

Council Meeting Minutes
April 28, 2025
Minutes taken by: Marie Ihlefeld
Meeting start time: 7:06 PM
Meeting end time: 8:38 PM

Attendees:

Council - Present	Absent	Pastors/Staff - Present
Anna Sion	Pr. Thadd Book	Pr. Andrea Cain
Angela Nannenga	Brent Borchers	Doug Bjotvedt
Adam Clark		
Carolyn Perkins		
Gail Dempsey		
Mari Johnson		
Vicki English		
Marie Ihlefeld		

Devotions: Carolyn Perkins

Approval of April Agenda:

- **First:** Adam Clark
- **Second:** Mari Johnson
- Unanimously Approved

Approval of March Minutes

- **First:** Carolyn Perkins
- **Second:** Vicki English
- Unanimously Approved

Team Updates

1. **Director of Operations and Property Report:** Doug Bjotvedt

- Adjusted January and February financial numbers with more information coming in. \$1105 loss Year to Date. For the month of March we are \$3,382 in the positive - revenue above expenses. This includes donations for the Gilbert Parking Lot. Currently still ahead in the General Fund. Making sure we do the annual audit with the bank - Mission Investment Fund (MIF). Completing the congregational report with the ELCA. ELCA Federal Credit Union annual audit is done. The annual audits with MIF and ELCA includes our annual report and, if any, a capital campaign.
- \$13,000 came in for the Gilbert Parking Lot & \$4,000 of that came in March. Adjusting Financial report for Parking lot giving & Endowment income and expenses.
- Tempe Water Station: In 2023 the City of Tempe wanted to purchase some of the dirt lot on the south side of Tempe campus next to the well station. They were getting ready to make an offer for 5,000 sq feet, then the regulations changed & increased the amount of land they needed. They now need 16,000 sq ft for maintenance, cleaning and processing. The current well site is 5,000 sq ft, so this would quadruple the size. They are currently not interested in the remainder of the dirt lot but may be interested in a few years. The City of Tempe has eminent domain & wants to work with us on a fair price. They are currently offering \$234,900 but we could ask for \$244,800 based on 4 other comps on the market and recent sales. FYI – when the original well site was sold to the City of Tempe 10 years ago we countered, and they accepted the counteroffer. This offer came too late to get on the May congregational meeting agenda & we may need a special congregational meeting sooner or wait until the December meeting. The City of Tempe is not in a hurry & will work with us. This is the same property Family Promise is interested in developing.

2. **Financial Committee Report:** Doug Bjotvedt / Brent Borchers

- Adjustments to January and February financials were not made 2 weeks ago when the Finance meeting took place.

Vote to Approve Financial Report:

- **First:** Mari Johnson
- **Second:** Adam Clark
- **Unanimously Approved**

3. **President's Report** Anna Sion

- **Elections Meeting:** Elections Meeting is Sunday at 1pm We will see the bios and vote on who will be serving alongside us. Huge thank you to Angela & the nomination team. The VP position is still vacant & 15 people declined. If we think of anyone to nominate for VP or at-large member, let Angela or Anna know. We will vote for the candidates we have & may have appointments later by council for open positions. The agenda of the meeting is a financial update, present bios & vote, and express appreciation for those who have served.
- **Budget Timeline:** The end of the year is always very busy and the budget timeline is tight. Sometimes the council budget review has been right before the budget meeting. Last year we had early deadlines, which really helped. Stewardship is thinking about the date for commitment Sunday. Planning October 26th for Commitment Sunday & the previous 3 weeks for Mission Moments. November 1st is the deadline for a preliminary budget from Doug. Pr. Andrea will let Stewardship and Doug know about the October and November timeline.

4. **Pastor Reports:**

· **Pr. Andrea:**

- Reviewing Lent and Holy Week. Lent went well with great feedback on the themes, services, and special music. We had a joyful Easter with great attendance, music and many guests.
- There is a new member class on Wednesday at both campuses. It's always fun to get to know people in the new member class. We will be receiving new members over the weekend. We have had lots of visitors over the past year at both campuses.
- There is a new worship schedule in Tempe for the Summer. There will be one service at 9:30 all summer, starting Memorial Day weekend and extending until Labor Day weekend. Fellowship and Snack and Chat will still be offered after the 9:30 service. Saturday service stays at 5pm in Tempe.
- The Gilbert Town Fiddlers will be hosting a concert at Desert Cross Tempe from 6-7pm on May 9th. Hopefully lots of members of the community will attend.
- We received a Thank You from the Grand Canyon Synod & Stewardship team. Several Pastors signed it with personal messages of thanks.

5. Endowment: Anna Sion

- There were questions about how much money is being spent from Endowment on Capital improvement, community/synod outreach and missions of the ELCA. Terry Kaiser-Borning sent the breakdown to Anna. At least 20% & under 40% is being spent on each category. They are meeting the guidelines for the Endowment distribution.
- Endowment is requesting: \$500 for Lutheran Seminary intern to work through Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in outreach mission to the Casa Grande area & \$2003.44 for equipment and software for the Gilbert campus. Equipment and software for the Gilbert Campus includes: \$594 for a 10.9 in. iPad, \$509 for a Mac mini, \$189.90 for a Rode ms stereo mic pair, \$49 for a Rode stereo bar mic mount, \$64.98 for a Gator Frameworks mic stand, & \$289 for the first year subscription to Pro Presenter software.

