June 1, 2020 Regular City Council Meeting

MINOT CITY COUNCIL – SCHEDULED MEETING – JUNE 1, 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.

May 5th – Sign Closing Papers for Flood Home Acquisition
May 5th – Joint Information Press Briefing
May 6th – CTE-NDR Planning Meeting
May 6th – Legislative Conference Call
May 7th – ND Department of Commerce Briefing
May 7th – Souris River Joint Board Meeting
May 8th – COVID-19 Task Force Meeting
May 8th – CTE-NDR Follow-up Meeting
May 11th – Task Force 21 Meeting
May 12th – Joint Information Press Briefing
May 13th – Briefing from Minot Air Force Base Commander
May 14th – MADC Board Meeting
May 14th – Chief of Staff USAF – Gen. David L Goldfein Meeting at MAFB
May 15th – COVID-19 Task Force Meeting
May 17th – Nedrose Senior Graduation Parade
May 18th – Special City Council Meeting
May 18th – B-52 Flyover Honoring Healthcare & Essential Workers
May 19th – Joint Information Press Briefing
May 20th – Interim Water Topics Committee Planning Meeting
May 20th – Organizational Structure Conference Call
May 21st – WDEA Gross Production Oil Forecast Conference Call
May 21st – Governor’s Office Conference Call COVID-19
May 21st – Emergency Operation Plan Meeting
May 21st – COVID-19 Task Force Meeting
May 22nd – State Economic Outlook Forecast Webinar – NDSU Economist
May 26th – Joint Information Press Briefing
May 27th – CTE Follow-up Meeting
May 29th – IEDC Steering Committee Meeting
May 30th & 31st – Planning Discussions George Floyd Vigil/BLM Rally in Oak Park

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

MAYORAL APPOINTMENT – APPROVED

Alderman Jantzer moved the City Council affirm the Mayor's appointment of Tammy Zietz Nesdahl to the Planning Commission with a term to expire June 2025.

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

Interim City Manager, David Lakefield, began the report by listing upcoming meeting dates.

He then described the 2021 budget priorities and the timeframe for producing and approving the 2021 budget. He provided a quick view of sales tax collections but acknowledged that sales tax collections are volatile throughout the year so it is difficult to provide a definitive projection. He mentioned that they are confident in the effect of Hub City collections for the City of Minot due to the structure of how collections are distributed.

Mr. Lakefield then provided construction updates on 31st Avenue Reconstruction, which is on schedule, the 10th Street Storm Sewer which is underway, and Flood Control Phases MI-1, MI-2/3 and MI-4 /maple Diversion. He also described the traffic signal cabinet switchovers which will replace equipment throughout the City and enable traffic engineers to communicate with intersections.

He announced that City buildings will reopen in time for the next Council meeting June 15th. Pending any drastic changes in the situation, staff will return to work and will continue normal operations.

Mr. Lakefield began his NDR update by announcing John Zakian’s resignation. He was hired in 2017 and has helped align the City with compliance regulations with CDBG-DR and NDR funds. He is moving on to a position in Texas later this month. Mr. Lakefield continued his update by saying, the NDR Grantees are requesting a time extension from Congress due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The request for support is later in the agenda. The relocation of City Hall project is currently undergoing environmental review and the Family Homeless Shelter is accepting bids this month.

He concluded his report by saying the Hazardous Waste Collection has been scheduled for June 19-20 at Public Works. Residents can drop off hazardous materials and electronics for proper disposal during that time.

Alderman Wolsky asked for an update regarding the search for a new City Manager. The HR Director stated, they are still looking for firms and will bring them to Council once collected.

CITY ATTORNEY REPORT

The City Attorney provided a written report.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES – APPROVED

Alderman Pinther moved the City Council approve the minutes of the May 18, 2020 special City Council meeting and the May 18, 2020 regular City Council meeting.

