

CITY OF WATFORD CITY
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
September 29, 2021

Minutes of the special City Council meeting held on September 29, 2021 at 4:00 p.m. at City Hall. Present was Mayor Phil Riely and Council Members Steve Sanford, Bethany Devlin, Kenny Liebel, and Heidi Brenna. Absent was Matt Beard and Lindsay Veeder. Also present was City Planner Curt Moen (via phone), City Auditor Peni Peterson, and City Attorney Wyatt Voll.

Dr. Steve Holen, Superintendent of McKenzie County Public School Dist. #1, gave a presentation on a proposed Bakken Area Skills Center that the school district is currently working on. The Bakken Area Skills Center would provide workforce training opportunities through partnerships with secondary education, post-secondary education/training, and local employers. The School District is anticipating the building and equipment of the facility to total \$20 million and is in the process of applying for a \$10 million North Dakota State Board for Career and Technical Education Capital Grant that requires \$10 million in matching funds. The School District is seeking funding from additional sources to meet the match requirement. Funding from local jurisdictions (County, School District, City) and from local industry (petroleum and healthcare) are being pursued. Dr. Holen requested from the City Council to consider donating 20 acres of land, that is owned by the city and located within tax parcel 82-7315500, and to consider waiving the special assessments that are tied to the land. With an approval of this request, this would allow the School District to use the land value and the special assessment value (totaling \$873,314.90) as an in-kind donation from the city to fulfill a portion of the required match.

Council Member Liebel moved to donate 20 acres of land located in the tax parcel 82-7315500 and to waive the special assessments that are assessed to the 20 acres. This donation is contingent on the ND State Board for Career and Technical Education Capital Grant being approved. This in-kind donation will be valued at \$873,314.90. Motion seconded by Council Member Devlin and carried by the following roll call vote: ayes: Brenna, Devlin, Sanford, and Liebel; nays: none.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:02 p.m. These minutes are published subject to the City Council's Review and Revision pursuant to NDCC 40-01-09.1.



Peni Peterson, Auditor

Philip K. Riely, Mayor