

## **SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

**Wednesday, August 27<sup>th</sup>, 2025 at 6:00PM**

**Karlstad City Office  
104 1st St. S., Suite 100**

Meeting Called to Order By: Mayor Nelson at 6PM.

Present: Dale Nelson, Jenny Olson, Markelle Kuznia, Rob Mickelson, Shelby Fossell

Absent: N/A

Guests: Danielle Byfuglien, Tim Finseth, Brad Johnson, Ashlee Anderson, Rachel Anderson

**1. Vacant Council Position:** Candidates Ryan Anderson, Lois Kleinvachter, Brian Wikstrom were discussed.

**Motion:** Motion to appoint Ryan Anderson to fill current vacancy through term of November 2026 was made by Rob Mickelson, second by Jenny Olson. Ayes carried.

**2. Bike Path:** Tim Finseth from NW Regional Development explained the bike path options to the Council along Pembina Trail from the school going South and along County Road 14 next to the Golf Course going North to the County line. Both are county roads and the county would be the project sponsor as the grant opportunities do not work with small cities alone. He explained that there is plenty of right-of-way to work with as is. He suggests an 8' wide path. The grant opportunities available are 80/20 funded so the county and city would have to come to an agreement by memorandum of understanding on the 20% matching funds. Current grant applications are for funding in 2030. Tim suggests that if the city is on board with moving forward, this matter needs to get on the County Board agenda for Tuesday, September 2<sup>nd</sup>. Tim will then work with the County engineer Arthur Kukowski to draft the grant application. Motion to move forward pending the County's approval and engineering costs covered by the county to apply for the grant was made by Rob Mickelson, second by Markelle Kuznia. Ayes carried.

**3. 2026 Proposed Budget:** Budget was discussed. Council recommended raising the preliminary levy to \$280,000. MHC increase of 8.1% was addressed. COLA of 3% was agreed upon. Raising water/sewer rates 5% was agreed upon. Office space rental will go up 5% and adding in the contract language to read "this annual amount may be increased not to exceed 10% per year, with adjustments to be made on the anniversary date of this agreement." Altoz mower rates will also be increased to \$150/hr. Cemetery budget will be raised \$3,000. Levy will be set at September 8<sup>th</sup> council meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 7:31PM.



Shelby Fossell  
Clerk