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

APPROVAL OF BILLS & TRANSFERS – APPROVED

Alderman Pinther moved the City Council approve the bills and transfers as listed for May in the amount of $3,676,874.86.
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SUNDRE SAND & GRAVEL, INC.                    3236.40  282581  WARD COUNTY AUDITOR  6715.00  282323
SUPERPUMPER                                   80.00  282582  WARD COUNTY AUDITOR  1130.00  282553
SWANSON & WARCUP, LTD                         14965.56  1002620  WARD COUNTY RECORDER  20.00  282469
SWANSTON EQUIPMENT                            4334.23  282312  WARD COUNTY RECORDER  20.00  282470
SWANSTON EQUIPMENT                            13781.37  282440  WARD COUNTY RECORDER  20.00  282594
SWANSTON EQUIPMENT                            1371.48  282583  WATER ACCOUNT REFUNDS  28.27  282180
TARGET                                        289.22  1002621  WATER ACCOUNT REFUNDS  21.45  282187
TEAM ELECTRONICS INC                          40.00  282313  WATER ACCOUNT REFUNDS  73.53  282230
TEAM ELECTRONICS INC                          1072.00  282441  WATER ACCOUNT REFUNDS  22.96  282253
TEAM ELECTRONICS INC                          68.00  1002622  WATER ACCOUNT REFUNDS  46.57  282256
THE CHEESESTEAK FACTORY                       600.00  1002623  WATER ACCOUNT REFUNDS  46.57  282260
THE HILLMAN GROUP, INC                        242.07  1002624  WATER ACCOUNT REFUNDS  22.23  282306
THIRD WATCH COMMUNICATIONS                    23629.00  282584  WATER ACCOUNT REFUNDS  8.49  282322
TIMMONS GROUP                                 15480.00  282585  WATER ACCOUNT REFUNDS  28.85  282350
TITAN MACHINERY                               945.00  282314  WATER ACCOUNT REFUNDS  6.74  282388
TNC INDUSTRIES, INC                           16108.00  282315  WATER ACCOUNT REFUNDS  10.00  282397
TOLLEFSON'S                                   148.00  282467  WATER ACCOUNT REFUNDS  8.65  282399
TRACTOR SUPPLY CREDIT PLAN                    449.43  1002625  WATER ACCOUNT REFUNDS  182.45  282407
TRINITY MEDICAL GROUP                          52.50  282443  WATER ACCOUNT REFUNDS  19.22  282408
TRINITY MEDICAL GROUP                          16032.88  1002626  WATER ACCOUNT REFUNDS  16.58  282435
TYLER TECHNOLOGIES, INC                       22900.00  282316  WATER ACCOUNT REFUNDS  9.43  282442
TYLER TECHNOLOGIES, INC                       15250.00  282444  WATER ACCOUNT REFUNDS  14.39  282449
TYLER TECHNOLOGIES, INC                       5998.72  282468  WATER ACCOUNT REFUNDS  3682.83  282461
TYLER TECHNOLOGIES, INC                       4200.00  282586  WATER ACCOUNT REFUNDS  50.00  282520
U.S. POST OFFICE                              5000.00  282587  WEST DAKOTA UTILITY SERVICES  1519.44  284450
U.S. POST OFFICE                              146.50  1002627  WEST DAKOTA UTILITY SERVICES  685.80  284271
ULTIEQ                                        6786.50  282588  WEST OAKS ANIMAL HOSPITAL  199.94  1002631
UNCEM PHARMACY                                39.99  1002628  WESTERN STEEL AND PLUMBING  147.93  1002632
UNIFORM CENTER                                357.93  282445  WESTLIE FORD  2429.46  283234
UNITED MAILING SERVICE                        277.11  282317  WESTLIE FORD  2690.62  284251
UNITED MAILING SERVICE                        277.80  282446  WESTLIE FORD  317.34  282555
UNITED MAILING SERVICE                        5277.97  282589  WESTLIE TRUCK CENTER  2795.09  282326
UNUM LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY OF AMER           8387.33  282318  WESTLIE TRUCK CENTER  1337.06  284252
UNUM LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY OF AMER           3946.90  282447  WESTLIE TRUCK CENTER  712.98  282556
UNUM LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY OF AMER           12095.49  282590  WESTLIE TRUCK CENTER  103.58  1002633
UPS STORE #1423                                107.33  1002629  WILBUR-ELLIS CO LLC  94.58  1002634
VANTAGEPOINT TRANSFER - 30####                139.71  282319  WINNELSON  233.57  1002635
VERISON WIRELESS                               3444.33  1002630  WSI CLAIM  445.74  283237
VESSCO, INC                                   12.02  282448  XEROX CORPORATION  131.42  282597
VILLAGE FAMILY SERVICE CENTER                 3150.00  282320  ZASTE, ALEX  332.19  282598
WAL MART                                      465.80  282321
WALLWORK TRUCK CENTER                         418.00  282591  TOTAL:  $3,676,874.86

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

ORDINANCE NO. 5502- AMEND THE 2020 ANNUAL BUDGET – SOUTHWEST WATER TOWER – SECOND READING – APPROVED

Alderman Pitner moved the City Council place ordinance no. 5502 on second reading amending the 2020 annual budget to increase the Water Supply and Treatment capital purchase expenditure for the award of the Southwest Water Tower project. Motion seconded by Alderman Jantzer and carried unanimously.

