales tax cap of \$50.00. After discussion, Cushman moved, Zimprich seconded, to repeal a portion of Ordinance No. 2008-1 regarding the maximum tax cap of \$50.00, to remove the cap and to contact the state tax department regarding this change. Motion carried unanimously.

Blue Cross Premiums: After discussion of the increase in premium rates. Cochrane moved, Watne seconded to pay 81% of the Blue Cross premium increase for family policies and 93% of the Blue Cross premium increase for single policies. Motion carried unanimously.

Dept. Reports:

WSS: Blaine Larson reported on the activities of the city crew for the past month. He stated a pump at the wellhouse is not working correctly. These pumps are 3 ½ years old. Water Smith, Inc. will be coming to determine if the problem is in the wiring or in the pump. The warranty was for 2 years on these pumps. Welton Cochrane inquired if the equipment breakdown coverage would cover the pumps. He would like to know when the premium is due for this coverage. The general feeling is this coverage has not covered anything. Nancy will call for information. The coverage does not replace aged equipment and you need to report your loss before you replace the equipment. Mayor Paintner asked if the city crew could get the rest of the auto read meters installed as we are getting many requests from citizens to have them installed. Blaine stated they would start working on them in the next week. Welton Cochrane asked for a report on how many streets have been crack sealed this fall. Blaine reported that they had gotten 10 streets done. There was discussion of spoil piles along the Vernon Knudson property which runs along the Cooper Drain. Bryan Ressler and Tim Erickson will

check the situation out with Blaine. Blaine informed the city council that Chad Johnson took his Class I water treatment test this spring and Randy Myers took the same test this fall and neither employee passed the test so will have to take the test again next year. Bryan Ressler asked what the status of the purchase of the speed bumps for 1st street was. Blaine stated he had called to check on them and didn't understand what was taking so long for them to be delivered.

Auditor Report: Nancy Lunde provided the auditor's monthly financial report, payroll report and list of receipts. The council discussed the City Christmas party and decided December 1st would be a good date. The office will send invitations next week. Nancy asked the city council to review their policy regarding the removal of the garbage fee from the utility bills of those who leave for several months during the winter. The city will pay the full statement to Brager Disposal each month regardless of how many utility bills we have removed the garbage fee from. The council would like more information regarding how many citizens we currently remove the garbage fee for, how many vacant houses there are, how do we bill them and how many properties have no buildings and how are these billed. Nancy will bring this information to the next meeting. Nancy stated she had a visit with Robert Brooks, a past member of the Griggs County Water Resource Board. He gave her some history of the Cooper Drain and expressed interest in meeting with some of the Cooperstown City Council members to discuss the Cooper Drain. The current Board members have all resigned from the Griggs County Water Resource Board. Rick Cushman stated they would like Cooperstown to take over the Cooper Drain. Currently there would be several outstanding bills for the city to pay. One bill is for spraying and one is for surveys that were done. Any landowners who currently drain water from their land into the Cooper Drain will be required to pay for this privilege. Bryan Ressler and Tim Erickson will meet with Bob before the next meeting. He stated the city will need an agreement to terminate the current agreement. Nancy reported on the status of the railroad property purchase. Currently the city has paid \$9,000 for the remaining railroad property. The railroad now is requesting a survey to be made of the property with the city to be responsible for the cost of the survey. Moore Engineering states a survey of this land would cost approximately \$5,000 to \$6,000. After discussion Ressler moved, Cushman seconded, to negotiate with Burlington Northern to share the cost of the survey of existing railroad property with each paying 50% of this cost. Motion carried unanimously.

Bills: The council reviewed the bills with discussion on several. The bills listed were approved to be paid with a motion from Ressler, seconded by Watne. There was a roll call vote with all members in favor. Motion carried unanimously.

Permits: Cushman moved, Zimprich seconded, to approve the Danny Fiebiger Demolition Permit. Motion carried unanimously. Ressler moved, Erickson seconded, to approve the Connie Doering Building Permit. Motion carried unanimously. Ressler moved, Cushman seconded to approve the Knights of Columbus Local Permit. Motion carried unanimously.

Old Business:

The next regular City Council meeting will be December 4, 2017. Erickson moved, Zimprich seconded, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm.

Nancy Lunde, City Auditor

Paul Paintner, Mayor

November 2017 Bills Paid

PIZZA RANCH	\$438.75
VERIZON WIRELESS	\$274.98
BLUE CROSS BLUE SHIELD	\$4,956.37
PACE PAYMENT SYSTEMS	\$20.00
VISA	\$560.00
EFTPS	\$6,019.20
BANK FORWARD	\$12.00
ADVANCED BUSINESS METHODS	\$50.09
COOPERSTOWN MUN AIRPORT AUTH	\$830.57
AMERIPRIDE SERVICES	\$79.01
ARROWWOOD PRAIRIE CO-OP	\$1,387.59
BANYON DATA SYSTEMS, INC	\$295.00
BELLING TREE SERVICE	\$4,400.00
BITZ PC	\$78.75
BLAINE LARSON	\$65.00
BRAGER DISPOSAL SERVICE	\$6,663.00
BRIAN SAXBERG	\$50.00
CHAD JOHNSON	\$35.00
CHRISTINE OLSON	\$35.00
CITY OF FARGO, NORTH DAKOTA	\$24.00
COOPERSTOWN MEDICAL CENTER	\$7.48
COACHMAN INN	\$376.00
COOPER MECHANICAL INC.	\$60.00
COOPERSTOWN TRUE VALUE	\$593.33
EDLUND MOTOR CO.	\$17.50
FEHR ELECTRIC	\$85.00
FINLEY FARMERS ELEVATOR	\$513.71
GRIGGS COUNTY TELEPHONE	\$782.76
H E EVERSON	\$265.16
HACH COMPANY	\$48.68
HAWKINS INC	\$1,914.56
HOLIDAY INN OF FARGO	\$387.00
JOHN DEERE FINANCIAL	\$456.47
LAKE AGASSIZ DEV. CORP.	\$1,188.70

GRIGGS COUNTY LIBRARY	\$922.11
METRO-BILLING SERVICES	\$336.00
MIDCONTINENT COMMUNICATIONS	\$100.00
MILLERS FRESH FOODS	\$271.96
MOORE ENGINEERING INC	\$3,160.35
NANCY LUNDE	\$177.00
NANCY PAINTNER	\$220.00
ND LEAGUE OF CITIES	\$1,130.00
ND ONE CALL, INC	\$30.00
NEW CENTURY PRESS	\$115.23
NORMONT EQUIPMENT	\$1,463.25
OTTER TAIL POWER CO	\$3,148.63
COOPERSTOWN PARK BOARD	\$5,868.04
RANDY MYERS	\$63.57
REITEN, INC	\$102.30
SWEENEY CONTROLS CO.	\$14,969.00
TOM GILBERTSON & SONS	\$1,704.00
TOWN & COUNTRY CO-OP	\$102.32
TROY LARSON	\$150.00
MATTD OG TRUCKING LLC	\$660.00
HOMETOWN SERVICE CENTER	\$250.84
NODAK ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE	\$244.17
ALTRU HEALTH SYSTEM	\$150.00
CAW CONSULTING	\$200.00
POSTMASTER	\$159.32