

Truman City Council Minutes
September 6, 2022

The regular meeting was duly held at the Municipal Building in the fire department meeting room on the 6th day of September, 2022 at 5:30 p.m.

Present: Mayor Terry Bentele, Councilor Jake Ebert, Councilor Brandon Mosloski, and Councilor Brian Nickerson.

Absent: Councilor Patty Truax.

Staff present: Utility Foreman Brent Brown, Police Chief Justin Jobe, Street Department Superintendent John Bosshart, City Clerk/Treasurer Melissa Sirovy, Utility Billing Specialist/Deputy Clerk Carol Becker, Street Department Wayne Wiederhoeft, Fire Chief David Bentz, Ambulance Director Josh Kitzerow.

Also Present: Michael Kumm Public Power Energy Services, Jennifer Brookens Truman Tribune, Brooke Wohlrabe Fairmont Sentinel.

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

Approval of the Agenda/Additions or Changes

Additions to the agenda included campground planning and zoning regulations.

Motion made by Nickerson, seconded by Mosloski to approve the agenda. All ayes - motion carried.

Minutes of the Regular Meeting

Motion made by Mosloski, seconded by Nickerson to approve minutes of the August 15, 2022 Regular Meeting. All ayes - motion carried.

Public Comment

None

Sale of Excess Capacity

Michael Kumm with Public Power Energy Services provided a summary of activity from their service agreement with the city, the purpose of which is to find ways to reduce expenses, increase revenue and mitigate risk. They are currently exploring options for the sale of Truman's excess capacity. A professional service agreement was presented to provide consulting services to identify and assist in contracting with a third-party buyer of capacity in the MISO Zone 3 market. Once the agreement is signed, the city would no longer pay a fee to PPES. Their fee would be deducted from revenue generated from the sale of capacity. It would take six to seven months to complete a sales contract. Revenue is estimated to be between \$80,000 and \$100,000. The fee to PPES may be negotiable if revenue from the contract is less than anticipated. **Motion made by Ebert, seconded by Nickerson to approve Work Order Authorization Number 2 to identify and assist in contracting with a third-party buyer of Truman's excess capacity. All ayes – motion carried.**

Fire Department Quarterly Report

Chief Dave Bentz requested approval to hire Chris Forbrook as a volunteer firefighter. **Motion made by Nickerson, seconded by Bentele to approve hiring Chris Forbrook, pending a successful background check. All ayes – motion carried.** Bentz asked for an update on the Northrop fire bill after the city attorney sent a letter to them. Office staff will contact the attorney for an update. The fire department keeps a record of funds held in reserve by the city for equipment, and there are discrepancies with the amounts on record at the city. Some annual fund reserve additions were not budgeted or recorded over the past three years. Council will consider replenishing the funds as part of the 2023 budget discussion. **Motion made by Nickerson, seconded by Mosloski to approve the fire department's quarterly report. All ayes – motion carried.**

Ambulance Department Quarterly Report

Ambulance Director Josh Kitzerow requested approval to hire Thad Lochner. **Motion made by Mosloski, seconded by Ebert to approve hiring Thad Lochner, pending a successful background check. All ayes – motion carried.** Funds have been set aside the past couple of years for a new cot, but prices have gone up and additional \$13,000 is needed. The relief association is having a fundraiser on September 12th to help with the shortfall. Council was asked to consider adding any remainder to the 2023 budget. Cots are typically purchased with new rigs, but that hasn't been done the past couple of times. A new rig is being planned for in 2025, with an estimated cost of \$275,000. Department members have concern about the charge recently approved for lift assists and are requesting council reconsider charging for that service. Council asked staff to verify if insurance covers the charge for further discussion at the next meeting.

