

**MINUTES**  
**June 12, 2023**

The City Council of Badger met in regular session at 6:30 p.m. at Badger City Hall with Mayor Chris Wendell presiding. Council members present: Roger Curtis, Pam Smith, Teresa Larson-White, Larry Dunbar and Gail Higgins. Also present: Nancy Schmalenberger, Nick Clark, Bennett O'Connor and Scott Curran. Motion to approve the agenda was made by Smith, second by Dunbar, all ayes, motion carried. Motion to approve the consent agenda was made by Larson-White, second by Curtis, all ayes, motion carried. The consent agenda consisted of minutes from the May 8<sup>th</sup> regular meeting, May 23<sup>rd</sup> special meeting, Clerk/Treasurer report for May, and bills in the amount of \$10,491.98. Under communications and reports, Mayor asked for any unscheduled business. Nancy Schmalenberger discussed wind turbines possibly going up in this area of Webster County and voiced her concerns. She also presented Council with information on wind turbines and stated she wanted the city to be aware of the possible wind farms being built nearby and wondered if the city had an ordinance restricting how close they could be. The city currently does not have such an ordinance. Library Director, Tammy Jones presented her written report on library activities and happenings. Next on the agenda was Public Works Department reports. Water/Wastewater Operator Craig Larson had provided his written report on amounts of water/sewage production/disposal for May and the conditions of the lagoons, but was not present. Mark Wertz, Public Works, presented his written report to Council which included numerous maintenance tasks, work with equipment, utility locates, etc. Glenda Rasmussen, City Clerk, presented her written report to Council. Under Council reports, Higgins asked when the Post Office step might be repaired. Clerk will contact the regional office to see if any information is available. Curtis inquired about a nuisance situation and Mayor stated it was being handled by the city attorney. Mayor had nothing else to report on. Under regular agenda items, Nick Clark and Bennett O'Connor from Town & Country Insurance Agency in Fort Dodge presented a quote from EMC for the city's commercial and workman's compensation insurance for \$26,827.04. Scott Curran, from Abens, Marty and Curran Agency in Humboldt presented a quote from Provident for the insurance for \$18,811.00. Both policies were discussed at length. Motion to approve the Provident quote was made by Curtis, second by Higgins. Curtis and Higgins voted aye, Dunbar, Larson-White, and Smith voted nay. Motion failed. More discussion ensued. Curran is the current agent for the city, but Provident is a new carrier, and the city had no prior notice of the change, whereas EMC is a well-known carrier with many municipal customers in Iowa. The EMC policy provides more coverage and a more extensive cyber insurance policy. Motion to approve the EMC quote was made by Smith, second by Dunbar. Ayes: Smith, Dunbar, Larson-White, and Higgins. Nays: Curtis. Motion carried. Next, quotes for a commercial dehumidifier and mini-split air conditioning unit for the water plant were discussed. Mark Wertz reported that from the research he has done, a dehumidifier would probably take care of the moisture problem and condensation on the tanks without the added expense of an a/c unit. Quotes for the a/c unit were \$6,604 from Winger and \$7,996.65 from Orres & Gailey. The a/c unit would require new wiring and Winger included a quote for that in the amount of \$4,414. Winger quoted a dehumidifier in the amount of \$4,652. Council discussed ordering a dehumidifier directly from the supplier with Public Works and Clerk. That cost would be around \$3,600. Motion to approve direct purchase of dehumidifier was made by Dunbar, second by Higgins, all ayes, motion carried. A quote in the amount of \$150 from Lawn Ranger for additional weed spraying was discussed. This is for the lanes at the lagoon area. Motion to approve by Curtis, second by Smith. Ayes: Curtis, Smith, Dunbar, Larson-White. Nays: Higgins. Motion carried. The final discussion item was the renewal of the employee health insurance. The city needed to choose a new plan and after discussion, a motion to approve the new recommended plan was made by Curtis, second by Dunbar, all ayes, motion carried. Under resolutions for approval, Resolution # 6-1-2023 Adopting Fiscal Year 2024 wage rates was read. This includes Public Works employees and Clerk wages to be increased by 6% over last year and the Library employees each received an increase of \$0.25 per hour granted by the Library Board. Motion to approve was made by Dunbar, second by Larson White, all ayes, motion carried. There being no other business, motion to adjourn was made by Curtis, second by Higgins, all ayes, motion carried. Adjournment at 8:26 p.m.

Glenda R. Rasmussen  
City Clerk