MINOT CITY COUNCIL – SCHEDULED MEETING – MARCH 2, 2020 AT 5:30 P.M.

ROLL CALL

Members Present:  
Jantzer, Olson, Pitner, Podrygula, Sipma, Straight, Wolsky

Members Absent:  
None

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Sipma presiding and led the City Council in the Pledge of Allegiance.

MAYOR’S REPORT

Mayor Sipma described some of his meetings and activities over the past month.

February 6th – State of the City  
February 7th – IEDC Steering Committee  
February 7th – Committee Interview of Economic Development Specialist  
February 8th – Game Changer Event at The Depot  
February 18th – Zombie Home Acquisition Closing  
February 18th – CTE Committee Meeting  
February 19th – Assiniboine River Basic Initiative (ARBI) Conference  
February 20th – Prairie Public Radio Interview  
February 21st – Indonesia Visitors at City Hall  
February 21st – CTE Committee Follow-up Meeting  
February 21st – Emcee Delta Water Banquet  
February 22nd – Emcee NDCAC Champagne & Ice Banquet  
February 24th – MADC Special Meeting  
February 24th – Special City Council Meeting  
February 25th – MADC Annual Banquet  
February 26th – John Hoeven Student 2011 Flood Interview  
February 27th – League of Cities – Mayors Meeting in Bismarck  
February 28th – Special Olympics State Basketball Welcome  
March 2nd – Upper Midwest Aviation Symposium Welcome

He also said, there were numerous meetings, phone calls, e-mails, and individual contact concerning City business.

PROCLAMATION – GENERAL AVIATION APPRECIATION MONTH

The Mayor Proclaimed March as General Aviation Appreciation Month.

WHEREAS, the City of Minot in the state of North Dakota has a significant interest in the continued vitality of general aviation, aircraft manufacturing, aviation educational institutions and community airports; and

WHEREAS, general aviation and the Minot International Airport have an immense economic impact on the City of Minot; and

WHEREAS, general aviation airports in North Dakota support more than $121 million in total economic output; and

WHEREAS, general aviation not only supports North Dakota’s economy, it improves overall quality of life by supporting emergency medical and healthcare services, law enforcement, firefighting and disaster relief, investments in sustainable fuels and technologies, and by transporting business travelers to their destinations quickly and safely; and

WHEREAS, these aircraft and a network of airports represent a national public benefit, and congressional oversight should be in place of this system to ensure that it remains a public system that serves communities of all sizes; and
WHEREAS, leaders should invest in this critical infrastructure to ensure future economic growth and our next generation of aviation professionals and pilots;

NOW, THEREFORE, DO I, Shaun Sipma, Mayor of the City of Minot, hereby proclaim March as General Aviation Appreciation Month in Minot and encourage local residents and organizations to continue supporting this thriving sector of our business community.

CITY MANAGER REPORT

The City Manager began by listing important upcoming dates. The Planning Commission meets March 3rd, a special Council meeting in conjunction with the Census Complete Count Committee will be March 6th, a special Council meeting to tour potential sites for City Hall will take place March 9th; a regular Council meeting March 16th, Chamber Business After Hours at the Airport March 26th, and a MAGIC Fund meeting March 27th. He pointed out that there have been eight Council meetings scheduled over the past six weeks which puts a lot of strain on City staff.

Mr. Barry described the results of the 2019 goal setting exercise. There was an 86% completion rate compared to a 76% completion rate in 2018. Directors have set 92 goals for 2020 and a document outlining those goals was submitted to Council. The goals may influence strategic planning efforts.

He provided an update on NDR projects. He reminded the Council there will be a special meeting on March 9th to tour the potential sites for relocating City Hall. Staff continues marketing efforts for the Resilient Homebuyer activity. The Gathering Space is moving forward and there will be another meeting to discuss the future of the NDR program tentatively, in early April.

The 2020 Census is approaching and the City Manager played a short video that will be used on social media to publicize it. He explained that residents will count in the city they have lived for six months and one day. If a resident splits their time among multiple locations, they are counted where they reside on April 1st. He emphasized that census counts do not impact residency or tax information.

Mr. Barry mentioned the 2020 Citizens Academies for both Police and Fire Departments. Those attending the Police Academy on Tuesdays, May 5-26 will learn basics in the areas of patrol, crime scene response, special operations, and use of force. The Fire Academy, on April 25th will focus on search and rescue, rappelling, auto extrication, and aerial operations.

The City Manager announced that the Broadway Bridge project won the 2019 Gold Star Award from Ready Mix & Concrete Products Association. The City has won twice before for the Downtown Infrastructure project and for the Hazard Mitigation Water Treatment Plant.

He provided details of all of the upcoming construction projects including continuation of the concrete panel replacement on South Broadway, Flood Control Phase 1, Flood Control Phase 2/3, and the Water Treatment Plant Expansion. Work will also begin on 31st Avenue SE Reconstruction, 10th Street SW Storm Sewer District, City Hall Retaining Wall, 30th Avenue NE Sanitary Sewer project, Watermain and Street Reconstruction on 23rd Street NW, SWIF D and E work, as well as Street Improvements, Patching/Chip Seal, Sidewalk, Curb and Gutter.

Mr. Barry went into detail regarding street conditions. He said, the leading causes of potholes are water and temperatures and this season has not been kind to road conditions. A recent pavement study shows the overall pavement condition in Minot is “satisfactory” at a 79 Pavement Condition Index. The City currently has a 15-year backlog of general maintenance which could be completed at a cost of $11 million a year over five years. The current budget for street maintenance is about $4.5 million. At that rate the PCI will likely start to fall.