Alderman Pitner moved the City Council pass ordinance no. 5502 on second reading. Motion seconded by Alderman Jantzer and carried by the following roll call vote: ayes: Jantzer, Olson, Pitner, Podrygula, Sipma, Straight, Wolsky; nays: none.

ORDINANCE NO. 5503 – MDU FRANCHISE AGREEMENT – SECOND READING – APPROVED

Alderman Pitner moved the City Council place ordinance no. 5503 on second reading repealing and reenacting Appendix B (Franchises), Sub-Part II, Division 2 of the City of Minot Code of Ordinances relating to the gas distribution franchise for Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. Motion seconded by Alderman Jantzer and carried unanimously.

Alderman Pitner moved the City Council pass ordinance no. 5503 on second reading. Motion seconded by Alderman Jantzer and carried by the following roll call vote: ayes: Jantzer, Olson, Pitner, Podrygula, Sipma, Straight, Wolsky; nays: none.

ORDINANCE NO. 5504 - EXTENSION OF DAYCARE SERVICES AGREEMENT AMENDMENT 2 – SECOND READING – APPROVED

Alderman Pitner moved the City Council place ordinance no. 5504 on second reading amending the 2020 annual budget to increase the Emergency Fund Professional Service Contracts expenditures for the Emergency Personnel Childcare Services and approve the use of Emergency Fund cash reserves. Motion seconded by Alderman Jantzer and carried unanimously.
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Alderman Pitner moved the City Council pass ordinance no. 5504 on second reading. Motion seconded by Alderman Jantzer and carried by the following roll call vote: ayes: Jantzer, Olson, Pitner, Podrygula, Sipma, Straight, Wolsky; nays: none.

ORDINANCE NO. 5505- AMEND 2020 BUDGET FOR THE PURCHASE OF A HAZARDOUS MATERIALS DATA GATHERING KIT (FD0105) – FIRST READING – APPROVED

Alderman Pitner moved the City Council place ordinance no. 5505 on first reading to amend the 2020 annual budget to adjust the Fire department funds for the purchase of a data gathering kit to be used with Hazardous Materials equipment. Motion seconded by Alderman Jantzer and carried unanimously.

Alderman Pitner moved the City Council pass ordinance no. 5505 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.

ORDINANCE NO. 5506 AMEND THE 2020 ANNUAL BUDGET- FY 2019 STATE HOMELAND SECURITY GRANT EQUIPMENT PURCHASE (FD0105) – FIRST READING – APPROVED

Alderman Pitner moved the City Council place ordinance no. 5506 on first reading to amend the 2020 Annual budget to increase revenues and expenditures to include the trade in value for Area Rae Meters purchased with the FY19 State Homeland Security Grant funding. Motion seconded by Alderman Jantzer and carried unanimously.

Alderman Pitner moved the City Council pass ordinance no. 5506 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.

FY2020 USDOJ – BULLETPROOF VEST PARTNERSHIP GRANT – APPROVED

Alderman Pitner moved the City Council grant authorization to apply for and, if awarded, accept the US Department of Justice (USDOJ) FY 2020 Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant for the Minot Police Department and authorize the Chief of Police and/or Mayor to sign the award agreements.

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

BJA FY 2020 CORONAVIRUS EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL FUNDING PROGRAM – APPROVED

Alderman Pitner moved the City Council grant authorization to apply for and, if awarded, accept the FY 2020 Coronavirus Emergency Supplemental Funding Program grant and authorize the Chief of Police to sign the Grant Acceptance and Award documents.

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

ORDINANCE NO. 5507 - AMEND THE 2020 ANNUAL BUDGET- BJA FY 2020 CORONAVIRUS EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL FUNDING PROGRAM – FIRST READING – APPROVED

Alderman Pitner moved the City Council place ordinance no. 5507 on first reading amending the 2020 annual budget to increase the Police department operation supplies revenues and expenditures for the 2020 Coronavirus Emergency Supplemental Funding Program Grant awarded by the Department of Justice. Motion seconded by Alderman Jantzer and carried unanimously.

Alderman Pitner moved the City Council pass ordinance no. 5507 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.

