

Truman City Council Minutes January 16, 2024

The regular meeting was duly held at the Municipal Building Council Chambers on the 16th day of January, 2024 at 5:30 p.m.

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

Absent: None.

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

Also present: Chad Truax, Mike Taylor, Gary Lutterman, Brooke Wohlrabe Fairmont Sentinel, 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

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

Approve Minutes of Regular Meeting

Motion made by Kelley, seconded by Truax to approve minutes of the January 2, 2024 Regular Meeting. All ayes - motion carried.

Public Comment

Mike Taylor asked about the sidewalk snow removal ordinance. He removed his sidewalk so the ordinance does not apply to his property. Gary Lutterman feels 24 hours isn't enough time for residents to clear their sidewalks.

Truman Baseball Association

Discussion was postponed. Mayor Ebert will attend the association meeting tomorrow night and report back to council.

Utility Department Business

Utility Foreman Brent Brown provided three estimates for repair of the power plant roof. Schwickerts bid \$87,815, Patten Roofing \$68,480 and A1 Seamless Roofing \$45,347. Mayor Ebert asked about adding a sloped roof. The lowest bidder would not do that kind of roof. Council asked for more information before deciding. Proposals from Bolton & Menk for soil boring at the Bau property were considered. Braun Intertec bid \$5,250, American Engineering Testing \$4,700, and Geotek \$4,300. The lots will be sold as is so it was decided to perform all four tests in the road right

of way. **Motion made by Truax, seconded by Kelley to accept the bid from Geotek to test four areas in the road right of way. All ayes- motion carried.** The open lineman position has been posted for three months with no qualified applicants. A meeting was held with IBEW Union Rep Josh Laven to discuss adding a public works position to the agreement to hire an unqualified person at a lower starting wage to train for the lineman position. A job description was drafted for council to consider. There is a lineman training program in Eau Claire that is for one week per month at a cost of \$3,100 per year, plus travel expenses. Travel expenses might be shared with another city. Continued employment would be contingent on meeting the ongoing training requirements of the position. The union would take no position if the employee was let go for not meeting those requirements. It was agreed that the employee should be required to stay for a certain period of time following completion of the training program or they would need to reimburse the city. Establishing a public works director position was also discussed with the union. It was recommended the city have a comparable worth study completed to assist with setting wage scales for new positions and to ensure the city is ready for pay equity reporting in January. The study could be performed internally, or a consultant could be hired. Councilors Mosloski and Kelley will meet with Brown to look over the information to decide how to proceed.

Brown provided a quarterly report for the utility department. A raz pump was recently installed, year-end inventory was completed, a used furnace was installed at the water plant, and 21 meters and the new reading system have been installed with training to begin soon. The Vision meters installed are currently reading about 140 meters.

Street Department Quarterly Report

Street Superintendent John Bosshart provided a quarterly report. The street sweeper was winterized, plows and other snow equipment were readied for the season. Bolton and Menk has submitted a preliminary grant application to the State to fund a portion of sidewalk along Highway 15. If the project is selected to submit a full grant application, additional information will be provided for the local cost share for the project. A decision will come in February.

Discussion was held on the sidewalk snow removal ordinance. The contractor cleared more than 50 private sidewalks after the most recent snowfall at a cost of \$2,080. No direction was given as to which sidewalks needed to be cleared. Based on input from residents, 24 hours is insufficient time for them to take care of the work themselves. Councilor Mosloski left the meeting at 6:38 p.m.

Motion made by Nickerson, seconded by Kelley to amend the ordinance to allow 48 hours for sidewalk snow removal. All ayes – motion carried. The ordinance will be considered for adoption at the February 5, 2024 council meeting. Mayor Ebert called for a moratorium on sidewalk snow removal until the new ordinance takes effect. Discussion continued regarding payment of the contractors invoice, sending bills out to residents for the work done, and if advance notice should be provided to residents prior to snow removal such as hanging door tags. No action was taken at this time.

Police Department Quarterly Report

Interim Police Chief Mike Schutz presented a quarterly report. The house watch program is active with a number of homeowners having requested the service. There were 48 calls for service over the past quarter. The department has been working on enforcing the winter parking ordinance and patrolling Highway 15 for noise ordinance enforcement. Patrolling the City of Northrop has continued as usual. Schutz is working on disposal of evidence in the old office, some of which may need to be returned to the owner in a particular case if proof over ownership is provided.

Ambulance Department Quarterly Report

Ambulance Director Josh Kitzerow provided details from the past quarter. Calls for service are down so far this year. Work continues with ongoing billing problems. Classes are schedule to be held in Truman for EMRs. Delivery of new ambulances is over three years out so the department is testing various models to decide which to order. A power cot will be purchased at that time as well.

Fire Department Quarterly Report

Fire Chief Brandon Mosloski provided a quarterly report. There were 26 calls for service in 2023 and 4 already this year. The department has 25 active members. The old rescue truck has an estimated value of \$35,000 to \$45,000. It was advertised for sale nationwide for \$45,000, the ad costing \$4,500. A department in Wisconsin inquired first and took the rig for the asking price. A deposit of \$22,500 was paid to hold the unit until it is ready to go. Mosloski asked council to consider sitting down with township officials to talk about service rates and truck costs to plan ahead to make sure future equipment costs are covered. A meeting will be set for March. It was noted the Fire Relief Association is working to setup fundraisers for the department and for Truman Days fireworks.

December Financial Statements

Motion made by Nickerson, seconded by Truax to approve December Financial Statements as presented. All ayes – motion carried.

Resolutions 2024-05, 2024-06, 2024-07, 2024-08 to Accept Donations

Motion made by Nickerson, seconded by Kelley to adopt Resolutions 2024-05 to accept December donations, 2024-06 to accept \$10,000 from Martin County toward cleanup of the Bau property, 2024-07 to accept \$2,959.26 from the Fire Relief Association for lettering on the rescue truck, and 2024-08 to accept \$3,437.78 from the Relief Association for the cost of the gas meter from Municipal Emergency Services. All ayes – motion carried.

Approval of Claims

Motion made by Nickerson, seconded by Kelley to approve payment of claims, with the exception of the invoice from Truax Construction for \$2,080. Councilor Truax abstained due to a conflict of interest. Motion carried 4-0. Approved claims totaled \$192,077.10. Checks #41658 - #41697, ACH #738E - #747E, #501266E.

Old Business

None.

New Business

Interim Chief Schutz asked about his 2024 wage increase that he understood per the union agreement would take effect on January 1st rather than September 1st. More information will be brought to the next council meeting.

Martin County notified that the Truman Board of Appeal and Equalization Hearing will be held on Thursday, April 11th, beginning at 5:00 P.M. at the Martin County Courthouse.

Motion made by Nickerson, seconded by Truax to adjourn. All ayes – motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:31 p.m.

Melissa Sirovy, City Clerk /Treasurer

1/16/2024