

**City of Ottertail**  
**March 10, 2020**  
**Special Meeting –City Hall**  
**5:15 PM**  
**AMENDED**

Council present: Mayor Myron Lueders, Jill Carlson, Ron Grobeck, and Mike Windey.

Absent: Judah Burlingame

Staff present: Elaine Hanson, Clerk-Administrator; Loren Hawes, Coordinator; Sam Felix, City Attorney.

Others present were members of the Ottertail Business and Community Association, Vanessa Neels (Betty's Pantry), Marnie and Dan Whitehead (The Williams Co. Store) , Dr. Jessica Grimes, (TCHC), Greg and Beth Swanberg (The Homestead); Brad Stevens, Gen. Mgr. (Thumper Pond).

After duly calling for and posting of a special meeting Mayor Lueders opened the special meeting session at 5:15 p.m. All said the Pledge of Allegiance.

1. **Special Events Policy.** Council member Grobeck brought before the City council the concern of insurance for special events for Ottertail Business and Community Association. The group's spokesperson, Vanessa Neels; expressed that insurance for the low risk events put on by the OTBCA is too cost restrictive and some help is being requested from the City. The group in attendance felt the City should partner with them because they bring a lot of people to town and the City should sponsor the 10 events so that their organization would be free of any liability for these events. Hanson said that there is a waiver and indemnification agreement that is supposed to be filled out by the groups and then they wouldn't have to pay for special insurance unless it was a high risk. This was unacceptable to the group. City Attorney Felix stated that if the City were a partner in the planning then it would be covered but since the City is not involved with planning agreed that the risk should be on the groups not the City. Hanson was instructed to call LMCIT (insurance carrier) to find out what putting these 10 low risk events on our insurance would cost. Brad Stevens suggested the City call it promotion with the City logo and sponsor the events and they could purchase their own. Tabled until information is obtained.
2. **First Right of Refusal Property at Thumper Pond.** After discussion regarding easements for the sewer lift stations and under advisement of the City Attorney, the purchase of the property is approved as motioned at the February 20<sup>th</sup> meeting. Closing will be held in Ottertail at City Hall on March 20<sup>th</sup>.
3. **Happy Acres.** After discussion regarding the lowered offer of \$24,000, a motion was made by Carlson and second by Grobeck to purchase the remaining lots from Stephan Sweere for \$24,000 and having our City Attorney handle the details and closing. All voted in favor, carried.
4. **Menze Letter.** As advised by the City Attorney a letter had been sent to Aaron Menze within the 30 days of requested response explaining the water availability fee. Discussion around the fee was held. Felix recommended that if Menze does not pay the availability fee, it will and should be assessed to the taxes of the property owner, currently the BNSF Railroad.
5. **Water Contract.** Felix shared a correspondence he had from Marc Sugden, Henning's attorney which offered a cost \$4.26 per thousand and includes the debt for their water tower. Felix recommended the Council say no to the increase and consider re-working the contract to go forward the next 20-30 years with planned increases. It was thought that Minnesota Rural Water could help with the language. Hanson will contact Kurt Haakinson from MWRA to see if a meeting could be set up. A motion was made by Grobeck and second by Windey to allow Sam Felix to reject the offer from Henning and to begin negotiation for a longer-term contract of 30 years. All voted in favor, carried.
6. **Resignation.** Hanson officially informed the council of Loren Hawes resignation to be effective the end of May.
7. **MCFOA Lodging.** Motion by Grobeck and second by Carlson to approve a check to be written for lodging for Hanson at the MCFOA Conference in St. Cloud next week. All voted in favor, carried.

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With no other business to discuss, the Council adjourned at 6:45 p.m. with a motion by Carlson. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

s/s \_\_\_\_\_  
Elaine Hanson, MCMC  
Clerk-Administrator

s/s \_\_\_\_\_  
Myron J. Lueders, Mayor