ORDINANCE NO. 5508 - AMEND THE 2020 ANNUAL BUDGET- FIRE COMMAND CENTER HVAC CONTROL UPGRADE – FIRST READING – APPROVED

Alderman Pitner moved the City Council place ordinance no. 5508 on first reading to amend the 2020 annual budget to increase the Fire Building and Grounds expenditures for the purchase of an HVAC control upgrade for the fire command center that had been appropriated in the 2019 budget. Motion seconded by Alderman Jantzer and carried unanimously.
Alderman Pitner moved the City Council pass ordinance no. 5508 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.

**ORDINANCE NO. 5509 - AMEND THE 2020 ANNUAL BUDGET - CITY HALL BUILDING RELOCATION ANALYSIS (CAP032 / 4466) – FIRST READING – APPROVED**

Alderman Pitner moved the City Council place ordinance no. 5509 on first reading to increase the engineer professional service contracts expenditure and revenue for the City Hall building analysis which will be funded with budgeted Capital Purchases for the new City Hall. Motion seconded by Alderman Jantzer and carried unanimously.

Alderman Pitner moved the City Council pass ordinance no. 5509 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.

**DEMOLITION BID AWARD FOR CDBG-NDR & CDBG-DR ACQUIRED STRUCTURES – APPROVED**

Alderman Pitner moved the City Council award the bid for Demolition of CDBG-NDR Structures (flood buy-out) and CDBG-DR Structures (Spot Blight) to Dig-It-Up Backhoe Service Inc.

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

**BID ACCEPTANCE AND PURCHASE OF POLICE PATROL VEHICLES (PD0178) – APPROVED**

Alderman Pitner moved the City Council accept the bid by Westlie Motor Company for the purchase of five (5) 2021 Ford Interceptor Utility Vehicles for a total cost of $173,706.20 at $34,741.24 per vehicle.

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

**2020 SANITARY SEWER REHAB AWARD OF BID (CITY PROJECT NO. 4494) – APPROVED**

Alderman Pitner moved the City Council award the bid for the 2020 Sanitary Sewer Rehab Project to HydroKleen, Inc. for the lowest bid of $729,213.65.

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

**APPROVE ONE YEAR EXTENSION OF SWANSON & WARCUP LTD AGREEMENT – APPROVED**

Alderman Pitner moved the City Council approve extension of the agreement to June 30, 2021 with Swanson and Warcup Ltd. for CDBG-DR and CDBG-NDR Flood Buyout Acquisition Eminent Domain Proceedings.

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

**GAMING SITE AUTHORIZATION- THE AGGIE FOUNDATION – APPROVED**

Alderman Olson moved the City Council approve the gaming site authorization for The Aggie Foundation to install electronic dispensing devices at Quality Inn & Suites (3916 North Broadway). Motion seconded by Alderman Jantzer.

Alderman Wolsky expressed his continued concern with the practice of granting charitable gaming permits. He said he hopes for a moratorium on gaming authorizations so the policies can be reviewed to ensure the most benefit for Minot.

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

**ORDINANCE NO. 5510 - AMEND THE 2020 ANNUAL BUDGET - LIB035 LIBRARY EXTERIOR – FIRST READING – APPROVED**
Alderman Olson moved the City Council place ordinance no. 5510 on first reading to increase the Library building and grounds expenditure for the exterior improvements. Motion seconded by Alderman Straight and carried unanimously.

Alderman Wolsky stated, he supported the project even though the bid was 20% above the budgeted amount. He will continue to support maintenance on this important piece of infrastructure but wanted to acknowledge his concerns over the additional costs which weren’t identified earlier.

Alderman Olson moved the City Council pass ordinance no. 5510 on first reading. Motion seconded by Alderman Straight and carried by the following roll call vote: ayes: Jantzer, Olson, Pitner, Podrygula, Sipma, Straight, Wolsky; nays: none.

**AUTHORIZE EXECUTION OF BLU ON BROADWAY FLEX PACE DOCUMENTS – APPROVED**

Alderman Olson moved the City Council authorize execution of Bank of North Dakota Flex PACE Documents for Blu on Broadway. Motion seconded by Alderman Jantzer.

Alderman Wolsky mentioned the concerns raised by a local contractor and said it would not be prudent to move forward until the issues were addressed.

