

Public Notice

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CHANGES —

Readers know the value. Independent reporters and photographers attend nearly all county, city and school board meetings. We spend hours in a room with local leaders when no one else sees fit to attend, and we package those meetings into factual articles that a person can read in a few minutes to get a better understanding of what our leadership is doing and how tax dollars are spent.

The newspaper documents youth achievements in academics and athletics, with staff attending dozens of games and events, reports news from across the area and state, and prints special features and historical information taken straight from the Independent archives.

“When you can pay \$10 a month for Disney+, \$15 for Netflix and \$15 for Amazon Prime, it’s within your budget to pay \$6.50 per month to support a local business that informs the public and holds local government accountable,” Wobbema said.

With the greater financial support, the Independent is dedicated to not only maintaining the quality content you’ve come to expect from us, but also enhancing our coverage and delivering news in a more timely manner.

Watch for some new features to come, both in print and online. For example, the Independent is working with the staff and students at Carrington Public School to bring readers more student art and writing, and partnering with local busi-

nesses to keep you abreast of changes in the economic landscape.

We also will be launching a new food section in the paper in the weeks to come.

One of the most significant changes will be the addition of a new e-newsletter. Be sure to sign up for the Mid-Week Beat, our new e-newsletter, and every Wednesday you’ll receive the top news of the week delivered right to your inbox. From there, you can read the most important and time sensitive local news, days before it appears in print.

You’ll also find relevant articles that didn’t make the print edition due to space limitations, as well as an interactive list of upcoming community, school and sporting events. To sign up, scan the code below, fill out the form at www.fosterconews.com or find the link on the Independent Facebook page.

Scan here to sign up for our free e-newsletter!



New digital advertising

“From past experimentation with our New Rockford newspaper, we have learned that in order to reach peak effectiveness, a modern marketing campaign needs to include a variety of media,” Wobbema said. “That’s why the Independent developed a website and social media presence nearly three years ago, within months after I became pub-

lisher.”

New digital efforts at the Independent are being led by the newest member of our team, who was hired after advertisers were adamant that the newspaper needed to have a staff member visit local businesses and work with them in person on promotional strategies.

Introducing Emily Giffey, pronounced Giff-EYE, a native of Ryder. This North Dakota girl pursued a bachelor’s degree in marketing from NDSU, and her studies focused on digital media. She most recently worked as a digital marketing specialist for a group of farm equipment dealerships in central and western North Dakota.

Giffey has already spent some time out in the community and plans to meet as many business leaders as possible in the coming months. She brings with her a background in digital media and marketing strategies, and knows how to measure the effectiveness of campaigns and their return on investment.

To schedule an appointment with Giffey and learn more about the new advertising opportunities available, email emily@transcriptpublishing.com or call her at (701) 897-0272.

Events

The survey results found 85% of respondents were interested in the newspaper hosting community events. The focus groups gave insight into what those could be, ranging from food events to speakers. Work has already started on event planning, with more updates to come soon.

Looking forward

The actions the Indepen-

dent is taking now are being done to ensure that the Foster County Independent continues to operate right here in Carrington, in an office staffed with people who care about this community and who are accessible to readers.

Finneman, the researcher assisting the Independent with its changes, said Carrington has an opportunity to become a state and national leader for local news in the months ahead. “What happens here will generate national attention if the community rallies around the paper and supports its innovation,” Finneman said.

This is just the tip of the iceberg. There is more to come, and in order to be a part of it, all you have to do is pay \$1.50 a week, sign up for the new e-newsletter, join us at our future events and keep reading.

This will help ensure we continue to be the official newspaper of Foster County for years to come.

This is the beginning of a renaissance for community newspapers across the country, right here in Carrington. We will continue innovating and evolving in the months to come, and the support of the community is critically important.

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COUNTY —

meeting on July 16, commissioners officially accepted a bid from Border States Paving to turn the paved road to gravel.

The commission had previously held a special meeting on July 10 about the project, at which several eastern Foster County residents were

in attendance to express their concerns.

Like they did on July 10, Foster County Commissioners explained their reasoning on Aug. 20, when multiple concerned residents were once again before the commission.

Commission Chairman David Utke told residents that Foster County simply doesn’t have the tax base to continue maintaining 91 miles of paved roads. He added that of all their paved roads, Club Hall is in the worst shape and requires the most time and money to maintain.

