

Truman City Council Minutes
January 3, 2023

The regular meeting was duly held at the Municipal Building Council Chambers on the 3rd day of January, 2023 at 5:30 p.m.

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

Absent: None.

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

Also Present: Beth Langvardt, Joseph Kreiss Truman Tribune, Brooke Wohlrabe Fairmont Sentinel.

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

Oath of Office

Newly elected members Mayor Jacob Ebert, Councilor Chris Mosloski, and Councilor Ronald Kelley took the oath of office.

Approval of Agenda/Additions or Changes

Northrop police contract was added to the agenda. **Motion made by Truax, seconded by Nickerson to approve the agenda with the addition. All ayes - motion carried.**

Minutes of Regular Meeting

Motion made by Nickerson, seconded by Truax to approve minutes of the December 19, 2022 Regular Meeting. All ayes - motion carried.

Public Comment

Beth Langvardt with Aardvark's Bar & Grill addressed the council regarding the fee for a license to sell Tetrahydrocannabinol at retail. It is excessive for the amount they expect to sell. Aardvarks also pays for gaming and music box permits each year and she asked about the purpose of those permits. The city clerk was asked to research the matter.

Dealers License Application

Council reviewed an application from Aardvark's Bar & Grill for a Tetrahydrocannabinol license. Discussion followed regarding the license fee. It was reasoned that the fee could be reduced for the first year to see how much revenue is gained from sale of the products. **Motion made by Nickerson, seconded by Truax to set the fee for the license at \$200.00. All ayes – motion carried. Motion made by Truax, seconded by Nickerson to approve the dealer's license for Aardvark's Bar & Grill. All ayes – motion carried.**

Fire Department Quarterly Report

Fire Chief Bentz asked for approval to hire Justin Bosshart, pending a background check. **Motion made by Nickerson, seconded by Truax to approve hiring Bosshart on the fire department. All Ayes – motion carried.** Bentz reviewed calls for service and grants received over the past year. The rescue truck is scheduled for replacement in 2023 and they would like to schedule meeting with city and township officials later this month to discuss the matter.

Street Department Quarterly Report

Street Superintendent Bosshart reviewed work the department completed over the past quarter.

Police Department Quarterly Report

Police Chief Jobe reviewed calls for service from 2022. He is looking for a part-time officer to hire and share with the Sherburn/Welcome department to split the cost of hiring and outfitting an officer.

Ambulance Department Quarterly Report

Ambulance Director Kitzerow and Assistant Director Lange provided a quarterly department update. There were a record number of calls in the past year, with all three rigs used at times. One of the rigs is set to be replaced in 2026 and there is a 2-year lead time for receipt of a new ambulance right now. A committee will be put together to begin working on it. They are reviewing mutual aid contracts with area departments to update. Charges and revenue for various service calls were reviewed.

Utility Department Quarterly Report

Utility Foreman Brown reviewed department business. He is working with Verizon to recoup engineering costs related to their cellular equipment on the water tower. Radios for the SCADA system are beginning to fail and are obsolete. Newer systems use Wi-Fi. Cost information will be brought to an upcoming meeting. The employee from Madelia who worked at the generation plant left and options to replace him are being considered for discussion. Options are being explored to join with area cities for safety training at a reduced cost. Utility Clerk Carol Becker advised she is looking into e-billing, paperless billing options.

Committee Appointments and Duty Assignments

2023 duty assignments, and the official newspaper and depository, were announced.

Resolution 2023-01 to Designate Authorized Signers

Motion made by Truax, seconded by Kelley to adopt Resolution 2023-01 to designate authorized signers and authorizing the use of facsimile signatures by a public official. All ayes – motion carried.

Resolution 2022-45 to Accept Contribution

Motion made by Truax, seconded by Nickerson to adopt Resolution 2022-45 to accept a Contribution of \$11,220 from the Truman Fireman’s Relief Association. All ayes – motion carried.

Resolution 2023-02 Acknowledging Donations

Motion made by Nickerson, seconded by Kelley to adopt Resolution 2023-02 to acknowledge and accept donations received in the fourth quarter of 2022. All ayes – motion carried.

Approval of Claims

Submitted claims totaled \$223,471.81. Checks #40626-40627, 40632-40634, 40636, 40638, 40640-40641, 40648, 40650, 40654, 40656, 40658, 40662-40663, 40665, 40667, 40670-40671, 40674-40675, 40679, 40683, 40685, ACH #485e - #491e, #500776e, #500787e. **Motion made by Truax, seconded by Nickerson to approve payment of claims. All ayes - motion carried.**

Old Business

Council considered renewal of the 2023 lease with MN Para Transit. Utilities are included with a charge of \$200, but with current rates, the average monthly cost is \$250. The rate may only be increased by 20% at one time. **Motion made by Truax, seconded by Nickerson to increase the charge for utilities from \$200 to \$240. All ayes – motion carried.**

Council reviewed Ordinance 2023-01 to amend city code to decommission the planning commission, to have the city council fulfill the functions of the commission, and to appoint citizen members to a planning commission advisory board to participate in discussion and activities and to provide input. Councilor Truax formally introduced Ordinance 2023-01. The ordinance will be considered for adoption at the January 17th meeting.

New Business

Job descriptions for past management positions at the pool were reviewed to establish a new position for someone to oversee the pool this year. Councilor Truax will work on drafting a new job description to consider at an upcoming meeting.

Council asked staff to investigate an electronic payment system for the campground in conjunction with the billing and payment system that is being considered for utilities.

Mayor Ebert met with officials from the City of Northrop to discuss the police contract related to a proposed increase to the service charge. Because it came up after their budget was set for 2023, Northrop officials will look at how they can fit an increase into their public safety budget for further discussion.

Mayor Ebert asked council members to consider goals they have for Truman to help the city move forward, and to bring them to an upcoming meeting for discussion. Ebert also thanked Chad Truax for cleaning a plugged storm drain and hoped others would follow suit in helping neighbors in need.

**Motion made by Truax, seconded by Nickerson to adjourn. All ayes – motion carried.
Meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m.**

Melissa Sirovy, City Clerk