The Garrison City Council met Monday April 7, 2022, at 7:00 PM in the city council room. Present: Paul Schlichting, Maria Olson, David Reinarts, Curt Olson, and Billee Jo Iglehart. Absent: Mayor Stuart Merry and David Jeffrey. Others present: City Supervisor Alan Beyreis, City Employee Greg Boucher, City Attorney James Wilson and Chief Travis Tesch. Pledge of Allegiance was recited. President Schlichting presided

Moved by Reinarts, seconded by C. Olson to approve the city council minutes with spelling corrections. Voting Yea: M. Olson, Reinarts, C. Olson, and Iglehart. Nay: None.

Moved by Reinarts, seconded by M. Olson to approve second and final reading of Ordinance No. 2022-01, Backflow Ordinance. Roll Call: M. Olson, Aye; Reinarts, Aye; C. Olson, Aye; Iglehart, Aye.

Old Business: The Planning and Zoning Ordinance second and final reading was tabled to the next meeting.

Chief of Police monthly Calls for Service and Citation Report were reviewed. Chief Tesch was given authorization to attend the 1st Annual Police Chief Association Conference June 5-8 in Beulah. He continues to check on vehicle availability.

City Supervisor Alan Beyreis reported DL Barkie has mobilized to install the water line under the railroad tracks. Street sweeping will begin and he would like to get the word out so vehicles can be moved to clean up to the curbs. Plans are to open the city landfill April 20. The city RV Park will open May 1. A pre-construction meeting on the water treatment plant project will be April 6, 2022 at 2:00 pm.

The Police, Personnel & Fire Department Committee is recommending hiring Terry Dewitz for the part time landfill position. Moved by C. Olson, seconded by Iglehart to hire Terry Dewitz as the part time landfill employee at $20.00 per hour. Voting Yea: M. Olson, Reinarts, C. Olson, and Iglehart. Nay: None.

Moved by C. Olson, seconded by M. Olson to approve the city auditor’s monthly report. Voting Yea: M. Olson, Reinarts, C. Olson, and Iglehart. Nay: None. Some discussion was held on applying for gaming funds to support the library.

The municipal court report for March was presented.

City Auditor Diane Affeldt gave her monthly report. The 2021 Audit is completed and copies were provided to the city council. The 2022 Election notice has been published. Affeldt attended and provided a report on the National League of Cities Conference in Washington DC. Affeldt also attended and provided a report on the NDLC Spring Conference in Bismarck. Building permit renewals were sent. Pet tags sold as of today is 87.

Moved by Iglehart, seconded by Reinarts to approve bills submitted for payment. Voting Yea: M. Olson, Reinarts, C. Olson, and Iglehart. Nay: None.

US Postmaster Postage 58.00

Verizon Wireless Cell phones 455.79

Reservation Telephone Telephone 1,265.43

One Call Concepts Inc Fax calls 1.30

UNUM Life Insurance Premium 66.67

Circle Sanitation Service City garbage/landfill 426.00

Rath & Mehrer P.C. Audit 9,000.00

McLean Co. Auditor Assessor fee 6,725.00

Garrison Park Board State revenue 1,896.55

ARAMARK Services 501.36

Safeguard Business Checks 301.20

Digital Office Centre Copier ink 559.99

H.A. Thompson Unit heater 1,309.77

David Reinarts Mileage 102.37

Diane Affeldt Mileage 102.37

Verizon Connect Service 56.85

Digital Office Centre Copier 51.61

Chief Frank Senn 2022 dues 150.00

Third Watch Comm. Radios 757.50

L-Tron Corp. Scanning kit 374.59

JB Repair Repairs 57.75

Travis Tesch Batteries 16.59

Garrison Max Amb. AED pads 709.96

Jim Wilcox Conference 964.84

Red Arrow Construction Gutters 924.00

First District Health Testing 50.00

MDU Service 2,565.22

ND Dept. of Health Testing 354.86

McLean Electric Coop Power 2,565.22

Nygard Construction Curb stop repair 1,420.00

Black Mountain Software Renewals 7,842.00

Sensus USA Renewal 1,715.95

USA Blue Book Supplies 795.88

Hach Chemical Supplies 254.29

Hawkins Inc. Chemicals 523.77

Share Corp. Supplies 158.77

Cenex Fleetcard Gas 105.84

Northern Plains Repairs 115.59

Sanitation Products Parts 855.43

Brock Harris Safety boots 150.00

Otter Tail Power Power 7,024.52

Waste Management Garbage 7,871.75

Wilson Law Firm Legal fees 2,731.00

Farmers Union Oil Gas 1,680.90

Immense Impact Web site renewal 565.95

Pump Systems Ic. Lift station 2,392.48

S J Hardware Supplies 333.14

Digital Office Library 71.25

SYNCB/Amazon Library 427.09

Coast to Coast Solutions Library 128.67

Penworthy Library 343.34

Gale/Cengage Learning Library 212.06

US Postmaster Postage 244.84

Building permit for the month of March was recognized.

Moved by C. Olson, seconded by M. Olson to approve Gaming Site Authorizations for GAIA at Hometown Tavern and Garrison Auditorium for July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023 along with a rental agreement at Garrison Auditorium for GAIA. Voting Yea: M. Olson, Reinarts, C. Olson, and Iglehart. Nay: None.