“It’s anywhere from two to four times the cost to build and maintain a paved highway than a gravel road,” said Utke. “The county is hit by inflation just like everybody, so one mill doesn’t go as far as it used to.”

Utke also prepared information showing just how many paved miles of highway Foster County has relative to its size and population. Foster County, he explained, has just over five miles of paved highway miles per township.

That’s significantly more than several neighboring counties, such as Eddy and Wells, and it’s more than double the roughly two paved miles per township Griggs County has.

It’s also slightly more than both Stutsman and Barnes counties, which have 4.5 and 4.3 paved miles per township, respectively.

Those two counties, of course, also have much higher populations and therefore a larger tax base

to support and maintain those miles.

“For us to change our mind, we’d have to ignore the finances and ignore the engineering analysis,” said Utke. “And it’s not a position we want to be in. It’d be more fun to say yes ... but we don’t have the finances to do it.”

Each commissioner who spoke on the matter reaffirmed their support for the project, and ultimately no motion was made to renege on the contract they signed with Border States Paving to turn the Club Hall Road back to gravel.

In other business a Tuesday’s commission meeting, Foster County Emergency Manager Andrew Kirking provided another update regarding the train derailment near Bordulac.

“Cleanup continues in Bordulac as the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) investigates the crash,” reported Kirking, who was interviewed by the NTSB on Aug. 12, when he shared his perspective on the incident.

“This was a first for me, and I understand this to be an extremely in-depth process that will take months or years to complete.”

Kirking added that he and Foster County Auditor Ellen Roudy have been in contact with Canadian Pacific Kansas City, and that the county could begin seeing reimbursement as early as next week.

The Foster County Commission’s next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 3 at 3:30 p.m.

Public Notice

MINUTES OF MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL CITY OF CARRINGTON

JULY 8, 2024

A regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Carrington was held Monday, July 8, 2024 at 7:37 PM. Mayor Thomas Erdmann presiding.

The Pledge of Allegiance to the flag was recited.

The following members of Council and City Departments were present: Troy Roudy, Neil Fandrich, Tyler Hoggarth, Trygg Olson, Doug Smith, Leo Ryan, Jason Wolsky, and Jennifer Gast.

Absent: Chief of Police Bittmann.

Also present: Ken Wangen, Karen Evans, Linda Schuster and Leasa Lura.

A motion was made by Olson, seconded by Hoggarth, to approve minutes of the regular council meeting held June 10, 2024. All voted aye. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Smith, seconded by Roudy, to approve consent agenda items:

a. To ratify the following game of chance permits issued by the City Auditor: #1031 to Foster County FCE for a raffle and #1032 to CHI Foundation for a raffle.

All voted aye. Motion carried. Mayor Erdmann presented a narrative on the Red River Valley Water Supply Project to Council.

A motion was made by Fandrich, seconded by Smith, to participate in the Red River Valley Water Supply Project at one-half CFS and to authorize the Mayor to sign all documents on behalf of the city. The following voted in favor: Roudy, Fandrich, Hoggarth, Olson, and Smith.

Against: None. Motion carried. COMMITTEE REPORTS

FIRE DEPT:

Chief Wangen reported 4 calls on the city side and 1 rural call and spare SCBA batteries were purchased and in service. Chief Wangen also gave an extensive report of the July 5th train derailment at Bordulac.

FINANCE & LEGAL:

Mayor Erdmann reported they met with Bravera Insurance and went over our current policies, bid opening on the 1995 Chevrolet pickup, and we’re waiting on information on wage scale information from Tanya Wieler of Dakota Dynamics.

CCEDC:

CCEDC is brainstorming a stay at home grant program for individuals who do not go off to college or individuals that return to Carrington for employment.

A motion was made by Roudy, seconded by Hoggarth, to approve a New Home Construction and Tax Incentive application from Wayne and Rhonda March following program guidelines (\$6,000 check/\$6,000 Carrington Cash and the 2 year tax exemption) once the March’s occupy the residence. The following voted in favor: Smith, Olson, Fandrich, Roudy, and Hoggarth. Against: None. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Roudy, seconded by Olson, to approve a Carrington Uniting for

Ukraine Sponsorship/Supporter Grant application from Tom Erdmann sponsoring Anna and Rodion for \$5,700. The following voted in favor: Fandrich, Hoggarth, Olson, Smith, and Roudy. Against: None. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Olson, seconded by Fandrich, to approve a Carrington Uniting for Ukraine Sponsorship/Supporter Grant application from Tom Erdmann sponsoring Amir Perpiev and Anastasia Miroschnychenko according to grant guidelines with funds being disbursed once all paid invoices are received and the couple is living here in Carrington. All voted aye. Motion carried.