He provided an update on the ERP system by saying that staff has begun importing and testing historical budget data. The first milestone will go live on budgeting in May. The Human Capital Management implementation will begin in March.

The State of the City Address took place in February and he thanked the community and members on the Air Force Base for attending. He said, the Annual Report is available in digital format on the City website.

He announced that the City of Fargo is looking for volunteers to fight seasonal flooding. A bus will leave the Auditorium on March 11th at 7:00 am and volunteers will spend the day in Fargo to assist in sandbagging. Lunch will be provided and the
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bus will return to Minot around 6:30 pm. He requested that anyone interested in volunteering contact the Executive Secretary Tami Stroklund.

He concluded his report by congratulating Kevin Ternes on his retirement from the City. Mr. Ternes was hired in 1991 and was promoted to City Assessor in 2004.

Following the City Manager’s report, Alderman Wolsky requested clarification on what qualifies a resident in the Census.

Mr. Billingsley responded by saying, for people who have multiple homes, they should use whichever location they spend a majority of their time, six months and one day.

The Mayor mentioned the NDLC tournament bracket being used to improve participation in the Census by encouraging competition between cities in North Dakota. The first city that Minot faces in the bracket is Grafton.

Alderman Wolsky then brought up the City’s emergency action plan and requested a report from First District Health Unit regarding public health in the midst of COVID-19. He also requested the Council Chambers be made available for public outreach and announcements in the event it is necessary.

Alderman Straight asked about using Hub City dollars toward road maintenance. Mr. Barry said, Hub City dollars are all accounted for in the CIP. The Council can choose different funding sources for each project. He noted that out of the overall budget, property tax only accounts for $26 million. The rest of the budget is covered by grants, Hub City funding and other sources.

The Mayor said, during the Mayors meeting in Bismarck, analysis of oil revenue was presented. They are paying close attention to the price per barrel since it affects the amount of HUB City funding cities receive.

Alderman Pitner mentioned that Hub City dollars are accounted for and reported to the Legislative Council.

CITY ATTORNEY REPORT

The City Attorney submitted a written report.

Alderman Wolsky pointed out, there was an update to the Cypress Development matter, scheduling a trial for November 9-20, 2020.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES – APPROVED

Alderman Jantzer moved the City Council approve the minutes of the February 18, 2020 regular City Council meeting.

Motion seconded by Alderman Pitner and carried by the following roll call vote: ayes: Jantzer, Olson, Pitner, Podrygula, Sipma, Straight, Wolsky; nays: none.

BILLS AND TRANSFERS – APPROVED

Alderman Jantzer moved the City Council approve the bills and transfers as listed for February in the amount of $3,236,650.69 as follows:

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### ELECTRONIC PAYMENTS

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March 2, 2020 Regular City Council Meeting

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Motion seconded by Alderman Pitner and carried by the following roll call vote: ayes: Jantzer, Olson, Pitner, Podrygula, Sipma, Straight, Wolsky; nays: none.

PAYROLL FOR THE PERIOD OF JANUARY 19, 2020 THROUGH FEBRUARY 15, 2020 – APPROVED

Alderman Jantzer moved the City Council approve payroll from January 19, 2020 through February 15, 2020 in the amount of $2,095,349.10.

Motion seconded by Alderman Pitner and carried by the following roll call vote: ayes: Jantzer, Olson, Pitner, Podrygula, Sipma, Straight, Wolsky; nays: none.

ORDINANCE NO. 5424 - ANNEXATION OF THE BLUFFS 11TH ADDITION – SECOND READING – APPROVED

Alderman Jantzer moved the City Council place ordinance no. 5424 on second reading to annex into the city limits of Minot an unplatted portion of SW1/4NE1/4 of Section 6, Township 154 North, Range 82 West to the Country Club lot. Motion seconded by Alderman Pitner and carried unanimously.

Alderman Jantzer moved the City Council pass ordinance no. 5424 on second reading. Motion seconded by Alderman Pitner and carried by the following roll call vote: ayes: Jantzer, Olson, Pitner, Podrygula, Sipma, Straight, Wolsky; nays: none.

ORDINANCE NO. 5459 – AMEND THE ZONING CODE CITY COUNCIL PUBLIC HEARING TEXT AMENDMENTS - CHAPTER 30 – SECOND READING – APPROVED

Alderman Jantzer moved the City Council place ordinance no. 5459 on second reading amending Chapter 30 of the Zoning Supplement of the City of Minot Code of Ordinances. Motion seconded by Alderman Pitner and carried unanimously.

Alderman Jantzer moved the City Council pass ordinance no. 5459 on second reading. Motion seconded by Alderman Pitner and carried by the following roll call vote: ayes: Jantzer, Olson, Pitner, Podrygula, Sipma, Straight, Wolsky; nays: none.

ORDINANCE NO. 5460 – BUDGET AMENDMENT- TRAILER MOUNTED PUMP (3992) – SECOND READING – APPROVED
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Alderman Jantzer moved the City Council place ordinance no. 5460 on second reading amending the 2020 annual budget to increase the Storm Sewer Department Capital Equipment Purchases revenue and expenditures for the purchase of two trailer mounted pumps. Motion seconded by Alderman Pitner and carried unanimously.

Alderman Jantzer moved the City Council pass ordinance no. 5460 on second reading. Motion seconded by Alderman Pitner and carried by the following roll call vote: ayes: Jantzer, Olson, Pitner, Podrygula, Sipma, Straight, Wolsky; nays: none.

