**CHAPTER FOURTEEN – SUB CHAPTER A**

CITY OF LEEDS ORDINANCE

OTTER TAIL POWER COMPANY FRANCHISE AGREEMENT

An Ordinance granting to the Otter Tail Power Company, a Minnesota Company, its successors and assigns, permission to erect, construct, install and maintain within the City of Leeds, an electric light and power system and transmission lines and to operate the same and to install conduits, poles, wires, pipes and other fixtures in, upon and under the streets, alleys, bridges, and public grounds of said City for the purpose of furnishing electric light, heat and power to said City and the inhabitants thereof.

 BE IT ORDAINED, BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF Leeds North Dakota,

Hereinafter called the “City, the following sections:

SECTION 1

Length of Franchise

There is hereby granted to Otter Tail Power Company, a Minnesota Company, its successors and assigns, hereinafter called the Grantee, for a period of twenty (20) years from and after the passage and approval of this Ordinance and during all of said time, subject to the conditions and requirements hereinafter set forth, permission to construct, install and maintain an electric light and power system and transmission lines and to operate and maintain the same within and through the City and to transmit electricity to and from other towns or cities for the purpose of light, power and heat and to erect, construct, install and maintain conduits, poles, wires, pipes and other necessary fixtures and attachments upon and under the streets, alleys, bridges and public grounds of said City. for the purpose of furnishing and selling electricity for light, heat and power and such other purposes for which electricity may be used by the inhabitants of said City, said permission and franchise to become operative and continue under the conditions hereinafter set forth, and provide further that this franchise shall be effective for twenty (20) years. The length of this Franchise shall be for a term of 20 years from May 5, 2021 through midnight of May 5, 2041.

SECTION 2

Infrastructure Conform to National Electrical Safety Code

 Said Grantee shall use poles, wires, crossarms, equipment and devices to conform with the standards of construction adopted by the National Electrical Safety Code of the United States, Department of Commerce, and all apparatus connected therewith shall be located so as not to obstruct the avenues, streets, and alleys of said City or to endanger persons or property or to hinder or to obstruct the use of said avenues, streets, and alleys for public places by the inhabitants of said City, or public in general, or to interfere with any street, sidewalk, curb, gutter or park improvements that the City may deem proper to make along the lines of said avenues, streets and public places.

SECTION 3

 Placement of Infrastructure

 All conduits, poles, wires and pipes installed by virtue of this Ordinance shall be installed in such places and in such manner as not unnecessarily to encroach upon streets, alleys, bridges, or public grounds of said City, and so as not to unnecessarily obstruct the use thereof for the ordinary purpose of travel thereon, and the erection thereof shall be subject to the reasonable supervision and direction of the City Council of the said City. Whenever practicable, all poles shall be set in alleys, and poles now in position upon or along the streets, whenever practicable, shall be removed, and the locations of all of said poles shall be designated by the Mayor under the supervision of the City Council of the said City.

 All poles where set in alleys shall be set at or near the boundary line thereof, and where set-in streets shall be located at such distances, as shall be directed by the City, from the property line of the abutting owner, and shall be placed so as not to interfere with the construction of placing of any waterpipes, sewers, or drains or the flow of water therefrom which have been or may be placed by authority of said City. In the event that said Grantee shall make any unnecessary obstruction of said streets, alleys, public grounds or places not designated by the City Council, the City may cause the removal of such obstructions and charge and collect from such Grantee the actual cost of such removals.

SECTION 4

Construction and Maintenance of System

 During the construction, maintenance or enlargement of any part of said electric light and power system, said Grantee shall not unnecessarily impede or block travel in said streets and highways in said City and shall leave all streets, highways, alleys, sidewalks, curbs, lanes and public places and all grounds disturbed by said construction in good condition upon the completion of said work.

