**Leonard City Council**

The Leonard City Council met Monday December 2, 2024. Council members present: Mayor Sheila Brown, Gilbert Schumacher, Ben Shepherd, Arlin Vanderwerff, Caroline Kraning and City Auditor Trina Nudell. A few community members were also present.

The meeting was called to order at 7 pm. November regular meeting minutes and November 19 special meeting minutes were read and approved. (Arlin, Ben & Caroline)

Cass County Sheriff’s Report included eight calls for service, one of which was an animal call and two were medical.

The Finance Report included bank balances, interest earned, ARPA grant drawdown, Operation Prairie Dog Disbursement drawdown, bills and paychecks.

Old business included updates about the upcoming Christmas Tree decorating contest and Santa Day. Two members of the fire department volunteered to give kids rides in the fire truck during Santa day.

The second item of old business was the David Humphrey property. David handed out a copy of the Easement for Encroachment and an updated draft of appendix A - Certificate of Survey updated on November 26. Discussion regarding the number of feet that the shop is encroaching on city property continued. The actual amount is two feet along the entire north side of the shop, but there is no issue at all on the west side of the shop. All agreed that everything now appears to be in order and is accurate. The easement is for the length of the shop and nothing more. The final document will be reviewed by the city attorney at Ohnstad Twichell and Sheila will sign the easement the following Wednesday at the attorney’s office.

The council wants to clarify that the discussion at prior meetings regarding potential future developments north of the David Humphrey property were merely discussions about what may occur in 5-40 years. Nothing will change in the upcoming months or next few years. Any roads or alleys that are currently grass will stay grass and anything that is maintained will stay maintained. There will be no changes to the maintenance of any roads or alleys.

New business consisted of Auditor Nudell giving information about how our savings rate at Cornerstone is dropping each month and that there are several banks in the area that are still offering very good rates on CD’s. Motion made by Ben and seconded by Gilbert to move the money from the Cornerstone Platinum Savings account to a CD at whichever bank has a CD special that has rates and terms that would benefit the city the most.

Auditor Nudell also asked the council for guidance on how council members and the mayor should be paid. Long before she became auditor, council members were paid a yearly stipend. Then, due to poor attendance by council members, a prior council voted to pay council members ONLY if they attended the meeting that month. Then, a few years ago, council members began to get paid quarterly rather than yearly and were paid for each meeting and each special meeting, resulting in twice as much pay in some months. Motion made by Arlin and seconded by Ben to pay council members their monthly stipend if the meeting is attended, but there will be no additional pay if there’s a special meeting that month. This will be reassessed in six months.

Auditor Nudell inquired as to whether there should be any changes in council or mayor pay. Arlin made a motion, which was seconded by Gilbert, to increase Mayor pay from $60 per month to $100 per month. Council pay will remain at $50 per month.

Last item of business related to snow removal. Bill Magstadt asked the council if it would be ok to occasionally help elderly residents or others that need a bit of help with their snow removal due to injuries, health issues or current situation. Motion made by Arlin and approved to allow our city maintenance guys to use their discretion to occasionally help residents with snow removal.

The following bills were approved to be paid: Fat Man Trash $1,908.76, ND League of Cities $533, ND Municipal Finance Officers Association $40, Auto Value Casselton $224.74, Acme Tools $281.24, Leonard Post Office $100, Ryan Johnson (park supplies) $17.16, Troy Bjordahl (welding) $80, Merle Myer $250, Bill Magstadt $640.68

Meeting adjourned at 8:27 pm.

Next regular meeting will be Monday January 6, 2025,at 7 pm.

Trina Nudell, City Auditor