Mr. Zakian stated, he responded to the contractor’s concerns in an email in which he included the Council. He explained that there is no legal basis for the complaints that were made. The contractor raised concerns over whether the selection process for contractors was appropriate. Mr. Zakian said, pursuant to federal law, when using a developer for a project, it is within the purview of the developer to use whatever methodology they deem appropriate to choose a contractor. In this case, they used a method of competitive bids and awarded the lowest bidder. To select a developer, the City did extensive vetting based on the costs of the project and the cap of NDR funds that will support this project. The Developer Agreement that Council approved covers all of the requirements and specifications a developer has to live up to but it is up to the developer to choose methodology for contractors. Each time the developer submits documentation for reimbursement, the HUD standards will be followed to ensure all costs are necessary and reasonable. Another compliance requirement a grantee is required to follow is to monitor compliance with the federal Davis-Bacon law regarding prevailing wages. He said there was also a complaint filed regarding discrimination based on civil rights laws. They are obligated to investigate and resolve it, however there was nothing provided by the contractor that had a relationship to those requirements. He then pointed out that under Federal Statute, a grantee has 15 days to respond to a complaint and this was done in three.

Alderman Pitner stated, he has been opposed to this project since the beginning because of variances, saturation, and concerns over the splash pad on Broadway and he still can’t support the project going forward.

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

**2018 & 2019 ABATEMENT REQUEST FOR 2 VACANT PARCELS**

The abatement request was pulled from the agenda and will be considered at a later City Council meeting.

**APPROVAL OF PLANS & SPECS P# 3529.04A MREFPP PHASE MI-4A MAPLE DIVERSION UTILITY RELOCATION – APPROVED**

Alderman Jantzer moved the City Council approve plans and specifications and recommend approval to SRJB for bidding of the Utility relocation portion of the Maple Diversion MI-4A of the MREFPP and approve the resolution of funding. Motion seconded by Alderman Pitner.

Alderman Wolsky asked about the timing of the project, which was discussed during the conversation about the City Hall Retaining Wall. Mr. Jonasson said, since the Retaining Wall project is not being done this year, this project is moving ahead.

Mayor Sipma emphasized the need to move forward without substantial delays and mentioned the visit from the Water Topics Committee in August for an update.

Alderman Straight brought up the need for Senators to gain funding for the Maple Diversion.

Whereupon a vote was taken on the above motion by Alderman Jantzer seconded by Alderman Pitner and carried by the following roll call vote: ayes: Jantzer, Olson, Pitner, Podrygula, Sipma, Straight, Wolsky; nays: none.
ORDINANCE NO. 5511 - SECOND PENNY SALES TAX – FIRST READING – APPROVED

Alderman Jantzer moved the City Council place ordinance no. 5511 on first reading to approve the language for the reinstatement of the second penny sales tax following the anticipated expiration on June 1, 2021. Motion seconded by Alderman Olson and carried unanimously.

Finance Director, David Lakefield explained that staff is working with the State Tax Commissioner on the ordinance language. He said, when the ordinance was approved by Council, it was contingent upon voter approval at the June 14, 2011 election, which passed. The language in the ordinance says it is effective on the later of these actions, which would be, June 14, 2011. The State Tax Commissioner handles tax collections and has a different opinion on the effective date. They need to have the ordinance 90 days in advance and the tax begins the first day of the quarter. Their opinion is that the sales tax will sunset September 30, 2021 and the new penny would be effective October 1, 2021 but the language in the ordinance still references June. The language may have to be revisited with the Tax Commissioner’s Office and resolved prior to second reading to make sure there is no gap in collections.

Alderman Olson asked Mr. Lakefield to explain how the ordinance can be amended by Council without a vote of the public, to which he responded by saying, the ordinance was initially established to fund NAWS. Since NAWS was tied up in litigation, the expectation was that collections were sufficient to fund to completion. It was sent for voter approval to redirect funds to Community Facilities even though it was not required for a vote to be taken.

Alderman Straight commented on the desire for residents to have a conversation once NAWS is complete, to decide where dollars should be directed. He listed some of the impacts of Community Facility funds and the sales taxes they collect for the City.

Alderman Jantzer asked Mr. Lakefield to explain the bonding scenarios for flood control and how they relate to sales tax collections. Mr. Lakefield said, it is one of the unknowns but is being discussed at the legislature with the long term low interest loans. Because a portion of the sales tax funds flood control, if we are going to issue bonds, the sales tax cannot expire before the life of the bonds or they need an alternative funding source. At the recommendation of their bond counsel, language was included regarding the termination clause to cover outstanding debt in relation to those projects.

Alderman Wolsky commented on the importance of this revenue source. He said he is willing to have conversations on potential adjustments later to make sure it is used to meet the needs of our community. He also recommended the second reading take place after the new Council is seated.