POLICE:

Councilmen Hoggarth reported they had met tonight, 385 Calls for Service in June, the Ford has been dropped off at Bessette Motors, and the new Tahoe goes to Midstates in Fargo for equipment tomorrow.

PUBLIC WORKS:

Councilmen Roudy reported there was a water break on Joal Drive with a bent curb stop, discussion on mowing issues near High Plains and Hagel property, all lift stations went through annual inspections with 3 lift stations needing repair (#2, 4, &5).

A motion was made by Roudy, seconded by Olson, to approve ordering parts from Dakota Pump & Control in the amount of \$18,640 with \$10,000 from fund 228 and remainder from the budget. The following voted in favor: Fandrich, Smith, Olson, Hoggarth, and Roudy. Against: None. Motion carried.

BUILDING OFFICIAL:

Public Works Director Wolsky reported 9 building permits were issued and 1 demolition permit.

A motion was made by Roudy, seconded by Smith, to accept Pam Jerome’s bid on the 1995 Chevrolet pickup for \$610.00. All voted aye. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Smith, seconded by Roudy, to approve the committee reports as presented. All voted aye. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Olson, seconded by Fandrich, to approve the bills as previously submitted and listed on agenda. The following voted in favor: Hoggarth, Roudy, Fandrich, Smith, and Olson. Against: None. Motion carried.

There being no further business to come before the council a motion was made by Hoggarth, seconded by Olson, to adjourn. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Adjourned at 8:41 pm.

SPECIAL MEETING JULY 8, 2024

A special meeting of the City Council of the City of Carrington was held on Monday, July 8, 2024, at 7:30 PM, at City Hall. Mayor Thomas Erdmann presiding.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

The following members of council and city departments were present: Troy Roudy, Neil Fandrich, Tyler Hoggarth, Trygg Olson, Doug Smith, Leo Ryan, Jason Wolsky, and Jennifer Gast.

Absent: Chief Bittmann
Also present: Leasa Lura, Linda Schuster, Karen Evans, and Ken Wangen.

The following are results of the Tuesday, June 11, 2024 election:

The following were voted in as Park Board members (4 year terms) at the recent election: Taylor Skytland and Roslyn Mozelle.

All park board members were able to complete their Oath of Office prior to this meeting and were returned to the Auditor’s office.

A motion was made by Olson, seconded by Hoggarth, to approve Mayor Erdmann’s appointment of Jesse Nelson, 1st Ward Councilman for a 2 year unexpired term. All voted aye.

Motion carried.

Doug Smith was elected as City Councilman (At Large, 4 year term) and took his Oath of Office.

Neil Fandrich was elected as a City Councilman (2nd Ward, 4 year term) and took his Oath of Office.

Trygg Olson was elected City Councilman (1st Ward, 4 year term) and took his Oath of Office.

Tyler Hoggarth was elected City Councilman (At Large, 2 year unexpired term) and took his Oath of Office.

Nominations were taken for President and Vice President of the Council.

Motion was made by Olson, seconded by Hoggarth, to nominate Roudy as President.

All voted aye. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Smith, seconded by Olson, to nominate Fandrich as Vice President.

All voted aye. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Roudy, seconded by Fandrich, to approve the following committee assignments:

Airport: Fandrich
CCEDC & CVB: Mayor Erdmann

Finance & Legal: Chair: Mayor Erdmann, Nelson, Roudy, and Hoggarth

Library: Roudy
Police: Chair: Hoggarth, Fandrich, and Nelson

Public Works: Chair: Roudy, Olson, and Smith

Tree Board: Chair: Smith
All voted aye. Motion carried.

Mayor Erdmann made the following appointments:

Jason Wolsky as Public Works Director, Christopher Bittmann as Police Chief, Jennifer Gast as City Auditor, Leo Ryan of Dalsted & Ryan as City Attorney, Abigail Geroux of Dalsted & Ryan as Assistant City Attorney.

