Leonard City Council

The Leonard City Council met Monday July 1, 2024 at 7 pm. Council members present: outgoing Mayor Tracey Jacobson, incoming Mayor Sheila Brown, outgoing council members Onica Johnson and Bonnie Greuel, incoming council members Gilbert Schumacher and Ben Shepherd and City Auditor Trina Nudell. Twenty community members were also present.

June meeting minutes read and approved. Cass County Sheriff’s Report included seven calls for service, two of which were medical. Next on the agenda was approval of bills and signing of checks. The following bills were approved to be paid:

Cass County Reporter $159.23 and $92.67, Fat Man Trash $1,908.76, Plains and Agronomy $610.43, Leonard Convenience Store $611.40, One Call Concepts $25.00, Zac Johnson $175.00, Bill $1,212.09, Trina $507.93, Tracey Jacobson $55.41, Bonnie Greuel $46.17, Onica Johnson $46.17.

The City Auditor swore in the new mayor, Sheila Brown, and new council members Gilbert Schumacher and Ben Shepherd. It was decided that Ben Shepherd will be president of the council and Gordon Schumacher will be Vice President. Sheila Brown, Gordon Schumacher and Ben Shepherd will be added as signers on the bank accounts. Auditor Nudell will remain as a signer on all accounts. The former mayor and council members will be removed from the accounts.

The floor was opened to anyone interested in the two vacated council positions created by the resignation of Bonnie Greuel and Onica Johnson. There are two years remaining of each of those four-year terms. No one stepped forward during the meeting. Anyone interested should reach out to the mayor or council.

During public concerns, it was mentioned that it would be nice to have porta-potties in town during Fall Festival. Two on each side was suggested. Mayor Brown has a contact at Moen, so she will price it out.

The sewer cap at the Fredrickson property was brought up again since it was never taken care of. The property owners have received a quote from someone. More estimates will be gathered, and the city will get the sewer cap issue taken care of.

Auditor Nudell reported that she’d received an e-mail regarding the reporting requirements for the Operation Prairie dog money received in February 2023. This $49,523.51 needs to be spent before November and a report needs to be submitted. The money can only be used for infrastructure, which includes roads, sewer, lagoon and lift stations. The community was asked what should be prioritized and for ideas on how to spend the money. Items brought up were flushing the main sewer line to the lagoon, flushing sewer lines in town, removing the broken asphalt and graveling the street west of MLGC, culverts near the Connie Braun property, and re-paving the road from the fire department to the Convenience Store. The council will begin to gather estimates.

Another item brought up was the minimum maintenance gravel road between NE of the convenience store. That road is not owned by the city. The east part is owned by one private individual and the middle part is owned by another private individual. Then, the area near the gas pumps is owned by the convenience store. That road needs gravel, so the city will consider paying for gravel to be added.

One other item brought up was that Eagle River is dumping stuff out at the air strip. The contract will be reviewed and Eagle River will be contacted.

Auditor Nudell gave an update on the city website. There are several issues with the old provider (Vistaprint) including releasing the cityofleonardnd.com domain name. Our new provider has been helping us through the transition. Setting up a .gov domain is free and since we are already set up in the federal Login.gov system it shouldn’t be too much work. Motion made and carried to apply for a .gov domain name for the city website. The new domain will be cityofleonardnd.gov if approved.

Yard of the Month was discussed. An anonymous community member had already volunteered to get it going, assembled a committee to choose the winner and purchased a yard sign for the winner.

Next regular meeting will be Monday August 5, 2024,at 7 pm

Trina Nudell, City Auditor