

BUTTERFIELD CITY COUNCIL

REGULAR SESSION

MONDAY, APRIL 13TH, 2026

5:00 P.M.

BUTTERFIELD CITY COUNCIL MET IN REGULAR SESSION MONDAY, APRIL 13TH, 2026. MEMBERS PRESENT: MARK O. WARNER, KENT WINTERS, RORY HALER, NATHAN MATHISTAD, AND ALAN PANKRATZ. OTHERS PRESENT: DYLAN MELHEIM, GERALD HEMPECK, JASON LEPP, MIKE LINSCHIED, JADA STAHL, AND KRISTINA REHNELT.

THE MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER AT 5:00 P.M. BY MAYOR MARK O. WARNER.

THE AGENDA WAS APPROVED WITH THE ADDITION OF JASON LEPP AND 335 ARMSTRONG PROPERTY. ON A MOTION NATHAN MATHISTAD AND A SECOND BY RORY HALER. MOTION CARRIED.

CONSENT ITEMS SUCH AS MEETING MINUTES, FINANCIAL REPORTS, AND PAYMENT OF BILLS WERE APPROVED ON A MOTION BY RORY HALER AND A SECOND BY ALAN PANKRATZ. MOTION CARRIED.

A MAINTENANCE REPORT WAS GIVEN BY MIKE LINSCHIED. DISCHARGE AT THE PONDS HAS BEGUN. ON 5TH AND ELWELL SOME BLOCKS INSIDE THE MANHOLE FELL IN CAUSING THE MANHOLE TO CLOG WHICH CAUSED A SEWER BACK UP INTO RICHARD STOUTS BASEMENT. MIKE USED A GRABBER TO REMOVE THE CHUNKS AND PART OF THE RUSTED LADDER THAT FELL IN. WATER USAGE IS RUNNING AT NORMAL RATES AT THE WATER TOWER. CURB STOP FROM WATER LEAK AT 250 3RD STREET NORTH IS ADJUSTABLE SO MIKE WILL WORK ON GETTING IT PROPERLY ADJUSTED. OMNI SITE INSTALLED AN ALARM SYSTEM TO THE SOUTH LIFT STATION AND MIKE WOULD LIKE TO ADD ANOTHER ALARM SYSTEM TO THE NORTH LIFT STATION FOR POWER OUTAGES. ACCORDING TO TECHNICIAN IT WOULD BE CONSIDERED AS A SERVICE CALL VS. HAVING TO UPGRADE TO A NEW SYSTEM THROUGH OMNI SITE. COUNCIL APPROVED ON A MOTION FROM ALAN PANKRATZ AND A SECOND BY KENT WINTERS. MOTION CARRIED.

SEWER REPORT WAS GIVEN BY ALAN PANKRATZ. HE WOULD LIKE TO POSSIBLY LOOK INTO THE COST OF REPLACING THE MANHOLE ON 5TH AND ELWELL DUE TO IT BEGINNING TO DETERIORATE AND BECAUSE THE GRABBER MIKE USED HAD A HARD TIME CLEANING UP THE CHUNKS AND LADDER. HE QUESTIONED DO WE WAIT FOR FUNDING OR DO WE START FIXING AND THEN HAVE TO REDO THE MANHOLES AGAIN IF FUNDING IS GRANTED? NEED TO GET THE COVERS PUT ON THAT WERE ORDER FROM EARTHQUAKE METAL WORKS. MIKE WILL TRY FIRST BY DIGGING DOWN EIGHT INCHES INTO THE PAVEMENT TO SET THE PLATES ON AND HE WILL START WITH THE MANHOLE BY THE SCHOOL.

A STREET REPORT WAS GIVEN BY KENT WINTERS. POTHOLES NEED TO BE FILLED IN WITH PATCH AND GRAVEL AND ROADS NEED TO BE GRADED. NEED TO CHECK MANHOLE BY DURHEIMS ALSO.

NO WATER REPORT WAS GIVEN.

LIQUOR STORE REPORT WAS GIVEN BY RORY HALER. LOOKING AT MONTHLY REPORTS HOURS ARE BEING MAINTAINED AND PAYROLL IS LOWERING; HE WOULD LIKE TO SEE MORE ADVERTISING PUT OUT. JADA STAHL INFORMED COUNCIL THAT SHE GOT THE THC APPLICATION FILLED OUT AND IS NOW WAITING FOR THE STATE TO DECIDE IF THE LICENSE WILL BE APPROVED.

IN NEW BUSINESS:

COUNCIL CALLED ON DYLAN MELHEIM-WATONWAN COUNTY COMMISIONER. COUNCIL INVITED DYLAN TO DISCUSS CONCERNS ABOUT THE SHERIFF'S OFFICE WANTING A CONTRACT TO ENFORCE ORDINANCES. DYLAN SHARED INFORMATION WITH COUNCIL THAT HE HAD RECEIVED FROM THE SHERIFF'S OFFICE. IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS THE SHERIFF'S OFFICE RESPONDED TO 148 CALLS IN BUTTERFIELD WHICH IS HIGHER THAN THE OTHER SMALLER TOWNS IN THE COUNTY. CURRENTLY THE SHERIFF'S OFFICE HOLDS CONTRACTS WITH MADELIA, LASALLE, AND LEWSVILLE SO A CONTRACT WOULD BE NEEDED IN BUTTERFIELD TO BE ABLE TO JUSTIFY HAVING ANOTHER OFFICER ON DUTY. HOURS CONTRACTED WOULD ONLY BE FOR SERVICES WHILE IN TOWN AND ENFORCING ORDINANCES. DYLAN ALSO INFORMED COUNCIL THAT ALL CITIES IN WATONWAN COUNTY ARE HAVING THE SAME PROBLEMS WITH ENFORCING ORDINANCES ON RUN DOWN PROPERTIES OR PROPERTIES THAT ARE NOT KEEPING THEIR YARDS CLEAN. THESE PEOPLE ARE BEING GIVEN FINES AND/OR GOING TO JAIL BUT THE RESULTS ARE STAYING THE SAME. COUNCIL ASKED IF IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO HAVE THE SHERIFF'S OFFICE GO DOWN COUNTY RD 5 AND IF THE COUNTY COULD PUT UP A FLASHER WITH THE SPEED LIMIT COMING INTO TOWN TO SLOW TRAFFIC DOWN. DYLAN SAID TO REACH OUT TO MICHAEL MCCARTY-WATONWAN COUNTY ENGINEER TO SEE IF THERE ARE GRANTS FOR SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS. DYLAN THEN LET COUNCIL KNOW IF THEY ARE INTERESTED IN A CONTRACT TO REACH OUT TO HIM AND SHERIFF'S OFFICE IF THERE ARE ANY MORE QUESTIONS.

PAULINE CHATFIELD AND JIM POPE DID NOT COME TO THE MEETING. COUNCIL WAS GIVEN A COPY OF THE LETTER SENT TO THEM REQUESTING THEIR PRESENCE.

A COPY OF SOUTHWEST DUST TREATMENT WAS GIVEN TO COUNCIL FOR THE 2026 YEAR. APPLICATION WAS APPROVED ON A MOTION BY KENT WINTERS AND A SECOND BY NATHAN MATHISTAD. MOTION CARRIED.

THE RESOLUTION FOR A FIRE DEPARTMENT DONATION IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1000.00 FROM SOUTH CENTRAL ELECTRIC TRUST WAS APPROVED ON A MOTION BY RORY HALER AND A SECOND BY ALAN PANKRATZ. MOTION CARRIED.

AN ESTIMATE FOR CARPET CLEANING AT THE BUTTERFIELD LIBRARY IN THE AMOUNT OF \$648.00 WAS APPROVED ON A MOTION BY KENT WINTERS AND A SECOND BY NATHAN MATHISTAD. MOTION CARRIED.

VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED TO CLEAN UP EVERY WHERE THAT TREES WERE TAKEN OUT AROUND THE LAKE. CITY HAD ANDY FISCH BROOM THE TRAIL BUT NEED TO GET READY FOR MOWING. WILL REACH OUT TO SOME COUNTY PROBATION OFFICERS, 4-H CLUBS, AND FFA TO SEE IF THERE IS INTEREST. TABLED.

COUNCIL CALLED ON JASON LEPP. THE LEPP FAMILY WOULD LIKE TO PUT UP A 50 FT WIDE X 90 FT LONG X 14 FT TALL POLE SHED WITH A ROCK BOTTOM AT VOSS PARK 30-40 FT EAST OF THE ED LAMER'S BUILDING AND WOULD BE THE SAME COLOR AS LAMAR'S BUILDING. THE LEPP'S WOULD PAY FOR THE BUILDING AND GET THE BUILDING PERMIT AND WOULD LIKE TO HAVE IT PUT UP IN THE NEXT MONTH. THE PURPOSE OF THE BUILDING WOULD BE TO STORE TRACTORS THAT JIM LEPP HAS THAT THE FAMILY SHOWS AT THE THRESHING BEE EVERY YEAR. THE FAMIILY IS DONATING THE BUILDING TO THE THRESHING THE BUILDING TO THE BUTTERFIELD THRESHING BEE. IF IN THE FUTURE THE THRESHING BEE IS NO MORE THAN THE SHED WOULD GO TO THE CITY. APPROVED ON A MOTION BY KENT WINTERS AND A SECOND BY NATHAN MATHISTAD. MOTION CARRIED.

DISCUSSION WAS HELD ON THE 335 ARMSTRONG PROPERTY. IN 2020 THE CITY HAD THE HOME CONDEMNED AND PAID TO HAVE IT DEMOLISHED. CURRENTLY THE PROPERTY OWNER NEEDS TO SELL THE PROPERTY. AFTER TALKING TO THE CITY LAYWER, THE CITY COULD PUT A LIEN ON THE PROPERTY TO RECOUP FUNDS FROM DEMOLITION OR THE PROPERTY OWNER WOULD QUIT CLAIM THE DEED TO THE CITY. COUNCIL DECIDED THE CITY DOES NOT WANT THE PROPERTY SO ITS UP TO THE PROPERTY OWNER ON WHAT HE WANTS TO DO WITH IT.

IN OLD BUSINESS:

ODIN AND BUTTERFIELD TOWNSHIP AGREEMENTS WERE APPROVED ON A MOTION BY RORY HALER AND A SECOND BY ALAN PANKRATZ. MOTION CARRIED.

BOY SCOUT SHELTER WAS TABLED.

MEMORIAL BENCH WAS TABLED.

THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 6:50 P.M. ON A MOTION BY RORY HALER AND A SECOND BY ALAN PANKRATZ. MOTION CARRIED

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kristina Rehnel', written in a cursive style.

KRISTINA REHNELT

CITY CLERK