

**CITY OF EDGELEY
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
Monday December 4th, 2023
7:00 PM**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Mayor Cal Triepke. Council members in attendance were Michelle Berry, Sally Caudillo, Rick Gutschmidt, Preston Sitzmann, and Stefan Schoenfelder. Council member Dan Schlosser was absent. Also in attendance were city employees Ron Wald & Glen Fischer, City Clerk Sandi Horsager, Tyler Hanson, and Art Hagebock from the Kulm Messenger. Mayor Triepke called for any corrections or additions to the November regular meeting minutes. A motion was made by Rick Gutschmidt that the minutes be approved. The motion was seconded by Stefan Schoenfelder. All voted in favor, and the motion was approved. Mayor Triepke then asked for a motion to approve the monthly bills. A motion was made by Michelle Berry, and seconded by Sally Caudillo to approve paying the monthly bills. On a roll call vote motion carried.

30399	PFS Shareholders	3,046.16
30400	Michelle Berry	415.57
30401	Sally Caudillo	415.57
30402	Richard Gutschmidt	415.57
30403	Daniel Schlosser	415.57
30404	Stefan Schoenfelder	415.57
30405	Preston Sitzmann	415.57
30406	Cal Triepke	554.10
30407	Allied Energy	781.42
30408	Aramark	322.93
	EFTPS (Payroll Taxes)	2,276.56
30409	Bank of North Dakota	13,704.08
30410	Central Business Systems	126.20
30411	City of Fargo	14.00
30412	Dakota Valley Electric	97.00
	Dakota Valley Electric (loan)	2,104.50
30413	Dickey Rural Network	674.47
30414	Dollar General	27.25
30415	Edgeley Public Library	1,000.00
30416	Edgeley Park Board	18,799.41
30417	Ferguson Waterworks	9,935.00
30418	Glen Fischer	542.97
30419	Teara Horoshak	291.75
30420	Kulm Messenger	326.22
30421	Millers Fresh Foods	54.66
30422	Joe Neis	330.95
30423	New Horizons Electric	424.46
30424	ND One Call	2.60

30425	Otter Tail Power Co.	2,229.10
30426	James Reinhart	50.00
30427	Recycling Center of ND	8,065.33
30428	Darell Schrum	12,400.00
30429	Southeast Water Users	6,708.33
30430	L & S Worrel Trucking	265.00
30431	Municipal Impact	978.00
30432	Glen Fischer	250.00
30433	Sandi Horsager	250.00
30434	Joseph Neis	250.00
30435	Ronald Wald	250.00
30436	Glen C. Fischer (Payroll)	1,352.72
30437	Ronald M. Wald (Payroll)	1,314.82
30438	ND Dept of Transportation	50.00
30439	PFS Shareholders (replacement Ck)	2,121.50
30440	Glen C. Fischer (Payroll)	1,272.94
30441	Ronald M. Wald	1,425.08
30442	Postmaster	174.42
30443	AFLAC	82.80
30444	Joseph C. Neis (Payroll)	1,869.90

TOTAL \$98,317.21

BUILDING PERMITS

Two permit applications were received to demolish old homes. The first was from Anderson Brothers to remove a home next to their Main Street business, the second was from Norman Lauinger to remove a home that he had purchased for non payment of property taxes that is located close to his home. A motion was made by Preston Sitzmann to approve both permits. The motion was seconded by Michelle Berry. All members voted in favor.

BEER & LIQUOR LICENSE RENEWALS

The city received beer and liquor license renewals for the 2024 year from Hakuna Matata and from On The Rocks Bar & Grill with the required fees. A motion was made by Sally Caudillo to approve the licenses. The motion was seconded by Stefan Schoenfelder. All voted in favor.

RECOMMENDATION TO CHANGE POLICY ON UTILITY BILLS AND RATE INCREASE ON WATER AND SEWER MONTHLY BILLS

Michelle Berry reported that the utilities committee had met to discuss changing the current policy of allowing residential and commercial buildings to be on a disconnect fee when the water is shut off to a minimum base fee for all services whether the water curb stop is turned on or off. The discussion was that it is not fair to the residents that remain hooked up all year to subsidize those that only have their properties hooked up part of the year. The city has to pay for the water and garbage along with maintaining the sewer system all year long. She said that they were recommending that a minimum of the base rate for all services be put on all buildings that have water hooked up to them. She then said that the committee recommended an increase of \$.50 per thousand gallons on water that is purchased. Southeast Water is increasing the cost to the city by \$.25 per thousand January 1st, 2024. Also being recommended is an increase on the base rate of sewer of \$3.00 per month. This is necessary with costs of chemicals and maintenance increasing. After discussion a motion was made by Michelle Berry to pass a resolution on the policy to have all buildings that have water hooked up to them pay a minimum of the base rate for all services year around. The motion was seconded by Preston Sitzmann. On a roll call vote all members present voted in favor. Council Member Dan Schlosser was absent. A recommendation was then made to pass a resolution raising the rate per thousand gallons by \$.50 per thousand which results in a rate of \$5.45 per thousand gallons. The base rate will remain the same at \$30.00. The sewer will be raised by \$3.00 on the sewer base rate, increasing all of the rate structure by that amount. A motion was made by Preston Sitzmann to approve the rate increase. The motion was seconded by Sally Caudillo with all members present voting in favor on a roll call vote. Member Dan Schlosser was absent.

UPDATE ON AUDITOR'S POSITION

The city has been advertising for the auditors position. At this time there has been little interest. One applicant applied from out of town saying that she could start mid year. Later she indicated possibly earlier. The employee committee will review and hopefully we will get more applicants. Joe agreed to stay on for now.

NEW CITY WEB SITE UPDATE

Joe reported that the site is ready to go live and the company has been contacted, so we expect to have it up in the next week or so. Residents will be encouraged to register their cell phones or email or both on the notification system that is on the Home page of the site to receive alerts from the city.

EMPLOYEE CHRISTMAS

The city has been giving a Christmas gift of \$250.00 to each of its workers for several years. The council discussed doing again this year. After some discussion a motion was made by Rick Gutschmidt to approve the gift. The motion was seconded by Michelle Berry. On a roll call vote all voted in favor.

CAREER & TECHNOLOGY CENTER

Tyler Hanson, Superintendent of Edgeley Public School was present to provide an update on the new career and technology center that is being built to the east of the school. He said that they are starting this week and expect to be having the steel structure going up in January. They have received a 2.3 million dollar grant from the state but need additional funding to complete the 4 million dollar project. He said the school and Southeast Vocational will be putting additional dollars and they are looking for support from private individuals, business, and local government entities such as the city and county.

OTHER BUSINESS

Tyler Hanson addressed the council concerning the franchise fee that is in place on the electric utilities that is used to fund the operation of the clinic. He indicated that the school supports the use for the clinic but questioned if the school should carry as much load as the fee amounts to about 14 percent of the amount that has been collected since it was put in place in 2016. The council will review the ordinance to see if any changes could be made. Some discussion was held regarding people putting garbage in dumpsters within city limits and how to take care of the issue. It is against the law and is essentially stealing from the business that is providing the dumpster.

There was no other business at this time a motion was made by Rick Gutschmidt to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Stefan Schoenfelder.

Cal Triepke, Mayor

Joseph C. Neis, Auditor