 The City reserves the right for itself and its agents to make and adopt, and the rights and privileges hereby granted shall at all times be and remain subject to, such reasonable regulations of a police nature as it may deem necessary for the best interests of the City but the City will not by an such regulations or by acts of its own or agents do anything to prevent or interfere with the Grantee carrying on its business in accordance with the franchise hereby granted.

SECTION 5

Replacement or Repair of Streets and Sidewalks and Indemnification

 Whenever the said Grantee in erecting, constructing and maintaining said lines or poles, shall take up any of the pavements, sidewalks crossings or curbs on any of the avenues, streets and alleys or public places in said City or shall make any excavations thereon; such excavations shall be refilled and the sidewalk, crossing or curb replaced under the direction of the said City and any excavation so made shall be properly lighted at night during the construction, and in case of the failure to do so on the part of the said Grantee, then the said City may do the same at the expense of said Grantee and said Grantee agrees to pay said City for the reasonable cost or value of said work.

Said Grantee shall be liable for all loss or damage caused by the negligence of Grantee, which may result to persons or property within the said City, caused by it, or its agents, servants, or employees in erecting, operating and maintaining the said electric system within said City, and shall at all times save the City harmless from any and all damages to persons or property in erecting, operating or maintaining said electric system. The Grantee of any franchise shall indemnify and save the City and its agents and employees harmless from all and any claims for personal injury or property damages and any other claims or costs, including attorney’s fees, expenses of investigation and litigation of claims and suits thereon which may result from the activities of the Grantee of the franchise in the City.

SECTION 6

Tree Trimming

 There is granted to said Grantee, its successors and assigns, during the term hereof, permission and authority to trim all trees in alleys, streets and public grounds of said City so as to remove all parts of said trees interfering with the proper erection maintenance and operation of poles, cables, wires, masts or other fixtures, or appliances installed or to be installed pursuant to authority hereby granted.

 Said Grantee shall have full right and authority to assign any person, persons, firm or corporation all the rights that are given it by this Ordinance, provided that the assignee of such rights by accepting such assignment shall become subject to the terms and conditions of this Ordinance.

SECTION 7

Loss or Damage from Failure of Service

 The Grantee shall use due diligence and care in furnishing electric service as herein provided but shall not be liable for any loss or damage which may arise from failure of the service, either partial or total, but this shall not be construed to exempt said Grantee from liability for negligence.

SECTION 8

Rates

 The rates to be charged by said Grantee in the said City shall be filed with the Public Service Commission of the State of North Dakota, and no increase or decrease in said rates shall be made except in accordance with the rules and regulations of the Public Service Commission.

SECTION 9

Contract Subject to Laws and Regulations

 This contract shall be subject to any present or future laws of a regulatory nature enacted by the State of North Dakota, or an any amendment or addition to such laws and further shall be subject to the rules and regulations laid down by the Public Service Commission of the State of North Dakota.

SECTION 10

Franchise Fees

 The City reserves the right during the term hereof to enact and assess a franchise fee such as it deems necessary, upon reasonable advance notice to Grantee of not less than thirty (30) days. The franchise fee will be set by resolution of the Leeds City Council and will be reviewed periodically. The current franchise fee can be found by referencing the Leeds City Fee Schedule.

SECTION 11

Removal of Infrastructure

 In the event the City should sell or transfer real property which is subject to Grantee’s franchise and should it become necessary to remove conduits, poles, wires or pipes installed by virtue of this Ordinance the removal shall be done at the expense of the Grantee upon the request of the City.

SECTION 12

Passage and Acceptance

 This Ordinance shall take effect and be in full force from and after its passage and approval by the City Council. The said Grantee shall specify its acceptance of this franchise in writing, to be filed with the City Auditor and in no event shall this Ordinance be binding on said Grantee until the filing of such acceptance.

Approved this 5th day of May, 2021

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Mayor, City of Leeds, ND

Attest

City Auditor, City of Leeds, ND

First Reading January 6, 2021

Second Reading May 5, 2021