Moved by M. Olson, seconded by Reinarts to approve Lodging Tax Committee recommendation to fund Garrison CVB $4,000. Voting Yea: M. Olson, Reinarts, C. Olson, and Iglehart. Nay: None.

Moved by C. Olson, seconded by Iglehart to approve Sales & Use Tax Committee recommendations as follows: Garrison CVB, $18,000 with $12,000 from community development and $6,000 from economic development; SACA, up to $9,000 from community development. Voting Yea: M. Olson, Reinarts, C. Olson, and Iglehart. Nay: None.

No City Attorney report.

Mayor Merry’s monthly report was reviewed. He sent a letter to the McLean County Commission asking them to consider sharing their ARPA funds with communities. Chaired Sales & Use Tax Committee meeting and various committee meetings throughout the month.

Alderman Reinarts reported for the Utilities & Streets Committee. They discussed upcoming projects. Four manholes are on order to be replaced. They are considering re-instating the water main replacement fund charge on the water bill.

Alderman C. Olson reported for the Cemetery, Mobile Home, Public Buildings & Landfill Committee. They received prices on generators from the engineers for City Hall and City Auditorium. City Hall 50K generator is $54,900 and City Auditorium 75K generator is $83,600. Other areas for generators are water tower and lift station. The city currently has a 75K generator on a trailer. The fire department addition is completed. The city will check with Noelle, McLean County Emergency Manager on the FEMA grant for generators.

Alderperson M. Olson reported for the Police, Fire Dept. & Personnel Committee. The committee meet with Alan Beyreis and Gerald Bousson on the possibility of staying on with the city to work one weekend a month until an employee is hired. They agreed to be temporary employees with no benefits. An hourly wage has not decided. The committee has held a few interviews and have a couple more scheduled for later on this month.

The committee is recommending an hourly wage of $25 per hour for the two temporary police officers. Moved by Reinarts, seconded by C. Olson to pay $25 per hour for the two temporary police officers. Voting Yea: M. Olson, Reinarts, C. Olson, and Iglehart. Nay: None.

Officer Justine Arrey completed her six-month probationary period January 1, 2022. The committee is recommending a retroactive salary of $41,600 for January 1, 2022 to June 1, 2022. Moved by Reinarts, seconded by M. Olson to approve Officer Justine Arrey retroactive salary of $41,600 for January 1, 2022 to June 1, 2022. Voting Yea: M. Olson, Reinarts, C. Olson, and Iglehart. Nay: None.

Another recommendation from the committee to set a salary increase for the police department June 1, 2022 to December 31, 2022. This will set all employees on the same time frame. Salary recommendations are as follows: Travis Tesch, $69,475; James Jabara, $52,000; and Justine Arrey, $44,680. Moved by Reinarts, seconded by Iglehart to approve salaries for the police department as follows: Travis Tesch, $69,475; James Jabara, $52,000; and Justine Arrey, $44,680 June 1, 2022 to December 31, 2022. Voting Yea: M. Olson, Reinarts, C. Olson, and Iglehart. Nay: None.

The next item on the agenda is “Executive Session – Pursuant to 44-04-19.1 (2) & (9) NDCC – Attorney Consultation Negotiating Strategy.” This item will be discussed in executive session. The legal authority for closing this portion of the meeting is NDCC Section 44-04-19.1 (2) & (09). The topic or purpose of this executive session is for attorney consultation negotiating strategy on Garrison Rural Water Contract. At this time, a motion would be in order to discuss the next topic in executive session rather than in an open meeting. Is there such a motion? Moved by C. Olson, seconded by Reinarts to enter executive session.  There was no discussion on the motion? Roll call vote; Schlichting, Aye; M. Olson, Aye; Reinarts, Aye; C. Olson, Aye; Iglehart, Aye,

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 executive session. The prohibition on taking final action during the executive session does not apply to providing guidance or instructions to our attorney.  We will now ask the members of the public who are attending the meeting to leave the room. We anticipate adjourning the executive session and reconvening the open portion of the meeting as soon as possible.

The minutes will show that the executive session began at 8:22 PM CT and was attended by City Council Members Schlichting, M. Olson, Reinarts, C. Olson, Iglehart, City Auditor Diane Affeldt, city employees Alan Beyreis and Greg Boucher, and Kent Ritterman via conference call.

The minutes will show that the executive session was adjourned at 9:41 PM CT. The public has been invited to return to the meeting room and we are now back in open meeting.

Moved by C. Olson, seconded by M. Olson to approve the final terms dated March 3, 2022 between City of Garrison and Garrison Rural Water Association pending city attorney review of federal statue 7USCA1926B and calculations. Roll Call: M. Olson, Aye; Reinarts, Aye; C. Olson, Aye; Iglehart, Aye; Schlichting, Aye.

Moved by Iglehart, seconded by Reinarts that Garrison Rural Water Association will pay arrears (escrow) within thirty days after signing term sheet, end of 2022 rest of connection fee and what we were billed in phase two and return line, and end of 2023, (the end of the project) the final payment. Roll Call: M. Olson, Aye; Reinarts, Aye; C. Olson, Aye; Iglehart, Aye; Schlichting, Aye.

The next regular city council meeting will be May 2, 2022, at 7:00 pm.

The city council meeting adjourned at 9:49 PM.

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Diane Affeldt, City Auditor Paul Schlichting, President