

Truman City Council Minutes
November 4, 2024

The regular meeting was duly held at the Municipal Building Fire Hall meeting room on the 4th day of November, 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, Public Works Superintendent Brent Brown, City Clerk/Treasurer Melissa Sirovy, Deputy Clerk Carol Becker.

Also present: Danielle Williams, Troy Nemmers Bolton & Menk, Tim Akers, Brooke Wohlrabe Fairmont Sentinel.

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

Discussion of surplus police equipment was added to the agenda. **Motion made by Mosloski, seconded by Truax to approve the agenda as amended. All ayes - motion carried.**

Approve Minutes of Regular Meeting

Motion made by Mosloski, seconded by Nickerson to approve minutes of the October 21, 2024 Regular Meeting. All ayes - motion carried.

Public Comment

None were made.

Resolution 2024-42-2 to Join the Statewide Volunteer Firefighter Plan with Revised Vesting

Motion made by Nickerson, seconded by Mosloski to adopt Resolution 2024-42-2 to approve and authorize the Truman Fire Relief Association to join the Statewide Volunteer Firefighter Plan, with a revised vesting schedule of 40% at 5 years, increasing by 4% each year, with 100% vesting at 20 years of service. Motion carried 2-0, with Councilors Kelley and Truax, and Mayor Ebert, abstaining due to a conflict of interest in relation to the fire department.

Councilor Nickerson asked about providing a retirement benefit beginning at 5 years if a department member may not be putting in the effort to earn it. The department is working on this concern.

Troy Nemmers, Bolton & Menk

City Engineer Troy Nemmers reviewed the work done to assist CEDA with the DNR grant application for the campground and pickleball. The application was over 60 pages and they were asked to help with much of it. Mayor Ebert asked if the work was done at a reduced rate as part of their service agreement that would have helped minimize the cost. Nemmers explained how the cost

for the grant work was tabulated. The application was not successful but the city can apply again and the work done will help with future applications. Feedback was received on the failed application to help make improvements to future submissions.

Pay Request #5 to Mensing Construction was considered. **Motion made by Mosloski, seconded by Kelley to approve the pay request for \$67,428.36. All ayes – motion carried.** It was noted the final layer of asphalt will be applied next spring.

Discussion followed regarding which reserve funds to use to pay for the engineering work for the DNR grant. **Motion made by Kelley, seconded by Mosloski to use campground reserve funds for that expense. All ayes – motion carried.**

Public Works Business

Public Works Superintendent Brent Brown provided the 2025 utility budgets for council review. Discussion will take place at the next regular meeting. The city applied for a FEMA grant to assist with the cost of overtime and pumping during the June flood. The City will receive approximately \$13,000, plus 5% for administrative expenses.

Bau Property Farmland Rental

Mayor Ebert met with the renter to look at areas they prefer not to farm next year due to the development project and the retention pond. Those areas will be difficult to access with big equipment, but if not farmed, it would have to be otherwise maintained. It was estimated that 30% of their crop was damaged during construction work. Discussion included how much the second half of 2024 rent should be, and how many acres they may be able to farm next year. **Motion made by Nickerson, seconded by Truax to cut the second half of 2024 rent by half, and to allow them farm the land in 2025 at no cost in exchange for maintaining the unfarmed land to prevent overgrowth and weeds. All ayes – motion carried.** Mayor Ebert will contact the renter to discuss the proposal.

Approval of Claims

Motion made by Mosloski, seconded by Truax to approve payment of claims. All ayes - motion carried. Approved claims totaled \$136,411.48. Checks #42380 - #42400, #43401 - #43408, ACH #956E - #963E, and #501611E.

Old Business

None.

New Business

Deputy Clerk Carol Becker advised of a request for forgiveness of a late fee on utilities from a resident who tried to pay online but was unsuccessful. There was no record of the attempted transaction in the system. **Motion made by Mosloski, seconded by Kelley to waive the late fees on the account this time only. All ayes – motion carried.**

A reminder of the November 12 special meeting was provided and newly elected council members will be invited to attend.

Discussion took place regarding the sale of squad cars and other police equipment. Information will be gathered for discussion at the next regular meeting. The vacant police building will be cleaned out for use as cold storage. It was decided to remove the speed control sign from the highway and put in storage. New speed signs have been considered using public safety funds and this will be discussed further at the next regular meeting.

Councilor Nickerson brought samples of bark from trees removed from the Bau property as evidence that they were not healthy and needed to be removed as some residents had expressed concern over their removal.

Motion made by Truax, seconded by Mosloski to adjourn. All ayes – motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 6:23 p.m.

Melissa Sirovy, City Clerk/Treasurer