

Truman City Council Minutes October 18, 2021

The regular meeting was duly held at the Municipal Building Council Chambers on the 18th day of October 2021 at 5:30 p.m.

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

Absent: None

Staff present: Utility Billing Spec./Deputy Clerk Thea Boesch, Utility Foreman Brent Brown, Street Superintendent John Bosshart, Fire Chief Dave Bentz, and Asst. Ambulance Director Josh Kitzerow

Also Present: Jennifer Brookens, Brooke Wohlrabe, Cathy Sorenson, Jim Utermarck, Samantha Urban, and Taylor Boesch

Mayor Terry Bentele presided over the meeting, opening with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Agenda

A motion was made by Ebert, seconded by Nickerson, to approve the agenda with the addition under item 14 – Approve Emergency Minutes from October 14, 2021, and under item 18 – b) Community Building Lights, and c) Old Grocery Store. All yeas – motion carried.

Public Comment

None

Red Ribbon Week Proclamation – 8th Grade Student Representatives

Jim Utermarck from the Truman Public School and 8th Grade Representatives Samantha Urban and Taylor Boesch were in attendance to request that the council would approve Red Ribbon Week Proclamation for the week of October 23rd through 31st. Red Ribbon Week encourages families and communities to participate in drug prevention activities, not only during Red Ribbon week but all year round, and to make a visible statement by living a drug-free lifestyle. Red ribbons will be in display around the community as a symbol of Red Ribbon Week. **A motion was made by Ebert, seconded by Truax, to proclaim October 23rd through 31st Red Ribbon Week. All yeas – motion carried.**

Spruce-up Truman Representative – Christmas Pots

Cathy Sorenson discussed with the council the flowerpots on Ciro St. She received permission from Jared Schwitchenberg about storing the pots along the West wall of County Line Electric Building. She wants permission from the council as well since the Jaycee Park property is city property. **A motion was made by Mosloski, seconded by Nickerson, to approve storing the pots in the Jaycee Park on the East side along the wall of County Line Electric building. All yeas – motion carried.**

Cathy also proposed to the council the possibility for the Spruce-up Truman committee to decorate the street light poles in the downtown area. Their idea is to decorate the poles with greenery and lights. Street Superintendent Bosshart said that would be fine as long as the decoration don't hang out in the street too far and the snowplows would damage them. **A motion was made by Ebert,**

seconded by Nickerson, to approve the Spruce-up Truman Committee to decorate the downtown street light poles. All yeas – motion carried.

Quarterly Department Updates:

Fire Department: Fire Chief Dave Bentz reported that fire calls have been relatively quiet despite the dry weather. Thus far we have had no corn field fires. All pumpers are up and running, and at this point just need some basic maintenance and repairs. They interviewed 3 candidates for the open firefighter positions, and they want to bring that to council for approval. The candidates are Tricia Brevig, Pastor Timothy Chase, and Justin Breitbarth. All background checks have been completed and passed. Tricia has previous training, however the other two do not and would need to take Firefighter One Training. **A motion was made by Nickerson, seconded by Truax, to approve the hiring of Tricia Brevig, Pastor Timothy Chase, and Justin Breitbarth for the firefighter positions. All yeas – motion carried.**

For the Santa Parade on December 18th they are willing to work with Truman Pride to do a meal at the community building, however they are short on help. They may reach out to the Lions Club to see if anyone is willing to help. This could be a fundraising event.

Ambulance Department: Asst. Ambulance Director Josh Kitzerow reported that they have had 210 runs, which is up from last year. Out of the 210 they have done about 27 transfers, most of them being short transfers. Got a strange request from Spirit Lake, IA to do a transfer to Sioux Falls, SD. However, after looking into it, legally we can't do that because of IA Law, if it don't start or stop in your home area you can't do the transfer. If we want to do transfers in IA, we would need to get licensed in IA, which would not cost anything. Out of the 210 they have done about 25 no transfers. Currently they have 18 members, with one on leave of absent, and 2 first responders stepped down. Also, one EMT that stepped down. Josh is pursuing one candidate that is already licensed. We continue to look for more interested candidates and then also for classes. He said that soon it should be easier to get classes in our area. For awhile it was hard to get supplies, but it is slowly getting easier to get those supplies that we need. Out of 210 runs about 75 of them are retirement home calls, and the rest are personal calls. They are currently re-doing the by-laws which had not been done since 2009, and trying to use similar wording as the fire department. They have re-structured the ambulance department adding captains, where originally they had executive committee members. Now using captains to keep track of the trucks. What they would like is to pay the captains \$250. In the past they have not paid the executive committee. Right now, it's just the chief and the assistant getting paid. Also, they would like to pay the secretary \$250, which would be the same as the fire department. They would prefer to start that before the end of this year.

Councilor Mosloski asked about how many runs each of the trucks are going on. Is the old truck getting used enough that we need to keep it around, or should we look into getting it listed at auction. Josh said they voted on it and agreed to wait and see how much they use it for the remainder of this year. They are using it as a back-up. There is no expense for it and the medic supplies were donated from Mayo. If they don't use it enough then their next step is to list it and see what they get for offers, if they don't get offers then they can put it up for auction.

Councilor Mosloski also mentioned that he has heard great feedback on their response times. Josh said that their average is 3 to 5 minutes from time of call to on the scene. Their Lewisville runs are

averaging around 12 minutes from time of call to on the scene. All their COVID purchases are getting used.