Pool and Cemetery Business

Wayne Wiederhoeft advised the council of the need for two pumps at the pool to transition from chlorine pucks to liquid next year. They cost between \$600-\$800 each and there are funds remaining in the 2022 budget for repairs and maintenance at the pool. **Motion made by Ebert, seconded by Nickerson to approve the purchase this year. All ayes – motion carried.** WDads Turf and Snow maintains the cemetery grounds and installs headstones, and there hasn't been a rate increase for those services for three or four years. A request was made to increase grounds maintenance from \$2,640 to \$3,000 and headstone installation from \$85, \$125, and \$175 to \$100, \$150, and \$200, based on size. **Motion made by Ebert, seconded by Mosloski to approve both requests effective January 1, 2023. All ayes – motion carried.**

Utility Business

Utility Foreman Brent Brown provided additional information about the proposed sale of the transmission line to ITC. **Motion made by Mosloski, seconded by Nickerson to approve moving forward with the proposal. All ayes – motion carried.** The city attorney will be contacted to begin working on the details.

June and July, 2022 Financial Statements

Motion made by Ebert, seconded by Mosloski to approve the June and July 2022 financial statements as presented. All ayes - motion carried.

Approval of Claims

Submitted claims totaled \$103,508.71, Checks #40248 - #40295, #40297 - #40311, ACH #397E, #399E - #413E, #500624E, #500638E, #500656E. **Motion made by Mosloski, seconded by Nickerson to approve payment of claims. All ayes – motion carried.**

Old Business

Council was asked for approval to have the Bau property surveyed, and asbestos removed from the house. Bolton and Menk estimated the cost of the survey at \$1,500. Asbestos abatement bids were Asbestrol \$12,340.00 and Advanced Health Safety and Security \$4,126.56. **Motion made by Ebert, seconded by Mosloski to approve the survey, and asbestos removal by Advanced Health Safety and Security. All ayes – motion carried.** Discussion followed about the timeline to burn the house. The contractor will be contacted to discuss his plans.

The contractor hired to complete the 5th Street drainage project backed out after beginning the work. Greg Mitchell with Bolton & Menk then obtained an estimate from a fourth contractor who did not originally bid on the work. It came in lower than the two remaining contractors who originally bid. The contractor next in line for the project from the original bid called Mitchell with concern over the handling of the process. He then submitted another estimate below the bid from the fourth contractor. Councilor Ebert expressed concern about paying a professional engineering firm to oversee the project, but then having it poorly managed. He recommended the council disregard both new bids and to accept the next lowest original bid of \$28,820.00 from Beemer Companies. **Motion made by Ebert, seconded by Mosloski to accept the bid from Beemer Companies of \$28,820.00 for the 5th Street drainage project. All ayes – motion carried.**

Plans for expansion of the campground that were established at the last council meeting were reconsidered. Councilor Nickerson met with Greg Mitchell to discuss including additional drive-thru sites. The updated plan is over an acre, which would require a retention pond. Utility Forman Brown advised that a proposed layout is needed so an application can be submitted to the Department of Health, elevations need to be determined for infrastructure, and there is concern that material needed for the project may have a long lead time. Councilor Nickerson will work on the plan to get it to under one acre. Approval was given to move forward with obtaining elevations.

New Business

Information was provided to council for the proposed 2023 budget and levy. It will be reviewed at the September 19 regular meeting.

Renewals for employee insurance for 2023 were considered. Family Medical will increase .6%, Delta Dental will not increase, and MHC Statewide Pool will go up 5%. **Motion made by Mosloski, seconded by Nickerson to approve the insurance renewals as proposed. All ayes – motion carried.**

Notice has been given by Law Enforcement Labor Services requesting negotiations for renewal of the union agreement that expires at the end of the year. Councilors Nickerson and Ebert were selected to meet with union representatives to begin negotiations.

A resident is interested in adding a pergola to their property and the building inspector advised city ordinance does address if the structure requires a building permit. It was decided to have the resident complete an application to consider at the next meeting.

Council was asked to consider the sale price that will be placed on the Halverson property due to recent interest.

Motion made by Ebert, seconded by Truax to adjourn. All ayes – motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:52 p.m.

Melissa Sirovy, City Clerk