

Truman City Council Minutes April 1, 2024

The regular meeting was duly held at the Municipal Building Council Chambers on the 1st day of April, 2024 at 5:30 p.m.

Present: Mayor Jake Ebert, Councilors Patty Truax, Chris Mosloski, Brian Nickerson, and Ron Kelley.

Absent: None.

Staff present: Street Superintendent John Bosshart, Utility Foreman Brent Brown, City Clerk/Treasurer Melissa Sirovy, Deputy Clerk Carol Becker, Interim Police Chief Mike Schutz, Fire Chief Brandon Mosloski, Ambulance Director Josh Kitzerow.

Also present: Dave Bentz, Joseph Kreiss Truman Tribune.

Mayor Jake Ebert presided over the meeting, beginning at 5:30 p.m., opening with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Agenda/Additions or Changes

Changes or additions to the agenda: Fire department certificate of deposit, Cemetery sealcoat project added. **Motion made by Kelley, seconded by Nickerson to approve the agenda as amended. All ayes - motion carried.**

Approve Minutes of Regular Meetings

Motion made by Kelley, seconded by Nickerson to approve minutes of the March 18, 2024 Regular Meeting. All ayes - motion carried.

Public Comment

None.

Fire Department Quarterly Report

Chief Brandon Mosloski presented the departments quarterly report. There have been 8 calls this year, there are 25 department members currently, a compressor will need to be replaced in the near future, OSHA regs will be changing in the next few years that could result in hundreds of additional hours of work for fire chiefs. Recommendations made included drafting an ordinance to assess unpaid fire service charges to property taxes, and establishing a fire escrow account to retain a portion of insurance proceeds to ensure property damaged by fire gets cleaned up.

Ambulance Department Quarterly Report

Director Josh Kitzerow reported there have been 40 runs year to date, transfers are down, motocross events are scheduled for the year with 12 days of events, some supplies are being purchased in conjunction with Mayo at lower pricing, and 3 members took training and are now EMRs. The department is exploring options for a new ambulance, giving consideration to a diesel F450 4-wheel

drive Osage model from North Central Emergency Vehicles. Council asked about the cost savings of purchasing gas 2-wheel drive van instead. Kitzerow will look into that option. Councilor Kelley asked about selling the third ambulance rig. Kitzerow advised that is an option available to the council. Department members are working with the billing service to ensure all of the required information is provided for runs to improve collections. Radios in service will start needing to be replaced. The Kenwood radios being considered cost \$4,500. Public Safety funds could be used, and it was suggested that 1 or 2 be added to the annual budget going forward.

Police Department Quarterly Report

Interim Chief Mike Schutz provided a quarterly report detailing calls for service during that time. He is working on noise enforcement on Highway 15 and has been visiting the school for walk-throughs and to talk with staff and students. The extra squad car is running and is driven periodically. File cabinets in the old office have been cleaned out and paperwork shredded. The speed trailer will be set up on the highway soon.

Street Department Quarterly Report

Superintendent John Bosshart reported the department has been trimming trees and getting the brush site cleaned up. The street sweeper is ready for the season. The road at the cemetery should be seal coated. For 1356 sq. yards, the cost would be \$2,300. Signs to keep trucks off of 5th Street North cost \$98.32 plus freight. **Motion made by Kelley, seconded by Nickerson to approve ordering 2 signs for 5th street. All ayes – motion carried.** Consideration should be given to replacing the red snow truck in the near future.

Sealcoat bids that were opened on March 28th were as follows: M.R. Paving \$51,136, Pearson Bros. \$51,136, The Road Guys \$90,240, and Allied Blacktop \$56,851. Bids are awarded to the lowest responsible bidder and Pearson Bros has provided consistent high-quality sealcoat work for the past several years. **Motion made by Nickerson, seconded by Kelley to accept the bid from Pearson Bros for \$51,136, \$1.70 per square yard, including the cemetery road for the same rate. All ayes – motion carried.**