ORDINANCE NO. 5465 – AMEND THE 2020 ANNUAL BUDGET- CITY HALL HVAC CONTROL UPGRADE – FIRST READING – APPROVED

Alderman Jantzer moved the City Council place ordinance no. 5462 on second reading Repealing Section 28-3 And 28-3.1 of Article I of Chapter 28 and Enacting Article VII, Divisions 1, 2, and 3 of Chapter 28 of the Code of Ordinances, City of Minot, North Dakota Relating to Encroachments on Public Right-of-Ways. Motion seconded by Alderman Pitner and carried unanimously.

Alderman Jantzer moved the City Council pass ordinance no. 5462 on second reading. Motion seconded by Alderman Pitner and carried by the following roll call vote: ayes: Jantzer, Olson, Pitner, Podrygula, Sipma, Straight, Wolsky; nays: none.

ORDINANCE NO. 5466- FEMA RISKMAP FIRM APPEAL (3888) – SECOND READING – APPROVED

Alderman Jantzer moved the City Council place ordinance no. 5464 on second reading amending the 2020 annual budget to increase the engineer professional service contracts expenditure and revenue for the FEMA Riskmap Firm Appeal. Motion seconded by Alderman Pitner and carried unanimously.

Alderman Jantzer moved the City Council pass ordinance no. 5464 on second reading. Motion seconded by Alderman Pitner and carried by the following roll call vote: ayes: Jantzer, Olson, Pitner, Podrygula, Sipma, Straight, Wolsky; nays: none.

ADMINISTRATIVE APPROVALS – APPROVED

Alderman Jantzer moved the City Council ratify the following administratively approved requests:

1. Omicron Tau Honor Society for Nursing to conduct a raffle May 5, 2020 at Taube Museum of Art (2 North Main Street)
3. Broadway Liquor for a special event permit on March 28, 2020 at Roosevelt Park Zoo (1219 Burdick Expy East)
4. Elevation for a special event permit February 7, 2020 at the Depot (15 N Main Street)
5. The Tap Room for a special event permit February 4, 2020 at Aspire Credit Union (1430 S Broadway)
6. Northern Plains Children’s Advocacy Center to conduct a raffle February 22, 2020 at the Grand Hotel (1505 N Broadway)
7. Mule Deer Foundation to conduct a raffle March 7, 2020 at Sleep Inn (2400 10th Street SW)
8. Minot State University Athletics to conduct a raffle October 17, 2020 at Minot State University (500 University Ave West)
9. 705 MUNS Rising Five Booster Club to conduct a raffle March 31, 2020 at Buffalo Wild Wings (3820 South Broadway)
10. Sleep Inn & Suites for a special event permit February 19, 2020 at Verizon BeMobile 305 20th Ave SW
11. Ice Cold Riders Motorcycle Club to conduct a raffle July 11, 2020 at The Spot (6 2nd Street NE)
12. Minot Masonic Lodge, Star In the West #33 to conduct a raffle June 30, 2020 at MAYSA Arena (2501 W Burdick Expy)
13. American Cancer Society Relay for Life to conduct a raffle June 3, 2020 at Oak Park (1300 4th Ave NW
14. The Spot for a special event permit February 8th at 1051st Ave SE
15. The Starving Rooster for a special event permit February 29, 2020 at Mouse River Players (115 1st St SE)
16. The Starving Rooster for a special event permit April 18, 2020 at Mouse River Players (115 1st St SE)
17. MSU Beaver Boosters to conduct a raffle April 1, 2020 at Clarion Hotel (2200 E Burdick Expy)

Motion seconded by Alderman Pitner and carried by the following roll call vote: ayes: Jantzer, Olson, Pitner, Podrygula, Sipma, Straight, Wolsky; nays: none.

ORDINANCE NO. 5465 – AMEND THE 2020 ANNUAL BUDGET- CITY HALL HVAC CONTROL UPGRADE – FIRST READING – APPROVED
Alderman Jantzer moved the City Council place ordinance no. 5465 on first reading to amend the 2020 annual budget to move 2019 Budgeted funds to the 2020 Budget of Property Maintenance for City Hall Complex HVAC Control System Repair/Upgrade. Motion seconded by Alderman Pitner and carried unanimously.

Alderman Jantzer moved the City Council pass ordinance no. 5465 on first reading. Motion seconded by Alderman Pitner and carried by the following roll call vote: ayes: Jantzer, Olson, Pitner, Podrygula, Sipma, Straight, Wolsky; nays: none.

**ORDINANCE NO. 5466 – AMEND THE 2020 ANNUAL BUDGET - NETWORK SWITCH UPGRADE (IT0018) – FIRST READING – APPROVED**

Alderman Jantzer moved the City Council place ordinance no. 5466 on first reading to amend the 2020 annual budget to increase the Information Technology Department’s operation supplies revenues and expenditures and decrease the Information Technology capital equipment purchases expenditures for the Network Switch Upgrade Project. Motion seconded by Alderman Pitner and carried unanimously.

Alderman Jantzer moved the City Council place ordinance no. 5466 on first reading. Motion seconded by Alderman Pitner and carried by the following roll call vote: ayes: Jantzer, Olson, Pitner, Podrygula, Sipma, Straight, Wolsky; nays: none.

**ORDINANCE NO. 5467 – AMEND THE 2020 ANNUAL BUDGET- ENBRIDGE EQUIPMENT GRANT FREIGHT CHARGES – FIRST READING – APPROVED**

Alderman Jantzer moved the City Council place ordinance no. 5467 on first reading to amend the 2020 annual budget to increase equipment expenditures and revenues for the freight charges on an extrication tool purchased with funding from the Safe Community Grant awarded by Enbridge. Motion seconded by Alderman Pitner and carried unanimously.