Alderman Jantzer moved the City Council pass ordinance no. 5511 on first reading. Motion seconded by Alderman Olson and carried by the following roll call vote: ayes: Jantzer, Olson, Pitner, Podrygula, Sipma, Straight, Wolsky; nays: none.

SUPPORT REQUEST OF CONGRESS TO EXTEND CDBG-NDR UNTIL 9/30/25 – APPROVED

Alderman Pittner moved the City Council support the letter from 13 CDBG-NDR Grantees asking Congress to extend the deadline to September 30, 2025 and authorize the Mayor to send support letters to the North Dakota Delegation.

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

NDR ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION PLANNING DISCUSSION & ACTION – APPROVED

Alderman Wolsky described the memo he provided and read an excerpt from the NDR Phase II application, “A series of flood storage and eco-restoration projects in Minot will establish an open space network to increase the city’s resilience, reduce the scale and cost of other flood protection measures, and reconnect Minot to the Souris River. These open spaces will reduce flood levels during storm events; restore riparian habitat; engage residents in the management and stewardship of the river; and ensure the productive public use of waterfront land so it enhances the city’s economy, social life, and overall resilience.”

He continued by saying, since the Phase II application was not funded in full, some projects were reduced in budget and scope. The Action Plan became more prescriptive but includes an ecological guidance manual for Flood Storage that will include guidance that covers activities from evaluation of the parcels to potential development of parcels for use as wildlife habitat areas, trail areas, habitat restoration areas, and areas where outdoor environmental education activities may be
suitable. The manual will combine flood storage and water management strategies as well as non-structural solutions like buyouts with the long-term flood protection system, to create a layered approach to flood risk reduction.

He then brought up the resolution approved by Council in July 2017 demonstrating support for improving the river and developing a resource from it. He said, he believes they have a financial resource in the NDR Program and a good fit with the intent of the Council and the waterway concept. He asked Mr. Zakian to confirm whether their concept is in alignment with what can be done under NDR guidelines. One of his proposals was to engage the Souris River Joint Board in a subrecipient agreement since they already have engineers and consultants working in the area conducting river restoration.

Mr. Zakian explained that in his research on the planning study he found that SRJB is not a partner in the CDBG-NDR application or action plan. The original application included projects that did not make the final cut due to low scoring. One of the concepts was a series of trail ways connecting flood storage areas. When that concept was cut, it was replaced with this planning study to create a resource for future projects. There have previously been discussions with the Park District to utilize the funding to advance the concept in partnership with the Park District to leverage resources. Delays resulted from questions relating to eligible construction in flood buyout areas, which has since been resolved. There are also issues with resources since the Park District has its own capital projects to work on. The future of the dead loops can be discussed but it is not within the scope of the original planning study. They could move forward with a subrecipient agreement with the Park District including a purpose, mission and deliverables to the City. The underlying principles have to connect to impact from the flood and show measures to mitigate flood damage and promote resiliency.

Alderman Wolsky emphasized the connection between the dead loops and the flood since they are flood storage areas and were created as part of flood protection in the 1970’s. He then mentioned the need to have SRJB as a partner which should have been included from the beginning. They were a financial contributor to the application and it must have been an oversight not to include them. He asked Mr. Zakian what they need to do to add SRJB as a partner and include them in this work.

Mr. Zakian said, to get the dead loops into the planning process would probably require a substantial amendment. They could probably craft a method that would meet HUD standards to create a subrecipient agreement with SRJB since they are an eligible public entity.

Alderman Wolsky asked if there is a way to adapt NDR dollars from projects that no longer meet the City’s needs into areas that can be more beneficial today.

Mr. Zakian responded by saying, HUD will entertain amendments but the first thing they will ask is for the City to identify in the action plan where the issue is discussed as an unmet need. The dead loops are not in the City’s action plan.

Alderman Wolsky said he would refer to them as flood protection storage areas.

Mr. Zakian said, the City is specific in the action plan that flood storage areas are created through buyouts and the ecological restoration study is connected to that activity. He said they could authorize a substantial amendment to change the scope of the planning study and address the unmet needs connected to using the dead loops as flood storage areas.