Utility Department Business

Foreman Brent Brown reported that a watermain was repaired recently on W 3rd Street N, a valve broke and will need to be replaced when possible, and meters continue to be updated to run on the new system. MPCA has new limits for chloride, phosphorus, and sulphate in wastewater, two of which the city can't meet. An application for a variance will be submitted for chloride limits. Smart salt training is required via an online course. A compliance schedule will be drafted for sulphates to meet the limits within 15 years, when technology advances with a solution. Phosphorus is generally not a problem so the department will work to meet that limit. The load management program will be phased out over time. The software is outdated and data can't be modified. The residential development project is out for bids and they will be opened at 11 am on April 24th. A master agreement and task order from DGR Engineering was considered to provide consulting services to the electric department. **Motion made by Kelley, seconded by Nickerson to approve the agreement with DGR Engineering as proposed. All ayes – motion carried.** Generator #3 has a seal out in the water pump and generator #6 needs a new fuel primer.

Utility services provided to the school's baseball field have not been billed out per an agreement made by the council in the 1980's. Councilor Kelley feels the charges should be billed out to the school as owner of the property. **Motion made by Kelley, seconded by Truax to bill the school for utilities provided to their baseball field. All ayes – motion carried.**

Information was obtained on the cost to insure fire hydrants. It would not cover loss due to use or normal wear and tear. The damaged hydrant isn't leaking and the company that builds them is willing to help repair it. It will be tagged as out of order until then. It was decided not to add insurance coverage for hydrants at this time.

Deputy Clerk Carol Becker advised that the auditor requested she report to council regularly all adjustments made to utility bills. Over the past quarter two adjustments were made and details were provided. Delinquent accounts are submitted to the State's Revenue Recapture program and collections have been good over the past quarter, with \$4,976 paid toward overdue utility bills.

Approval of Claims

Motion made by Kelley, seconded by Truax to approve payment of claims. All ayes – motion carried. Approved claims totaled \$88,142.08. Checks #41844 - #41862, ACH #791E - #799E, #501336E.

Old Business

Council was updated on the status of the court case for hazardous property at 118 E 1st St S. The order allowing the city to proceed with cleanup has been signed. It was recommended to wait until the property goes into tax forfeiture, which will take place when that program resumes. The State legislature is working to amend forfeiture laws that were recently declared to be unconstitutional. It was agreed to wait to obtain the property through tax forfeiture.

Motion made by Mosloski, seconded by Kelley to increase the charge for mowing private property to \$130.00 per hour, with a one hour minimum charge. All ayes – motion carried.

Clarification was requested as to the \$20.00 tent fee at the campground. There are currently no tent sites available and the charge is not listed for payment on Resnexus. Councilor Nickerson advised tents could be set up in the open area across the creek. It was agreed that tents set up for children in conjunction with a paid camper are not subject to the fee. Councilor Truax will check into how they planned to manage tent site rentals and the charge will be added to the Resnexus site.

Dave Bentz spoke on behalf of the fire department about planning for the fireworks display during Truman Days. The amount to be spent needs to be given to the vendor by June 15th. An account has been set up at Profinium to accept donations. The goal is to raise \$20,000, with the vendor charging 10% to manage the display. The site will be selected soon.

New Business

Motion made by Kelley, seconded by Truax to approve hiring River View Sanitation to shred approximately 33 boxes of city records at a cost of \$35, plus \$4.50 per box. All ayes – motion carried.

Steve Carson is planning to start sending out notices to owners of nuisance properties that are in violation of city ordinances, upon approval of council. Interim Police Chief Schutz will assist with enforcement. Council approved.

A work session is scheduled for April 10th at 5:30 pm for the housing study steering committee to meet with CEDA representatives to discuss survey results and housing goals. It was decided to post the meeting as a council work session to allow more than two members to be present.

Councilor Truax updated the council regarding the pool. They are working to hire staff and expect the pool to open as usual around June 1st.

Deputy Clerk Becker provided information proposing to purchase a \$70,000 certificate of deposit for the fire department truck fund. Six month CDs earn 5.05% interest, and one year CDs earn 4.8%.

Motion made by Truax, seconded by Kelley to adopt Resolution 2024-15 to authorize the transfer of funds to purchase a six month \$70,000 certificate of deposit for the fire department truck fund. All ayes – motion carried.

Motion made by Mosloski, seconded by Kelley to adjourn. All ayes – motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 6:58 p.m.

Melissa Sirovy, City Clerk /Treasurer