

Truman City Council Minutes
September 19, 2022

The regular meeting was duly held at the Municipal Building in the fire department meeting room on the 19th day of September, 2022 at 5:30 p.m.

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

Absent: None

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

Also Present: Ron Kelley Relief Association President, Dani Williams, Chris Eisenminger Fox Lake Conservation, Dayle & Cindy Filkins, 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: C & B property transaction.

Motion made by Ebert, seconded by Truax 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 September 6, 2022 Regular Meeting. All ayes - motion carried.

Public Comment

Dayle & Cindy Filkins inquired about the property at 109 W 2nd Street S. Filkins are thinking about building a home and have interest in this property and the adjacent church lot. The city clerk was asked to research how much the city has spent cleaning up the property for further discussion at the next meeting.

Resolution 2022-22 Fox Lake Conservation League Gambling Premises Permit

Chris Eisenmenger was present to review the gambling premises permit application to allow gambling at China House Café. **Motion made by Ebert, seconded by Truax to adopt Resolution 2022-22 to approve the gambling premises permit. All ayes – motion carried.** The city clerk was asked to verify if the city charges a fee for gambling permits.

Fire Relief Association Retirement Benefit

Relief Association President Ron Kelley was present to request an increase of \$50.00 to the annual retirement benefit. The Relief Association has adequate funds available for the increase.

Motion made by Nickerson, seconded by Bentele to approve the benefit increase of \$50.00 per year of service. All ayes – motion carried.

Utility Business

Utility Foreman Brown reviewed the cost to switch to LED lighting at the Community Building. There is a 50/50 grant available, with the cost to the city approximately \$3,500. There are funds in the budget to cover the cost. **Motion made by Truax, seconded by Ebert to approve the proposal for new LED lighting. All ayes – motion carried.** Council was advised of a delay in getting the cell tower reinstalled on the water tower because Verizon is having problems finding a contractor.

Approval of Claims

Submitted claims totaled \$154,942.67, Checks #40312 - #40348, ACH #414E and #500658E. **Motion made by Nickerson, seconded by Truax to approve payment of claims. Ayes: Mosloski, Truax, Nickerson, Bentele. Nays: Ebert. Motion carried.**

2023 Proposed Budget and Levy

Ambulance Director Kitzerow addressed the council to request approval for the purchase of an ambulance cot for \$51,424.84. After a recent fundraiser, an additional \$7743.84 is needed. **Motion made by Mosloski, seconded by Nickerson to approve the purchase. All ayes – motion carried.** It will be added to the 2023 budget. Council was advised the department is starting to plan for the purchase of a new ambulance because it could take 2 ½ years for receipt after the order is placed. **Motion made by Ebert, seconded by Nickerson to adopt Resolution 2022-21 to approve the proposed levy of \$590,907, an increase of 13.1%. All ayes – motion carried. Motion made by Ebert, seconded by Mosloski to approve the time and date for the Truth in Taxation Hearing of December 5, 2022 at 6:00 p.m., at which time the 2023 budget and levy will be discussed, and public comment will be taken. All ayes – motion carried.**

Old Business

Discussion was held regarding the charge imposed when the ambulance is called out, but no transport is required. Trans Medic advised Medicare does not cover that charge, but Medicaid and most private insurance does. It was decided to continue to bill for those runs but not to pursue collection for those who are unable to pay when their insurance does not.

Expansion of the campground was discussed. The cost is estimated to be approximately \$300,000 and the city has \$133,500 in reserves. It was decided to hold a work session to decide how to proceed. Information will be obtained on funding options for the project.

New Business

Outstanding ambulance accounts receivable from 2016 through 2020 were considered for write-off. Collection efforts will continue on those considered collectible. **Motion made by Mosloski, seconded by Truax to approve writing off outstanding accounts receivable as proposed, per the attached schedule. All ayes – motion carried.**

Council discussed the sale of property to C & B Implement that has not been finalized. The agreement included a requirement for them to begin building within one year from when they took possession, but they have concern about that stipulation. The city attorney will be contacted to discuss the matter.

Capacity Contract

Motion made by Ebert, seconded by Nickerson to close the meeting at 6:32 p.m. to discuss the sale of real or personal property per Minnesota Statute 13D.05, Subd. 3(c). All ayes – motion carried. Those present in the closed session in addition to the council included Brent Brown, Melissa Sirovy, and Carol Becker. The closed session was recorded.

Motion made by Ebert, seconded by Nickerson to reopen the meeting at 6:40 p.m. All ayes – motion carried. Motion made by Ebert, seconded by Nickerson to approve moving forward with the proposal for the sale of excess capacity. All ayes – motion carried.

Motion made by Ebert, seconded by Nickerson to close the meeting at 6:41 p.m. to discuss strategies and proposals for labor negotiation with Law Enforcement Labor Services Local #457, per Minnesota Statute 13D.03. All ayes – motion carried. Those present in the closed session in addition to the council included Brent Brown, Melissa Sirovy, and Carol Becker. The closed session was recorded.

Motion made by Ebert, seconded by Nickerson to reopen the meeting at 7:12 p.m. All ayes – motion carried.

Motion made by Truax, seconded by Nickerson to adjourn. All ayes – motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:12 p.m.

Melissa Sirovy, City Clerk