A motion was made by Fandrich, seconded by Olson, to ratify Mayor Erdmann’s appointments as presented. All voted aye. Motion carried.

There being no further business on the special meeting agenda, a motion was made by Smith, seconded by Roudy, to adjourn. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Adjourned at 7:36 PM.

SPECIAL MEETING JULY 25, 2024

A special meeting of the City Council was held on Thursday, July 25, 2024, at 6:30 PM, at City Hall. Mayor Thomas Erdmann presiding.

The following members of council and city departments were present: Doug Smith, Trygg Olson, Tyler Hoggarth, Troy Roudy, Neil Fandrich, Leo Ryan, Jason Wolsky, Christopher Bittmann, and Jennifer Gast.

Also Present: Ken Wangen and Jesse Nelson.

Mayor Erdmann welcomed newly appointed Council Member Jesse Nelson. City Attorney Ryan administered Jesse Nelson’s oath of office.

Auditor Gast presented the 2025 Preliminary Budget and discussion was held.

There being no further business on the special meeting agenda, a motion was made by Smith, seconded by Hoggarth, to adjourn. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Adjourned at 8:27 PM.

SPECIAL MEETING JULY 31, 2024

A special meeting of the City Council was held on Wednesday, July 31, 2024, at 7:00 PM, at City Hall. Mayor Thomas Erdmann presiding.

The following members of council and city departments were present: Doug Smith, Tyler Hoggarth, Troy Roudy, Neil Fandrich, Jesse Nelson, Abby Geroux, Jason Wolsky, and Jennifer Gast.

Also Present: Kevin Guthmiller, Dillon Flemmer, and Whitney Carter.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Tanya Wieler, Human Resource Advisor, of Dakota Dynamics presented a proposed pay scale based upon market data relevant to the city of Carrington. The new pay scale proposes 15 steps and utilizes a step increase annually in addition to a cost of living adjustment each year. Ms. Wieler explained the second part of the process is to ensure employees are properly placed upon the scale.

Mayor Erdmann provided the employees present an opportunity to address Council with any comments. Both Kevin Guthmiller and Dillon Flemmer addressed Council with their concerns on current compensation.

Auditor Gast recapped the 2025 Preliminary Budget with recommended changes from the first budget meeting. This included implementing the ND PERS Public Safety plan for the police department, a correction to estimated 2024 expenditures in the general fund, and levying an additional ½ mill for the library fund.

After discussion, Council instructed Auditor Gast to work with Ms. Wieler on proper placement of employees on the scale and implementing those recommendations into the 2025 Preliminary Budget. A third budget meeting will be held on Monday, August 5th, 2024 at 5 pm.

A motion was made by Roudy, seconded by Fandrich, to set the Public Hearing on 2025 Budget for Tuesday, September 17, 2024 at 6:30 pm. All voted aye. Motion carried.

There being no further business on the special meeting agenda, a motion was made by

Hoggarth, seconded by Smith, to adjourn. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Adjourned at 8:28 PM.

SPECIAL MEETING AUGUST 5, 2024

A special meeting of the City Council was held on Monday, August 5, 2024, at 5:00 PM, at City Hall. Mayor Thomas Erdmann presiding.

The following members of council and city departments were present: Doug Smith, Trygg Olson, Tyler Hoggarth, Troy Roudy, Neil Fandrich, Jesse Nelson, Leo Ryan, Jason Wolsky, Christopher Bittmann, and Jennifer Gast. *Arrived at approximately 5:10 pm.

Also Present: Kevin and Merdyna Guthmiller, Dillon Flemmer, and Whitney Carter.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Mayor Erdmann recapped the last budget meeting from last Thursday night that discussion on the wage scale was held and the work Tanya Wieler from Dakota Dynamics was contracted to do.

Tanya and Auditor Gast were instructed to place employees on the wage scale. A memo from Tanya Wieler was reviewed. A fifteen step scale was proposed with 3% between each step for the first 10 years then 2% between each step years 11 through 15 along with an annual cost of living adjustment. The Mayor had a conversation with Tanya on the aggressiveness of that and talked about a 20 year step system.

Auditor Gast explained to Council that she worked with Tanya Wieler on proper placement of each employee on the proposed wage scale. Gast explained not only were years of service taken into consideration but also outside years of experience relevant to their position.