After additional discussion on logistics, Alderman Wolsky moved the City Council approach the Minot Park District to gather stakeholder input, conduct planning and partner coordination, and preliminary engineering necessary for phasing and estimating activities associated with the following:

Ecological habitat restoration in our buyout areas, along the active river channel, in our flood storage areas known locally as ‘dead loops’, and in other areas adjacent to the river corridor already held by the public. These should be assumed to include but not be limited by the following specific goals: development of terrestrial trails, water trails, and river access points, restoration of native species habitat and passive-maintenance spaces and opportunities for public uses that include walking, biking, cross country skiing, in-town camping, fishing, canoeing, kayaking, education, and birding as well as additional supporting amenities.

Motion seconded by Alderman Straight.

Mayor Sipma asked if the motion would require an amendment be approved by HUD, to which Mr. Zakian said, no, he can start the conversation with the Park District right away. He will bring a framework of the agreement to the Council at the next meeting.
Alderman Straight requested the SRJB be included in the motion in the subrecipient agreement. Alderman Wolsky as the motion maker agreed.

The Mayor pointed out to the public that these are federal grant dollars being discussed.

Alderman Olson asked if there was any other potential use for the funding.

Mr. Zakian said, it had been an option to consolidate planning funds and allocate them to other projects but it was no longer needed because of the previous actions taken by Council.

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

**NDR ECONOMIC RESILIENCE STRATEGIC PLAN FUNDING DISCUSSION & ACTION – APPROVED**

Alderman Wolsky explained his memo and described Strong Towns, a non-profit from Minnesota whose Founder and President, Chuck Mahron, has spoken at Governor Burgum’s Main Street Summits. He said, Mr. Mahron makes compelling arguments for unique development and budget resources.

Mr. Zakian said, as a 501c3, Strong Towns could be a subrecipient, however they cannot duplicate what has already been done for the City. He listed previous projects such as the branding and marketing strategy done through the OneBrand campaign, the resource guide containing grant opportunities developed by Strengthen ND, and the IEDC assessment and white papers on ND resources for promoting sustainable development. He said, they also cannot use NDR funding to pay for speakers, they need deliverables. He said, he can invite Strong Towns to offer a proposal with deliverables that become part of the City’s overall strategy for long term sustainable growth. The focus would have to be on the downtown or Oak Park area because those areas were identified in the action plan as being affected by the flood.

Alderman Wolsky moved the City Council invite Strong Towns to provide deliverables including a Strong Towns approach to economic and disaster resilience, affordable housing, neighborhood resiliency, and long term sustainable growth with a focus on downtown Minot, with a budget not to exceed $40,000. Motion seconded by Alderman Straight.

Alderman Straight said he supports doing something proactive for the business community in a time when we definitely need it. He would however, prefer to conduct the activities when we can gather without restrictions on social distancing.

Alderman Podrygula commented that he likes the idea of using resources to help the community in economic resilience especially during a pandemic. He raised concerns about the proliferation of studies and would prefer to have something concrete to deliver. He also said they need to look at more than downtown. Many residents believe there has been enough focus downtown and economic activity and business are more than just downtown. He then questioned why Strong Towns should be chosen over other similar organizations. He said he reviewed their website and they consider themselves a media organization. He wondered if that qualifies them to be suited to what Minot is looking for. He requested input from staff regarding other organizations that can provide similar guidance and asked what makes this one more qualified than the others. Lastly, Alderman Podrygula stated, this activity should be in conjunction with a larger strategic plan and he believes there are a lot of things that have not been done yet in the process. He said he is hesitant to move forward.

Upon questioning by Alderman Jantzer, Alderman Wolsky provided clarification on the motion.

Alderman Wolsky clarified, it would take multiple visits to accomplish what Strong Towns can provide. He said his motion is requesting they establish a direction to move forward. Once they request a proposal and offer the cost constraint it is possible Strong Towns is not interested or willing to provide the type of deliverable we need but the hope is that it would be up to $40,000. He then offered a response to Alderman Podrygula’s concerns. He said, this is a unique organization whose message is not particularly common. He said he believes they have a unique niche in the larger marketplace. This type of visit exposes perspectives that can be the critical component to reconsider our values and put those values into practice. They would complement a larger vision for strategic planning for the City.

Mr. Zakian said, if the motion is approved, he will reach out to Strong Towns and describe the framework the City would need. He will then ask for a proposal with a set of deliverables, a proposed budget, timeframe, and methodology for getting paid. Once the proposal is received, he will bring it to Council for approval to move forward with a subrecipient agreement.
Alderman Pitner said there is confusion regarding the inclusion of the $40,000 budget and would request the dollar amount be excluded from the motion.

