Leonard City Council

The Leonard City Council met Monday August 5, 2024 at 7 pm. Council members present: Mayor Sheila Brown, Ben Shepherd, Gilbert Schumacher and City Auditor Trina Nudell. Numerous community members were also present.

Cass County Sheriff’s Report included eleven calls for service, two of which were medical.

Mayor Brown asked Officer Mortensen about speed limits in town and what could be done to mitigate the speeding that is happening. For most towns, including Leonard, paved roads are 25 mph unless otherwise posted. Gravel/dirt roads are 10 mph unless otherwise posted. There are a couple digital speed signs that flash when a vehicle is exceeding the speed limit. They rotate them around between different towns. Officer Mortensen will put in a request to have one placed in Leonard when it’s next available.

July meeting minutes read and approved.

Andy Nokleberg agreed to fix the sewer cap at the Fredrickson property but hasn’t been able to fit it into his schedule, yet. Sheila will contact him again with hopes of getting it done by a set date.

Regarding the tree pile, Sheila has been communicating with Tyler Zimmerman. Since the pile has gotten so huge, it’s safer to burn in the winter. Sheila will apply for the burn permit and give it to the fire department. The fire department will burn when conditions are favorable.

Rollin Johnson gave an update on the air conditioning at the Senior Citizens Building. The air conditioning hadn’t been working for years. A new air conditioner was over $3,000 and was an expense that the Leonard Friendship Club wasn’t planning for. They asked the city if they’d be willing to pay a portion of it, since we have our offices in the building. Motion made by Ben, seconded by Gilbert to pay half of the cost of the new air conditioning system.

Rollin Johnson also approached the council about designating the Senior Building as an emergency shelter. Members of the community offered to help and suggested they start by talking to Emergency Management, determining what criteria are involved and looking for a grant to cover expenses.

Ben gave an update on the bid for the possible repair of the street that goes by the Fire Hall and the Convenience Store. (from the railroad tracks to the highway) Border State’s paving isn’t sure they’d be available this fall but would for sure be available in the spring. Border State’s will be coming out the following day to look things over and gather the necessary information to prepare a bid.

Trina reported that she’d found more information regarding the $49,523.51 in Operation Prairie Dog infrastructure money received in 2023. One of the options on the report that’s due in November is “reserved for future infrastructure project.” That means the money can be set aside and spent later. Since the availability of a paving company is questionable, winter is fast approaching and culvert work needs to be done first, this is a much more feasible option to be considered.

Arlin Vanderwerff and Caroline Kraning contacted Sheila about the two vacant council positions. No one else stepped forward when asked if anyone else was interested in the positions. Arlin and Caroline were sworn in as council members and signed oath of office forms. Arlin and Caroline will serve the remaining two years of the council seats vacated by Bonnie Greuel and Onica Johnson.

A community member suggested that the city consider setting up a reserve fund for lift station repair. The council will take this into consideration.

Porta potties for Fall Festival were discussed next. The bar and convenience store get overwhelmed and overloaded during Fall Festival and the city would like to help. A six-stall unit that has running water, sinks for handwashing and lights would cost $1,800. Moving the unit from one location to another costs $360 for each move, so that’s not feasible. One regular porta pottie costs $110, but there’s no sink for hand washing. There is hand sanitizer, though. Motion made and approved to get two porta potties for Fall Festival weekend to be placed in the vicinity of the tractor pull and parade. (Ben, Gilbert) The Fire Department will pay for two porta potties at the rodeo as originally planned.

Next, Sheila informed the council that the city had been asked if they’d be interested in sponsoring the rodeo. Gate sponsor would be $500 and there are also $250 and $125 levels. Discussion occurred about whether a city is allowed to use taxpayer money for this type of thing. It was also mentioned that if we do this, we’d be approached by many other entities as well. Motion made by Ben to not sponsor the rodeo. Seconded by Gilbert.

Trina recently found out that our cityofleonardnd.gov domain name was approved. There are only a few steps remaining, so the new website will be up and running soon.

Trina also reported on the 2025 preliminary budget due to Cass County on August 12. The budget hearing will be Monday October 7 at 7 pm and the final budget is due to Cass County on October 10. Motion made and approved to levy the same amount as prior years.

Mike and Trina Nudell requested a building permit for a new home with an attached garage that will be moved in from Pioneer Homes in Canada. The plan is to start digging the basement in late summer or fall since the house is tentatively scheduled to be delivered in February. Building permit approved by Arlin and seconded by Caroline.

Public concerns included a concern about a neighbor that is reported to be burning waste and accumulating garbage. There may be rodents as well.

The following bills were approved to be paid:

Acme Tools $62.69, 693.75, 269.03, Ohnstad Twichell $642.49, Camas Sand and Gravel $395.06, Cass County Reporter $98.90, Farmers Union Insurance $698, Kenny’s Tree Care $800, Leonard Lions $1,000, The Lockshop $406.97, Plains and Agronomy $194.91, 246.86, One Call Concepts $10.20, Randy Rusch $350, Sheila reimbursement for gopher traps and padlock set $30.06 & 49.00, Bill $1,212.09, Trina $507.93

Next regular meeting will be Monday September 9, 2024,at 7 pm.

Trina Nudell, City Auditor