Alderman Jantzer moved the City Council place ordinance no. 5467 on first reading. Motion seconded by Alderman Pitner and carried by the following roll call vote: ayes: Jantzer, Olson, Pitner, Podrygula, Sipma, Straight, Wolsky; nays: none.

**ORDINANCE NO. 5468 – AMEND THE 2020 ANNUAL BUDGET- 2020 WCNTF JAG & LOTTERY GRANT AWARD (PD0172) – FIRST READING – APPROVED**

Alderman Jantzer moved the City Council place ordinance no. 5468 on first reading to amend the 2020 annual budget to increase the Narcotics Task Force revenues and expenditures to match the total funds awarded for the 2020 JAG and Lottery Grant from the ND Bureau of Criminal Investigation. Motion seconded by Alderman Pitner and carried unanimously.

Alderman Jantzer moved the City Council place ordinance no. 5468 on first reading. Motion seconded by Alderman Pitner and carried by the following roll call vote: ayes: Jantzer, Olson, Pitner, Podrygula, Sipma, Straight, Wolsky; nays: none.

**ORDINANCE NO. 5469 – AMEND THE 2019 ANNUAL BUDGET - LIB034 END OF YEAR PURCHASE – FIRST READING – APPROVED**

Alderman Jantzer moved the City Council place ordinance no. 5469 on first reading amending the 2019 annual budget to increase the Library Books and Materials capital and general fund revenues and expenditures utilizing Library cash reserves for books purchased in 2019. Motion seconded by Alderman Pitner and carried unanimously.

Alderman Jantzer moved the City Council place ordinance no. 5469 on first reading. Motion seconded by Alderman Pitner and carried by the following roll call vote: ayes: Jantzer, Olson, Pitner, Podrygula, Sipma, Straight, Wolsky; nays: none.

**ORDINANCE NO. 5470 – AMEND THE 2019 ANNUAL BUDGET - CAPITAL LEASE AND DEPARTMENT EXPENDITURES – FIRST READING – APPROVED**

Alderman Jantzer moved the City Council place ordinance no. 5470 on first reading to amend the 2019 annual budget for capital equipment for the governmental lease capital expenditures and for department expenditures that were higher than anticipated. Motion seconded by Alderman Pitner and carried unanimously.

Alderman Jantzer moved the City Council place ordinance no. 5470 on first reading. Motion seconded by Alderman Pitner and carried by the following roll call vote: ayes: Jantzer, Olson, Pitner, Podrygula, Sipma, Straight, Wolsky; nays: none.

**AUTHORIZE LETTER OF UNDERSTANDING WITH U.S. FISH & WILDLIFE – APPROVED**
Alderman Jantzer moved the City Council authorize execution of a Letter of Understanding between the City of Minot and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to expedite CDBG-NDR Environmental Reviews.

Motion seconded by Alderman Pitner and carried by the following roll call vote: ayes: Jantzer, Olson, Pitner, Podrygula, Sipma, Straight, Wolsky; nays: none.

**AWARD OF BID FOR LIBRARY EXTERIOR WORK – APPROVED**

Alderman Jantzer moved the City Council award the bid to Rolac Contracting in the amount of $384,700 for Library Exterior Work and authorize the Library Director to sign the agreement.

Motion seconded by Alderman Pitner and carried by the following roll call vote: ayes: Jantzer, Olson, Pitner, Podrygula, Sipma, Straight, Wolsky; nays: none.

**ORDINANCE NO. 5471 – AMEND THE 2020 ANNUAL BUDGET- LIBRARY EXTERIOR WORK – FIRST READING – APPROVED**

Alderman Jantzer moved the City Council place ordinance no. 5471 on first reading to amend the 2020 annual budget to increase the Library building and grounds expenditure for the exterior improvements. Motion seconded by Alderman Pitner and carried unanimously.

Alderman Jantzer moved the City Council pass ordinance no. 5471 on first reading. Motion seconded by Alderman Pitner and carried by the following roll call vote: ayes: Jantzer, Olson, Pitner, Podrygula, Sipma, Straight, Wolsky; nays: none.

**ORDINANCE NO. 5461 – 16TH STREET NW SPEED REDUCTION (4469) – SECOND READING – APPROVED**

Alderman Wolsky moved the City Council place ordinance no. 5461 on second reading modifying the posted speed limit on 16th Street NW between 21st Avenue NW and 36th Avenue NW from 40 mph to 30 mph. Motion seconded by Alderman Straight and carried.

Alderman Podrygula said he is concerned by the issue and wants to vote against it. He stated, the wide sidewalks on that street which are hardly ever used. He also commented on the typical speed of traffic in the area and said, reducing the speed does not seem like it would make much of an improvement. He said, he would not feel safe as a biker with cars speeding past.

Alderman Wolsky said, any effort to slow down traffic is appreciated. As a frequent bike rider, he supports bike lanes even if they cannot physically protect a rider, they may offer a calming effect.

Alderman Olson moved the City Council pass ordinance no. 5461 on second reading. Motion seconded by Alderman Pitner and carried by the following roll call vote: ayes: Jantzer, Olson, Pitner, Sipma, Straight, Wolsky; nays: Podrygula.

**ORDINANCE NO. 5463 – AMEND THE 2020 BUDGET- SPECIAL ASSIGNMENT: ASSISTANCE FOR THE CITY MANAGER – SECOND READING – APPROVED**

Alderman Olson moved the City Council place ordinance no. 5463 on second reading amending the 2020 annual budget to increase the City Manager Department Salaries and Benefits expenditures for the Assistance for the City Manager Special Assignment and approve the use of General Fund cash reserves. Motion seconded by Alderman Jantzer and carried.

