

City of Powers Lake
Regular Meeting
Unapproved Proceedings

The Powers Lake City Council met in regular session on Thursday, April 9, 2020 at 8:00 am. Council members present were: Ledene, Griesbach, Hockenbary and Carlson (via phone). Also present were Kenny MacDonald, Police Chief Lerol (via phone), Brandy Zepp, Burke County Tax Director (via phone), Rick Esterholm (via phone), Chris Turley (via phone), and the auditor. Mayor Albertson (via phone) called the meeting to order.

Mayor Albertson gave an update to the council regarding COVID 19. He expressed the city's condolences to the families that have lost loved ones to the virus and thanked all health care workers, frontline workers, police, ambulance and federal/state agencies during this pandemic. City Hall is closed to the public except by appointment during this time as employees practice social distancing. Albertson encourages everyone to keep practicing social distancing and frequent hand-washing. The CARE19 app is available to the public for assistance in contact tracing. The Small Business Association is working with the federal government for forgivable loans for businesses with less than 500 employees to cover payroll/utilities – information on this program is available through local lending institutions. Albertson reminded citizens to please complete your Census paperwork. Census determines funding for local/state governments.

The tax equalization meeting was called to order. Zepp has provided the increases for 2020 which include: parcel# 08581001-\$20,000; parcel# 08441001-\$100,700; parcel# 08441002-\$100,700; parcel# 08441003-\$100,700; parcel# 08481000-\$29,920; parcel# 08488000-\$21,900; parcel# 08448000-\$40,850; parcel# 08525000-175,350. Motion by Hockenbary, seconded by Griesbach to approve the increases as presented. Roll call vote resulted in ayes unanimous. Motion by Carlson, seconded by Ledene to approve the 2020 values as presented. Roll call vote resulted in ayes unanimous. Zepp stated that with the pandemic the scheduled revaluation of cities/townships will most likely be pushed back to 2022. Zepp left the meeting

Amber Fiesel, city attorney entered the meeting via phone.

Motion by Griesbach, seconded by Carlson to approve the March minutes. Motion carried.

Motion by Ledene, seconded by Hockenbary to approve the financial report. Motion carried.

Esterholm & Turley inquired on the city's decision on purchasing the Cenex property on Railroad Ave. Discussion was held. Motion by Hockenbary, seconded by Carlson to withdraw the offer to purchase parcel # 08696000, 0870000, and 08710000 so that any potential buyers have the opportunity to purchase the property to open a service station . Roll call vote resulted in ayes unanimous. Esterholm & Turley left the meeting.

John Stade entered the meeting via phone.

Discussion was held on a citizen complaint with the police department. Stade & Fiesel left the meeting.

Landfill/building permits: No applications for a landfill worker with skidsteer experience have been received. The landfill will be closed until dryer conditions. Hockenbary will file for a new burn permit.

Water/Sewer: Mehlhoff has informed Mayor Albertson that he is retiring and his last day is April 9.

Streets/Legion Hall: Ledene will contact John's Sand & Gravel to gravel some alleyways. Additional valley gutters will be replaced this year. Both speed radar signs blew down during the high winds April 8. Ledene will contact the county about having cracks tarred on Main Street.

Motion by Carlson, seconded by Hockenbary to sign audit contract with Rath & Mehrer to audit 2018-2019 books. Motion carried.

The sales tax committee has recommended the following motion. Motion by Ledene: To allow each sole proprietorship business within the City of Powers Lake's immediate business district that has an active store front presence within the community, an opportunity to apply for a grant of up to \$2,500. The funds would come from the sales tax fund under the authority of business retention. Discussion was held. An amendment to the motion is as follows: Tioga Medical Center-Powers Lake Clinic is also able to apply for this grant as a medical facility that has served the community during this pandemic. Hockenbary seconded the motion with the amendment. Roll call vote resulted in ayes unanimous.

Discussion was held on the use of the parks within the city. The city would encourage the park board to not open the bathrooms/showers in the all parks. The park areas will remain open but residents please use social distancing and sanitation practices while using the parks.

The council approve the following moratorium on Ordinance 145: AN ORDINANCE TO REGULATE THE SALE OF BEER & WINE/ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES WITHIN THE CITY OF POWERS LAKE

In conjunction with North Dakota Executive Order 2020-06, the Powers Lake City Council will allow current businesses with on-sale & off-sale liquor licenses the ability to sell sealed packages of alcohol within 25 feet of the front door or delivery window of that specific business. This moratorium is in effect while North Dakota Executive Order 2020-06 and any subsequent extensions of such order is in effect.

Police report for March: calls for service-33; citations-3; warnings-5; parking issues-1; animal tags-1; domestic/juv-9; assist BCSO-1; PLA/PLFD calls-2; vehicle unlocks-1; bar checks-1; Alarm calls/911-4; Misc/phone calls-12. Mileage: 1461. Police office closed for non-essentials, routine patrol continues, cases that do not require a visit are being taken care of over the phone, 2 P100 respirators have been purchased, police department Facebook page is up.

The auditor would like to remind all residents that ALL voting in June included city elections will be done by mail-in ballot only. No physical polling place will be available this year by executive order of the Governor. If you do not receive a mail-in voting application, please contact the Burke County Auditor's office or online at www.vote.nd.gov. There are three candidates running for city council: Derek Hockenbary, Brooks Holmen and Marvin Stetz.

Motion by Carlson, seconded by Griesbach to pay the following bills: First District Health-25.00, Black Mtn Software-3687.00, Bryton Allard-525.44, Burke County Auditor-1095.00, Burke County Tribune-114.20, Cenex-869.11, Circle Sanitation-6403.25, Country Store-229.96, ITD-28.45, John's Sand & Gravel-340.00, MDU-2482.80, NCC-392.77, NDFOP-75.00, One Call Concepts-8.40, Staples-54.90, Tioga Machine Shop-50.00, Tioga Parts Supply-163.70, Titan Machinery-655.00, Verizon-264.74, Bryton Allard-2769.72, Liz Beavers-502.23, Todd Lerol-5027.28, Kenny MacDonald(city)-2901.12, Kenny MacDonald(watershed grant)-228.11, Randy Mehlhoff-3284.76, Jennifer Titus-2181.19, NDPERS-2532.99, IRS payroll taxes-5370.78. Roll call vote resulted in ayes unanimous.

Next meeting is Thursday, May 7th, at 8:00 am.

Meeting adjourned at 9:45 am.

John Albertson, Mayor

Jennifer Titus, City Auditor