Auditor Gast then presented to Council a third preliminary 2025 Budget based upon the placement of employees upon the proposed wage scale including salary, FICA, and retirement calculations. The additional expenditures required for implementation for the general fund are \$23,056.97, library fund \$5.24, water fund \$5,609.43, and sewer fund \$11,765.86.

The Mayor suggested the wage scale be referred to Finance & Legal for further revision.

A motion was made by Olson, seconded by Roudy, to approve the preliminary 2025 budget based upon the tentative wage scale, an additional half mill for the library fund, transferring the Police Department to the ND PERS Public Safety Plan, and levying a total of 89 mills. The following voted in favor: Hoggarth, Olson, Smith, Roudy, Fandrich, and Nelson. Against: None. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Olson, seconded by Smith, to move the next regularly scheduled Committee and Council meetings from Monday, August 12, 2024 to Tuesday, August 13, 2024. All voted aye. Motion carried.

There being no further business on the special meeting agenda, a motion was made by Hoggarth, seconded by Smith, to

adjourn. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Adjourned at 5:37 PM

Bills: United States Treasury, \$7,167.52; United States Treasury, 6,639.14; NDPERS, 212.50; NDPERS, 212.50; NDPERS, 10,202.54; United States Treasury, 6,670.19; NDPERS, 212.50; AFLAC, 742.20; LEAF, 210.00; AT&T Mobility, 357.98; Ottetail Power Co., 9,792.40; Unum Life Insurance Company, 78.22; Postmaster, 354.96.

AFLAC, 742.20; LEAF, 55.00; Miller, Julie, 46.83; Advanced Business Methods, 110.25; ABM Technology Group, 138.75; Amazon Capital Services, 689.21; Arrowwood Prairie Co-op, 946.93; AT&T Mobility, 357.98; Auto Value Carrington, 21.99; Balco Uniform Co., 41.43; Bank of North Dakota, 2,625.58; Bessette Motors, Inc., 458.95; Bittman, Christopher, 641.43; Blue Cross Blue Shield of ND, 22,583.00; Carrington Park District, 1,538.93.

Carr Construction LLC, 90,720.00; Carrington Drug, 45.74; Carrington City Library Petty Cash, 322.08; Chem-aqua, 808.66; City of Carrington, 965.13; City of Carrington-Meter Depot, 103.17; C&J Oil Co., 728.70; Custom Kut Meat, Inc., 262.14; Carrington Convention & Visitor’s Bureau, 1,309.40; Dakota Inflatables Games, 525.00; Dakota Central Telecom I, 1,267.65.

Dalsted & Ryan, P.C., 1,671.00; Ecolab Pest Elim. Div., 914.31; Flexible Pipe Tools & Equipment, 248.95; Forum Communications Company, 253.80; Foster County Independent, 406.14; Foster’s Cleaning Service, 200.00; Gast, Jennifer, 325.55; Great Plains Directory Service, 58.00; Harrison Sprinkler Services, 208.74; Hawkins, Inc., 2,716.38; Information Technology Dept., 110.10.

International Code Council, Inc., 285.00; JK Designs, 950.00; Carrington Economic Development, 28,049.59; J&R Dirtworks LLC, 10,652.00; Leevers Foods, 95.32; Lexis Nexis Matthew Bender, 164.61; Modern Marketing, 267.66; Montana Dakota Utilities, 389.33; Napa Auto Parts, 1,144.25; ND Dept. of Health, 50.00; NDDEQ, 34.95; One Call Concepts, 35.35; NDSOS Foundation, 1,062.50.

NDSOS Foundation, 1,062.50; Ferguson Waterworks #2516, 135.30; Northern Plains Electric Co-op, 768.61; Patriot Fuels, 1,350.90; Pitney Bowes Bank Inc Purchase, 1,000.00; Playaway Products, 44.99; Running’s Supply, Inc., 1,890.19; Schulz Plumbing & Heating, 693.15; Central Pharmacy, 34,666.80; Seil, Michele, 303.54; Sunshine Sweets, 54.00; UpNorth Therapies, 13,697.84; Waste Management of ND, 32,478.54; Rick’s Wholesale Tire, 42.00; Wolsky, Jason, 100.00.

Payroll: July 12, 2024, \$25,838.18; July 26, 2024, \$25,315.09; August 9, 2024, \$24,574.11.

Jennifer Gast, Auditor
Tom Erdmann, Mayor
Carrington City Council
City of Carrington
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