Alderman Podrygula said that he has mixed feelings about the proposal. He was unable to attend for the previous meeting’s discussion and said he appreciates the City Manager’s explanation but is still opposed to the idea. He then listed several reasons for his decision. He said, the City desperately needs more assistance for the City Manager to handle some of the complicated projects the City is facing, however he believes this is not the appropriate solution. He said that he watched the debate from the previous Council meeting and it validated some of his concerns. He described examples from his experience with consulting and family services in which separate duties should belong to different individuals. He does not believe a department head should oversee other department heads. From an organizational standpoint, crossing lines of authority creates problems. He brought up the issue with staff being overwhelmed and the general workload of Department Heads. He discouraged overtime due to the connection to high stress levels and increased costs. He offered alternative solutions such as hiring a Department Head in charge of Special Projects to provide expertise in systems analysis. They could also create an
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Assistant City Manager position or split duties among staff without assigning them all to one person. He then suggested the Council meet with the City Manager informally on a more regular basis to set priorities and give direction for what to focus on. He recognized there is a problem but said, he was not convinced this is the solution.

Alderman Wolsky said, this is a low-risk, short-term solution to an immediate problem. He emphasized the importance of having the City Manager participate in the legislative process in Bismarck, specifically relating to the potential low interest loan program. He stated, this is not the perfect solution but it is temporary and they can move forward with it and then evaluate its effectiveness.

Alderman Straight commented that Mr. Goettle was hired to handle legislative issues so the City didn’t have to put as much focus there. He supported the idea of hiring an Assistant City Manager position but is opposed to this process. He said, he does not think this assignment would be a benefit and wants to look for a long-term solution.

Alderman Pittner raised concerns about who would be doing the additional work the Department Head can no longer do with their additional duties. He agreed that the City Manager needs help and he emphasized the City Manager’s successes. He said he would also prefer to see an Assistant Manager position discussed during the budget cycle.

Alderman Olson stated, they can do both; they can adopt the temporary program to see how it works and use those several months of data as they go into the budget process.

Mayor Sipma emphasized the temporary nature of the position to test how it would work out. He said, he understands the concerns about workload but that would be discussed internally within the departments first. He explained the need to get a strategic plan started which would alleviate some of the ongoing workload issues.

Alderman Jantzer compared the concept to other professions who hire extenders such as teaching assistants and nurse practitioners, who allow managers to accomplish their overall goals. He agreed that it is a fairly low-risk solution they can test out to see if it works. He added that they still have an opportunity to address the selection process if approved.

Tim Greenheck came forward from the public to address the Council. The Mayor reminded him, this is not a public hearing and is not open for public comment.

Upon request for clarification, the City Attorney stated, there are Attorney General’s opinions from the North Dakota Attorney General on when citizens are allowed to speak. All citizens are allowed to be present at any public meeting however, they are only specifically permitted to speak under public hearings. It can be opened up at the discretion of the governing body.

Whereupon Alderman Olson moved the City Council pass ordinance no. 5463 on second reading. Motion seconded by Alderman Jantzer and carried by the following roll call vote: ayes: Jantzer, Olson, Sipma, Wolsky; nays: Pitner, Podrygula, Straight.

ORDINANCE NO. 5472 - NDDOT FFY 2020 TRAFFIC SAFETY GRANT - SPEED ENFORCEMENT (PD0191) – FIRST READING – APPROVED

Alderman Jantzer moved the City Council grant authorization to apply for and, if awarded, accept the North Dakota Department of Transportation (NDDOT) FY 2020 Traffic Safety Enforcement Grant for the Minot Police Department; and place ordinance no. 5472 on first reading to amend the 2020 annual budget to increase the Police department overtime salary and benefit revenues and expenditures for the FY19-20 NDDOT Speed Enforcement Traffic Safety Grant. Motion seconded by Alderman Olson and carried.

Alderman Wolsky said, although this is a fairly insignificant dollar amount, it is an example of a State program that influences decisions by providing funding. He said, if the City needs $6,000 to pay for overtime then we should pay for it. He continued by saying, if we develop a relationship with the State Legislature, his hope would be to point out programs that are not needed. He mentioned mixing state business with local business and said this is a program that could be eliminated to either use the funds for a different purpose or take them out of the State budget.

Alderman Podrygula said, speeding and traffic violations are a leading complaint in the community. He supports the help this grants provides but agrees with some of Alderman Wolsky’s thoughts.
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Alderman Jantzer moved the City Council pass ordinance no. 5472 on first reading. Motion seconded by Alderman Olson and carried by the following roll call vote: ayes: Jantzer, Olson, Pitner, Podrygula, Sipma, Straight; nays: Wolsky

**ORDINANCE NO. 5473 - TENNANT SWEEPER FOR PARKING STRUCTURES – PROJECT #4518 – APPROVED**

Alderman Olson moved the City Council approve the purchase of a Reconditioned Tennant Floor Sweeper for maintaining the Renaissance and Central parking structures and place ordinance no. 5473 on first reading amending the 2020 annual budget to increase the Parking Ramps capital expenses and decrease the building and grounds maintenance for the purchase of the sweeper. Motion seconded by Alderman Jantzer and carried unanimously.

