

**SPECIAL RUGBY CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, MARCH 1, 2021– 6:30PM
CITY ARMORY GYMNASIUM AND BY GOTOMEETING**

Council Members present: Kraft, Albrecht, Bednarz, Berg, LaRocque and Trottier. Council Members present by GOTOMEETING: Longie. Also present were Chief of Police Rose, Jim Olson, AE2S, Jason Strand, AE2S, City Auditor Stewart, Troy Munyer, Street & Sewer Superintendent, Greg Boucher, Water Plant Superintendent.

Mayor Steinke called the meeting to order at 6:30pm.

Council members recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll call was taken by Steinke.

Steinke turned the floor over to David Holzwarth, Interim General Manager, Rugby Farmers Elevator, to explain the 30,000 gallon propane tank that they wish to install. They are looking to bury a portion of the tank, so that only three to four feet of the tank are exposed above ground. Holzwarth explained that currently the elevator has 4, 1,000 gallon propane tanks onsite to operator their grain dryers. He explained the number of times that it was necessary to refill the propane tanks to allow the grain dryers to continue to operate. They wish to remove the 4 tanks and replace with the one 30,000 gallon tank. He indicated that they used approximately 150,000 gallons of propane last year. One large tank compared to the small tanks would mean less propane fills. Residents questioned if the elevator would lose money if they did not install the large propane tank. Holzwarth explained that the installation of the 30,000 gallon tank would make grain drying more efficient.

Keith Dibble, Envision, addressed the council regarding the number of times they must fill the small tanks. This creates a stress on Envisions ability to supply propane to others because of the need to continue to refill the elevators tanks. He also cited set back requirements from the residential property that would be followed.

Community members spoke to the council and Rugby Farmers Elevator Board Members about their concerns of the placement of the 30,000 gallon propane tank. The main concern community members had was what would happen if the tank were to rupture and become engulfed in flames.

Mark Koenig, community member, questioned what if something should happen? Koenig gave examples of previous propane explosions that have occurred in North Dakota. He explained that his daughter that lived across the street, from the elevator property, had a daycare in her home.

Holzwarth stated having a larger propane tank is much safer and efficient, due to not having to hook up to fill the tanks seven times a day as well as efficiency.

David Kraft, Rugby Farmers Elevator Board Member, addressed the council. He explained that the board believes that the large tank is much safer than multiple smaller tanks. He explained that yes, the elevator is looking to expand their grain drying capability. They are looking to handle the grain brought in by local farmers. They are looking to the future not only for the

elevator, but for the community. He explained that the elevator will spend extra money to make sure that they are doing all they can to make this safe for the community.

David England, community member, addressed the council and agreed that hooking up to fill the tanks fewer times does make it safer. He explained that connecting to the tanks multiples times a day creates more danger. He expressed that the community was built on agriculture and still today it is a vital part of the community.

Bednarz questioned if there had been a study done to explore the idea of setting the 30,000 gallon tank out of town and pipe in the propane. Halswarth explained that locating property to do so is difficult. There are also a lot of different issues with piping in propane too.

One resident expressed concern of a possibility of a tank explosion throwing debris up to one and a half miles away.

Keith Dibble listed a number of safety features that a 30,000 gallon tank provides.

Mike Schmaltz, Rugby Farmers Elevator, questioned how many propane tanks are located in the city. The elevator has been informed that approximately 2 million gallons of propane are used within the community.

Hartl explained that Housing and Urban Development requirements have changed and that it requires a 300 foot separation from the residence to the propane tank location.

David Kraft explained that the elevator will do all they can to make the installation of a 30,000 gallon propane tank safe for the community.

Trottier explained that he felt both sides have valid concerns regarding the 30,000 gallon propane tank. He questioned if the city required the Fire Chief to complete a risk analysis regarding the 30,000 gallon propane tank. David Schneibel, former Fire Chief, explained that the State Fire Marshall would do a site review, once the elevator forwards their application to the state. They must receive city approval to forward that application.

LaRocque referred to his past occupation Hazmat Training and explained that one tank instead of multiple would be much safer.

Albrecht explained that she has watched the additional elevator silos be built and lives right across the street. She also agreed that one tank would be safer than multiple tanks.

Berg also commended how much safer it is to hook up once a week to fill a large tank instead of multiple times a day to fill small tanks.

David Kraft explained that ideally they would use natural gas, if it was available.

Gary Kraft explained that he agreed that one tank is safer than multiple tanks. He cited many safety protocols that would make the risk of something happening very slim.

There was a motion by LaRocque to approve the conditional use permit for Rugby Farmers Elevator. Second by Gary Kraft, roll call vote, Albrecht-yes, Kraft-yes, Bednarz-no, Berg-yes,

LaRocque-yes, Trottier- no, Lunde- no and Longie- abstained. Motion carried 4-3 with one not voting.

There being no further business to transact or come before the Council at this time, there was a motion by Trottier to adjourn the Council Meeting. Second by Bednarz, all voting yes, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:38p.m.

Susan Steinke, Mayor

ATTEST: _____
Jennifer Stewart, City Auditor

Date Approved