Mr. Zakian said, there is currently about $60,000 in uncommitted funds for the activity. He can tell Strong Towns what the available range is but every cost they propose must be necessary, reasonable, and justified by HUD guidelines.

Alderman Wolsky shared his basis for inclusion of the $40,000 by saying, a site visit is probably in the range of $5,000-$8,000 plus travel expenses and the he would expect about four visits. He said, it can be removed from the motion if preferred. The second agreed.

At the request of Alderman Podrygula, Mr. Zakian and Mr. Billingsley offered their opinions on Strong Towns.

Mr. Zakian said, he doesn’t know much about them other than their stated mission from the website that says they work outside traditional economic development profession. He said he would be comfortable with a discussion because it is the standard dynamic between a grantee and potential subrecipient. He will look for a specific, clear, justifiable proposal consistent with the action plan. It is the grantees discretion to choose a non-profit or multiple non-profits to work with.

Mr. Billingsley said he is familiar with Strong Towns and saw a presentation about five years ago. He mentioned their books and speaking engagements but said he was unaware of any comprehensive plans or strategic plans being written by the group. He said they have a very different approach to planning which promotes infill development and higher density developments and sustainable projects. He recommended researching their website.

Alderman Olson stated she cannot support the idea because it seems like they are looking for an answer to a question they haven’t asked yet. She said she would like the Council to discuss a strategic plan before inviting Strong Towns to visit because at this point they haven’t identified what they should ask them to do.

Alderman Straight said, he saw Strong Towns at the Main Street Summit and trusts Governor Burgum’s direction. He believes the community should be involved in the discussion.

Alderman Pitner pointed out that it doesn’t hurt to ask for a proposal and the Council can have a deeper conversation when they know what Strong Towns can offer.

Alderman Podrygula said he feels more assured there is no money being spent but believes they need further vetting before moving forward. He would like to see more options and know more about them.

Alderman Pitner mentioned the Economic Development position that has been discussed previously and said it would be beneficial to have an expert attend these presentations and bring them back to Minot.

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

PERSONAL APPEARANCES

Due to the COVID-19 public health emergency, in person attendance at the meeting by the public is not allowed. Comments can be submitted through the City website but no comments were received.

MISCELLANEOUS & DISCUSSION

Alderman Straight requested an update from the OneBrand campaign. Alderman Olson responded with an email from Visit Minot explaining that they are continuing to work but have made adjustments to their launch date because of COVID-19. She said, there will be signs of the campaign this summer.

Alderman Pitner reminded everyone to participate in the 2020 Census.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mayor Sipma stated the next item on the agenda would be an executive session. The topic of this executive session is City Manager Contract: Pending Predictable Litigation - Attorney Consultation and Discussion of Potential Litigation Strategy and/or Guidance for Negotiation Strategy/Instructions. The legal authority for closing this portion of the meeting is Pursuant
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to Authority of N.D.C.C. 44-04-17.1, 19.1, and 19.2. The topic or purpose of this executive session is to seek and receive legal advice relating to the contract.

The Mayor stated, at this time, a motion would be needed in order to discuss the next topic in executive session rather than in an open meeting.

Whereupon, Alderman Jantzer moved the City Council move to an executive session. Motion seconded by Alderman Olson, and carried by the following roll call vote: ayes: Jantzer, Olson, Pitner, Podrygula, Sipma, Straight, Wolsky; nays: none

The Mayor then stated the executive session will be recorded and all members of the governing body are reminded to limit their discussion during the executive session to the announced topic. Any collective decision, collective commitment, or other final action by the governing body must occur after it reconvenes in an open meeting, unless final action is specifically required by law to be taken during the executive session. The prohibition on taking final action during the executive session did not apply to providing guidance or instructions to our attorney or negotiator.

Mayor Sipma asked the members of the public attending the meeting to leave the room. He stated, the Council anticipated adjourning the executive session, and reconvening the open portion of the meeting at approximately 8:30 pm.

The executive session began at 7:32 pm and was attended by all members of the City Council, as well as the Mayor, City Clerk, City Attorney, HR Director, Finance Director/Acting City Manager, Public Information Officer, Attorney Randall Bakke (via telephone), and Jeff Cahill of NDIRF (via telephone).

At 9:00 pm, Alderman Jantzer moved the City Council adjourn the executive session and return to the 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.

The public was invited to return to the meeting room with the City Council meeting back in session.

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 9:01 pm.

ATTEST: _________________________ 
Kelly Matalka, City Clerk

APPROVED: _________________________
Shaun Sipma, Mayor