Alderman Wolsky asked if there was an existing street sweeper that could be used to complete the work. Mr. Lakefield said, due to the clearance of the structures, existing equipment does not fit and does not have the maneuverability to properly clean around pillars. Staff has been renting equipment to clean the ramps but the equipment is small and there is no cab to protect the employees from dust. Another issue he mentioned with the rented sweeper is that it is not able to dump into a dumpster or truck without the use of additional equipment which has proven inefficient. This reconditioned sweeper can sufficiently clean the ramps and is significantly cheaper than brand new equipment.

Upon further questioning by Alderman Wolsky, Mr. Lakefield said that Mr. Sickler, Property Maintenance Supervisor, has done research to find a machine that meets their specifications.

Alderman Podrygula asked if the City would be able to sell the equipment if we no longer need to maintain the parking structures. Mr. Lakefield replied by saying, they cannot predict how things will play out with the parking ramps. The refurbished equipment should work better than some cheaper machines but it may depend on the market at the time.

Alderman Olson moved the City Council pass ordinance no. 5473 on first reading. Motion seconded by Alderman Jantzer and carried by the following roll call vote: ayes: Jantzer, Olson, Pitner, Podrygula, Sipma, Straight, Wolsky; nays: none.

**CITY HALL RETAINING WALL – AWARD OF BIDS (4398) – APPROVED**

Alderman Olson moved the City Council award the low bid to Strata Corporation in the amount of $4,802,361.00 for the City Hall Retaining Wall and authorize the Mayor to sign the contact. Motion seconded by Alderman Podrygula.

Alderman Wolsky pointed out that the City Manager’s report mentioned the significant demand for street maintenance. He then commented on the increasing cost of this project. He said he does not believe the problem should be solved by replacing the wall with another wall. He also said, the additional 100 parking spaces, the project will provide is not necessary without substantial growth.

Alderman Pitner stated, this is an example of deferred maintenance that is overdue. He then said the additional parking will be welcome when events like state tournaments are held at the Auditorium. It may not be the purpose for the project, but additional parking is a welcome improvement.

Whereupon a vote was taken on the above motion by Alderman Olson, seconded by Alderman Podrygula and carried by the following roll call vote: ayes: Jantzer, Olson, Pitner, Podrygula, Sipma; nays: Straight, Wolsky

**ORDINANCE NO. 5474 – AMEND THE 2020 ANNUAL BUDGET - CITY HALL RETAINING WALL (4398) – FIRST READING – APPROVED**

Alderman Olson moved the City Council place ordinance no. 5474 on first reading amending the 2020 annual budget to increase the capital purchases expenditures and revenues for the completion of the City Hall retaining wall using capital purchases and sales tax infrastructure cash reserves. Motion seconded by Alderman Podrygula and carried.

Alderman Olson moved the City Council pass ordinance no. 5474 on first reading, seconded by Alderman Podrygula and carried by the following roll call vote: ayes: Jantzer, Olson, Pitner, Podrygula, Sipma; nays: Straight, Wolsky

**AGREEMENT FOR TRANSIT ADVERTISING FOR THE 2020 CENSUS – APPROVED**
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Alderman Jantzer moved the City Council approve the agreement for transit advertising between the City of Minot Transit Department and the City of Minot Planning Department for advertising the 2020 United States Census on one (1) city transit bus and seven (7) sanitation vehicles; and authorize the Mayor to sign the agreement. Motion seconded by Alderman Pitner.

Mr. Billingsley came forward to explain that staff recommends a modification to change the document to a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). He said, all other agreements for this type of advertising have been from private sector business and as this is the first time an agreement has been made between two parties within the City, there are some adjustments that must be made. Staff will modify the MOU and forward it to the City Attorney to review but they are requesting Council grant authorization to move forward with the advertisements.

The City Attorney clarified, the MOU will have slightly different language but has the same intent which is providing funding for advertising on City transit.

The motion maker and the second agreed to the modification.

Alderman Wolsky wondered if there is a current policy regarding bus wrapping and brought up the practice of wrapping the entire bus, including windows.

Alderman Wolsky moved to amend the motion to direct staff not to wrap the windows of buses for this or future advertising contracts.

Mr. Jonasson explained that it may cause issues with new and existing advertisers since the windows make up a large portion of the advertising capability. It would be much less desirable to advertise which would impact a valuable revenue source for the department. He said, the wrap still allows passengers to see out of the bus through the perforations.

The Mayor asked Mr. Jonasson to explain if there are any DOT issues with the wrapping, to which Mr. Jonasson responded by saying, it does not pose any problems with the DOT. The driver windows are not covered and there are no visibility issues. Mr. Jonasson also said, they offer options other than a full wrap at a reduced rate.

Motion seconded by Alderman Podrygula.

Alderman Podrygula asked about the revenue bus advertising receives. Mr. Jonasson said, a full wrap is about $600-$650 per month which generates about $7,200-$8,000 each year. There are currently four buses fully wrapped.

Mr. Jonasson said, the advertising income is used as match funding for new buses when we need them.

Alderman Wolsky explained his motion and said he understands the market may want to reconsider the rate they pay for advertising on the buses. He said, he doesn’t often ride public transportation in Minot but believes a passenger would like to look out the window. It would also be helpful to be able to see how many people are on the buses. He said, he would prefer the Council set a policy not to wrap windows.

The City Attorney said, it would be more appropriate for the amendment to be limited to the item in the original motion and if the Council wants to separately bring up the policy issue for future wraps, they can.

The motion maker and the second agreed. Whereupon a vote was taken on the amendment by Alderman Wolsky, seconded by Alderman Podrygula and failed by the following roll call vote: ayes: Wolsky; nays: Jantzer, Olson, Pitner, Podrygula, Sipma, Straight.