Vote To Approve Endowment Requests:

- **First:** Adam Clark
- **Second:** Vicki English
- **Unanimously Approved**

6. Gilbert Chamber Report: Carolyn Perkins/Mari Johnson

- Visitors and signage were identified as a top priority from the Lead Meeting last Fall. Carolyn met with a sign company recommended by Doug & he will be sending a mock-up. The expected cost for a light up sign is around \$14,000. Carolyn will approach the Refresh team to see if this can be included in the project. Our current sign on the building just says Desert Cross by the lighted cross (does not include church). The two monument signs on each corner say Desert Cross Lutheran Church. If this can be combined with Refresh it would be part of the May 19th presentation at 6:30pm.
- Hymn Sing raised \$1289 for Refresh. There was a great turnout, Gilbert town Fiddlers performed and there was plenty of pie --- even some left over for dessert at Wednesday Lenten Soup Dinner. There is now \$2789 dedicated for Refresh.
- Gary Balliet is planning the golf tournament for September 27th. May want to raise money for Refresh. We need to vote on that.
- Mari Johnson has set up mission spotlights every month during service. Denise Viker did one last week.
- We used to have address signs and first aid kits for emergencies in Gilbert – but we don't know where they are now. Safety signage needs to be available in Gilbert for us and for other groups that use the space.

7. Stewardship Pr. Thadd /Pr. Andrea A letter is going out in May from Pr. Andrea, Pr. Thadd and council to thank everyone for supporting Desert Cross & reminding members to remember Desert Cross over the summer.

8. Project Update and Fundraisers: Anna Sion/Brent Borchers

- **Gilbert Parking Lot:** Accepted a bid for the parking lot work. Doug has started sending emails about areas of the parking lot that will be closed and when. Parking lot work will take place May 30th-June 1st. The final project could be 10-20% above bid. There will be a ribbon cutting ceremony for the parking lot with hot dogs, cake and Mariachi band. Big thanks to Vicki's dad for taking the drone picture to make the puzzle for the fundraiser.
- **Gilbert Refresh:** If there is extra money left from The Gilbert Parking Lot fundraiser, council will need to formally vote on how that money is allocated. Anything that is done with money needs formal votes. Some large donations may have been made to both Parking Lot and Refresh. Donations should have clarification, in the memo of the check, on the envelope, or the drop-down choice online, of how that money should be spent. When people commit their money, we need to be clear about where that money is going. Angela suggested we make a crowd funding form that clearly specifies what the fundraiser is for and where any excess money from a fundraiser will be allocated.

9. Program (Staff) Reports/Questions: No questions on Staff Reports

10. Old Business: Anna/Pr. Andrea None

11. New Business Anna/Pr. Andrea

- **Tempe Water Station:** Recap from earlier - The City of Tempe is offering \$233,900 for 16,000 sq feet and, based on comps, Doug Bjotvedt would like to counter for \$244,800. Doug is a licensed broker and that is his Broker Price Opinion. The Family Promise project can no longer happen in this space. It prevents us from doing amazing ministry with them. There was no guarantee Family Promise would choose our site. It was intended as a ministry, and unlikely to be a market value lease or purchase. In the future, it may be possible to pivot and explore the back part of the property with Family Promise. We need to pray over this offer & opportunity for our church, it could be a Godsend in a way. The City of Tempe has eminent domain & is willing to work with us on price. They may also come back in a few years and need additional space. We will

bring this to the December congregational meeting or have a separate congregational meeting sooner. May not need a lot of Q&A's for a simple sale. We need to know how long the offer is valid.

Motion to have Doug Bjotvedt counter the City of Tempe's offer with \$244,800 & find out how long the offer is valid:

- **First:** Vicki English
- **Second:** Adam Clark
- **Unanimously Approved**

Prayer Concerns & Praises:

- Prayers for recovery for Adam's friend Willam Wallace's Dad. His dad is in a physical therapy recovery place for his foot & diabetes
- Prayers for Adam's friend Josh – his aunt has cancer, he's having some relationship issues and is currently going through a cancer scare. Prayers for him during cancer screening.
- We pray for Adam's dad Tracy to get a good diagnosis, treatment and recovery. Please bring him home to Laura and Adam. Tracy seems to be getting better, he is still not fully mobile but can carry on conversations.
- Prayers for Angela's grandfather Jim, he has Alzheimer that went undiagnosed for too long. Prayers for Jim's successful treatment trying to slow the progression & allow him to spend time with family.

Closing Prayer: Pr. Andrea

Adjournment:

- **First:** Adam Clark
- **Second:** Gail Dempsey
- **Unanimously Approved**