Discuss Next Steps for C & B Operations Proposal

Council discussed the details of the C & B Operations proposal. Total acres of the road are .92 and is owned by the city. The total acres of land is 5.79 and is owned by the EDA. So, the combined acres are 6.71. Council discussed an asking price of \$4,000 per acre due to the city having expenses put into improving the road and plotting it out back in the 90's. **A motion was made by Ebert, and seconded by Nickerson, to approve \$4,000 per acre for the total 6.71 acres. All yeas – motion carried.**

A utility easement will need to be included on the portion of acres that is the road. In addition, there will also need to be a utility easement on the North portion of the 3.12 acre parcel. Also, the North portion of the 3.12 acre parcel will need a stipulation that they cannot build on that or disturb the soil. Lastly, that within a year of the sale of that land they need to have their building constructed.

Approve MMUA Job & Safety Procedures

A motion was made by Nickerson, seconded by Truax, to approve the MMUA Job & Safety Procedures. All yeas – motion carried.

Approve Moving Cemetery Funds

A motion was made by Mosloski, seconded by Truax, to approve moving Cemetery funds in the amount of \$100,719.99 from the General Fund (101) to the Cemetery Fund (102). All yeas – motion carried.

Discuss PD Uniform/clothing annual allowance (\$550 vs \$750)

A motion was made by Mosloski, seconded by Ebert, to approve adjusting Justin's clothing allowance from \$550 to \$750. All yeas – motion carried.

Consideration of joining Coalition of Greater MN Cities

Tabled until they can look further into the benefits versus cost of membership.

Review 2020 Census Information

The conclusion of the 2020 Census has the City of Truman at a population of 1,092, which is an increase from 1,068 in 2019, and a decrease from 1,115 in 2010. They had 79 vacant housing units which are houses that aren't occupied, or households that did not respond to the census. **A motion was made by Ebert, seconded by Truax, to accept the 2020 Census results. All yeas – motion carried.**

Approve Resolution 2021-17 Acknowledging Donations

A list of donations made to the city during the third quarter of 2021 were reviewed by the Council.

A roll call vote was taken, those voting in favor thereof: Ebert, Truax, Mosloski, Nickerson, and Bentele. Those against: none. Absent: None. Resolution 2021-17 acknowledging 3rd quarter donations was duly adopted. The complete Resolution is available and can be obtained at the Truman City Clerk's office.

Mayor Bentele extended thanks, on behalf of the City, to all the donors with financial gifts to the city.

Approve Regular Meeting Minutes from October 4, 2021 & Emergency Meeting Minutes from October 14, 2021

A motion was made by Truax, seconded by Nickerson, to approve the regular meeting minutes from October 4, 2021. All yeas – motion carried.

A motion was made by Ebert, seconded by Nickerson, to approve the emergency meeting minutes from October 14, 2021. All yeas – motion carried.

Approve Financials

Discussion was held as to why the Police State Aid and Fire State Aid on the report is showing that 116.62% and 99.30% of budget when there are no amounts in the year-to-date column. Deputy Clerk Boesch will look into that. Penalties for water, sewer, and electrical will not be correct at year end due to the first 4 months of this year we were operating in Power Manager. When we pulled reports the penalties paid were not broken down by department, so all penalties collected were applied towards electric.

A motion was made by Ebert, seconded by Nickerson, to approve the September financial reports. All yeas – motion carried.

Approve City Claims

Check #39253 - 39286

A motion was made by Nickerson, seconded by Truax, to approve the Claims totaling \$130,085.59. All yeas – motion carried.

Old Business

Councilor Ebert is continuing the search for an interim clerk, just waiting for a returned phone call. Councilor Nickerson reached out to one interim clerk option, and they declined. Thus far we have had 4 people apply for the open position.

New Business

A work session is scheduled for October 21, 2021, at 2p.m. to review projects with Greg Mitchell, and review proposed 2022 utility budget.

The city was notified that the community building has several lights out in the main room. Utility Foreman Brown went down to the community building and checked to see how many. There are 30 total fixtures, with 8 complete fixtures out. More than likely the ballasts and the bulbs are bad. It will be difficult to find bulbs and ballasts. In talking with County Line Electric they agreed that if we had the funds now would be the time to switch to LED lighting. There is an energy efficient grant we can apply for, which is a matching grant and would cover up to \$5,000. He has a lighting salesman and the electrician that he needs to do a walk through with first. Then he will get recommendations and quotes for the project and bring it back to the next meeting.

A discussion was held on an interested party in purchasing the old grocery store. Councilor Mosloski didn't agree that his offer reflects the value of the coolers that are in the grocery store. The interest party may use the coolers, just not sure at this point. The council would like to see whoever purchases the building to provide a business plan. Back portion of the building would be for his Fast

business, and the front portion would be used for a flower business or coffee shop. If they purchase the building, it will be as is and the roof will need to be repaired. The council discussed hooking up generators to see if the coolers still function. Councilor Ebert will reach out to the interested party and see what his plan is, and if they are going to fix the roof. They don't want this to be a temporary situation.

Councilor Ebert said that the Fire Department is looking to acquire the J & M Property, which is East of the Fire Hall. The plan is to have it torn down. However, this is very preliminary as they still have to have an asbestos check on the building. It would be a city owned property donated by the Fire Department. The plan is to tear down the building and turn it into a park where people can gather. They talked to Brian Rosburg and he could get us a quote for the demo, but until they have an idea of the contents of the inside he won't be able to get them a definite number. **A motion was made by Truax, seconded by Nickerson, to approve the Fire Department to move forward with the necessary steps to acquire the J & M Property east of the Fire Hall. All yeas – motion carried.**

Mayor Terry Bentele entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting. **A motion was made by Ebert, seconded by Nickerson. All yeas - motion carried to adjourn the meeting at 7:03 p.m.**

Thea Boesch, Deputy Clerk