A vote was taken on the original motion by Alderman Jantzer, seconded by Alderman Pitner and carried by the following roll call vote: ayes: Jantzer, Olson, Pitner, Podrygula, Sipma, Straight; nays: Wolsky

DEVELOPERS AGREEMENT - RETRIEVER RIDGE SUBDIVISION (4516) – APPROVED

Alderman Olson moved the City Council approve the Retriever Ridge Subdivision Developers Agreement with Terry Davis and Anne Davis and authorize the Mayor to sign. Motion seconded by Alderman Pitner.

Alderman Wolsky asked about the Storm Sewer requirement and what it would attach to. Mr. Meyer explained that it would probably tie into an approach culvert that would go underneath the road. He then said, it is mentioned in the agreement
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because it is not in the City of Minot’s jurisdiction so someone has to maintain those pipes. Upon further questioning, Mr. Meyer said, maintenance would be the responsibility of the Township and if they refuse, it would fall upon the developer.

Whereupon a vote was taken on the above motion by Alderman Olson, seconded by Alderman Pitner and carried by the following roll call vote: ayes: Jantzer, Olson, Pitner, Podrygula, Sipma, Straight, Wolsky; nays: None

RESOLUTION NO. 3652 - APPROVE EMINENT DOMAIN FOR 308 4TH AVE NE & VACANT LOT & 306 4TH AVE NE & 400 4TH AVE NE & 1107 6TH AVE SW & 1100 EDWARD AVE SW – APPROVED

Alderman Pitner moved the City Council approve resolution no. 3652 authorizing commencing Eminent Domain Proceedings for 308 4th Avenue NE & Vacant Lot & 306 4th Avenue NE & 400 4th Avenue NE, and 1107 6th Avenue SW & 1100 Edward Avenue SW, Minot, ND. Motion seconded by Alderman Olson.

Alderman Wolsky commented on the increasingly difficult situations surrounding eminent domain proceedings but said, they unfortunately need to move forward.

Whereupon a vote was taken on the above motion by Alderman Pitner, seconded by Alderman Olson and carried by the following roll call vote: ayes: Jantzer, Olson, Pitner, Podrygula, Sipma, Straight, Wolsky; nays: None

RESOLUTION NO. 3653 - APPROVE EMINENT DOMAIN FOR 720 2ND AVE NE AND 19 8TH ST NE, MINOT – APPROVED

Alderman Jantzer moved the City Council approve resolution no. 3653 authorizing commencing Eminent Domain Proceedings for 720 2nd Avenue NE and 19 8th Street NE Minot, ND 58703.

Motion seconded by Alderman Pitner and carried by the following roll call vote: ayes: Jantzer, Olson, Pitner, Podrygula, Sipma, Straight, Wolsky; nays: None

CONFIRM CDBG RECAPTURE & DUPLICATION OF BENEFITS POLICIES – APPROVED

Alderman Jantzer moved the City Council confirm the CDBG-DR/NDR Recapture Plan and Duplication of Benefits Policy administratively established since 2013 but not previously approved by the City Council.

Motion seconded by Alderman Olson and carried by the following roll call vote: ayes: Jantzer, Olson, Pitner, Podrygula, Sipma, Straight, Wolsky; nays: None

REQUEST FOR COMMUNITY OWNED ICE ARENA FUNDS – APPROVED

Alderman Straight moved the City Council approve the request by the Minot Park District for $270,000 from the Community Owned Ice Arena Fund to pay for repairs to the facilities at MAYSA Arena. Motion seconded by Alderman Pitner.

At the request of Alderman Straight, the Finance Director described the history and intent of the account. Mr. Lakefield said, the intent behind setting up this fund was for the MAYSA and All Seasons Arena’s to have a funding vehicle through sales tax dollars in case of emergencies. The allocation of funds into the account was discontinued in 2017-2018 because it had a significant balance. The funds remain available in case they are needed for a large repair but the remaining amount of $21,000 won’t get very far. If the Council decides to eliminate the account or fund it in the future, they can do so during the budget cycle.

Alderman Pitner said, the issue is worthy of discussion. The ice promotes tourism and generates sales tax revenue so it seems like a good use of sales tax dollars to put back into the facilities.

Alderman Jantzer pointed out that the fund is working as planned. He recalled an incident that took place before the fund was established in which there was a catastrophic event that occurred at the All-Seasons Arena. MAYSA had not been built yet and there was a massive fundraising campaign to repair the ice rink. Funding the account in the future remains a question but can be discussed during the budget cycle.

Alderman Podrygula questioned whether the City should continue to collect funds for another taxing entity. The remaining $21,000 can be absorbed elsewhere since it won’t go far to make repairs to the arenas.
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Alderman Straight moved to amend the motion to include the remaining balance from the Community Owned Ice Arena Fund in the Park District request. Motion seconded by Alderman Podrygula.

Alderman Straight stated, he is a supporter of the Community Facilities fund and is grateful for the dividends those facilities provide. He said he would love to hear from the Hockey Boosters on how to get more tournaments in Minot.

Alderman Pitner suggested, for the sake of later discussion on the Community Owned Ice Arena Fund, that they keep the remaining balance in the fund.

Alderman Wolsky spoke in favor of eliminating the account after taking action on the remaining funds. He said the City does not need to play a role in ice management since it belongs to the Park District.

Alderman Jantzer spoke about the original intent of the fund to support community owned ice arenas and take care of issues regardless of where it’s located. He said, if they are planning on changing a longstanding policy and decide the Park District will be the solely responsible organization, then it warrants more discussion.

Alderman Pitner said to be mindful of the funding source. Sales tax is generated by the arenas and there should be a deeper discussion on whether or not to continue the fund.

Whereupon a vote was taken on the amendment by Alderman Straight, seconded by Alderman Podrygula and failed by the following roll call vote: ayes: Sipma, Straight, Wolsky; nays: Jantzer, Olson, Pitner, Podrygula

Alderman Straight commented that the City is not collecting funds into this account and has discontinued the allocation of funds into the community facilities fund. He questioned the rationale for keeping the remaining balance in the account.

Whereupon a vote was taken on the above motion by Alderman Straight seconded by Alderman Pitner and carried by the following roll call vote: ayes: Jantzer, Olson, Pitner, Podrygula, Sipma, Straight, Wolsky; nays: None

REVISED ALIGNMENT FOR MREFPP – PHASE MI-5 – APPROVED

Mr. Jonasson introduced Jerry Bents, of Houston Engineering to present an update on the revised alignment.

Mr. Bents recapped the information that was presented during a previous meeting. He then described the public outreach that took place since that Council meeting. The public meeting resulted in nine written comments as well as several visits with affected residents. There were minor adjustments made to the design in order to address their concerns. He said, they are requesting approval from the Council so the recommendation could then be forwarded to the Souris River Joint Board on Thursday.

Mayor Sipma thanked Mr. Bents for his work and for the public input. He asked what kind of delay there would be if the Council did not approve the revised alignment.

Mr. Bents responded by saying, they would have to fall back on the previous design which is at a stalemate with BNSF. The concept the railroad provided would cost much more money.

Alderman Pitner asked if an earthen dike was considered. Mr. Bents said, they looked at a levee but it becomes a lot wider and would have a greater social impact. The additional homes that would be required would cancel out any savings in construction.

Alderman Wolsky said, although the process is improving, he would like to see the responses to the public comments in writing. He then asked why Railway Avenue would remain open during a flood event and if it could be split in two with the wall through the middle.

Mr. Bents used illustrations to describe the 30’-40’ wide footings underneath the wall’s design. He said, there are also utilities housed underground adjacent to the wall that need to fit in the corridor. If the floodwall went through the middle of the street, the footings would take up a lot of that room for the utility corridor which would cause issues and would ultimately require moving the utility corridor. The result would be the same, in which the houses still need to be acquired.

Alderman Straight asked why eminent domain could not be used on the railroad. Mr. Ackerman, Administrator for SRJB explained that outside of an executive session he cannot share the opinions of an attorney regarding negotiations with BNSF
nevertheless, he provided a high-level overview of the situation. He said, the public has the authority to condemn property for public uses however, the railroad also serves a public use as interstate commerce. The railroad has vast authority regarding condemnation rights as well, so if the City goes to court to condemn the railroad, the railroad could then condemn the City.

Alderman Straight then asked if BNSF was clear about their intentions from the beginning. Mr. Ackerman said, if they were not going to put forward a good faith effort, they would not have invested in the conversation. The railroad believes $2 million is an adequate investment from their standpoint.

Alderman Straight pointed out the additional costs associated with all of the time, delays, and engineering going into redesigning this portion of the project.

Alderman Pitner said, the railroad is its own entity as well as a community partner. Minot may not even exist if it weren’t for the railroad so it seems unfair to put so much blame on them. They are exercising their right as a public entity and although it is unfortunate how the situation is playing out, he does not want to bash an entity that shows so much support for our community. He said, they should accept the results because the City and the railroad will have to work together in the future.

Alderman Jantzer moved the City Council approve the revised alignment for Phase MI-5 of the Mouse River Enhanced Flood Protection Project. Motion seconded by Alderman Olson.

Alderman Wolsky said he does not blame BNSF for their position and hopes to continue the partnership on this project. He would however, like the design team to keep the wall in the existing Railway Avenue limiting access to Railway Avenue during a flood event. He said, he wants to explore an easement on the south side to accommodate some of the underground footprint. There would be a disruption to the railroad during construction but he believes the footing underneath the tracks should not be an issue.

Mr. Ackerman said, they can look into it.

Alderman Wolsky then brought up the economic benefit the flood wall provides to BNSF and said they should keep that in mind during future phases.

Whereupon a vote was taken on the above motion by Alderman Jantzer, seconded by Alderman Olson and carried by the following roll call vote: Jantzer, Olson, Podrygula, Sipma; nays: Pitner, Straight, Wolsky.

**PERSONAL APPEARANCES**

None

**MISCELLANEOUS & OTHER BUSINESS**

Alderman Straight commended Jazmine Schultz for coordinating “Fight February” events to help those who struggle during the winter months.

Alderman Jantzer commented that Minot is a good and generous community as exemplified in the YWCA’s efforts to help the victims of the recent apartment fire. He called attention to all of those helping with donations and thanked the Fire Department for their work.

Alderman Wolsky requested Public Works find a way to gather data on whether additional trash is being collected since Kalix discontinued recycling operations.

Mayor Sipma took a moment to acknowledge the public comment earlier in the evening. He said, when it comes to issues that impact the public and have a direct effect on the lives of individuals in the community, public input is welcome. When it comes to administration, especially subordination and management of City employees, it is the job of the Council to maintain a level of management within the dais. They do not want to create a situation of trying to undermine all management positions with all levels of staff.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, Alderman Jantzer moved the City Council meeting be adjourned. Motion seconded by Alderman Pitner and carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 8:04 pm.
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ATTEST: _________________________
   Kelly Matalka, City Clerk

APPROVED: _________________________
   Shaun Sipma, Mayor