

## Truman Council Minutes

The regular meeting was duly held at the Municipal Building and by electronic means remotely via Zoom on the 16<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2021 at 5:30 o'clock P.M.

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

Staff present: Thea Boesch Deputy Clerk, Brent Brown Utility Foreman, Justin Jobe Police Chief, John Bosshart Streets Department

Also Present: Dave Bentz Fire Chief, Ron Kelley, Nancy Salic, Donna Kotewa, Andrew Kieffer, Faith Clow

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

### Public comment

None

### Truman Days Committee

Nancy Salic and Donna Kotewa joined the meeting from the Truman Days Committee. They wanted to know what the council was thinking as far as moving forward with planning Truman Days 2021. Councilor Jake Ebert mentioned that we missed out on one year for safety purposes with COVID, and a year later we are still dealing with COVID. Councilor Patty Truax mentioned that the Governor has loosened restrictions again recently, and by then the restrictions could be even less. The council agreed that they would like to move forward with planning the event for July 23<sup>rd</sup> thru 25<sup>th</sup>, barring no more restrictions by the Governor. The committee also said that they would need extra help with the event. Truman Pride was also questioning if they would be able to provide a concession stand for the softball tournament. It was agreed to plan as though you can and when the event gets closer if restrictions change, we will have to adjust accordingly.

### Truman Active Living

Nancy Salic also spoke to the council about the biking/walking path project. At last week's Truman Active Living meeting they talked about the stencils and paint for the project. The County Highway Department would like to see a written policy with the paths. They are still working on where they will be located at. When they have more plans in place, they will update the council.

### Fire Department – Truck Bid Update

Fire Chief Dave Bentz updated the council on the bids received for Fire Tanker #7. He has been working with Lewisville, and they came in \$7,500 under our asking price of \$25,000. That bid was rejected. They did raise it another \$2,000, but that still comes in \$5,000 under our asking price, therefore that was not accepted either. After talking with the Lewisville Fire Chief Jim Poppe, he would not be able to offer more until he meets with the township boards in approximately 3 weeks at their annual meetings. So, they have been given that time to see what they can come up with and will be in touch with Dave.

The new fire truck is here, and has hose on it and is all ready to go.

### Fire Relief Association

Ron Kelley from the Truman Fire Relief Association presented the GASB report to the council and talked to them about raising the retirement. The Fiduciary Net Position as a percentage of the Total Pension Liability is at 194.94% as of 2019, which is above the recommended 120%. The projected 2020 rate is at 221.35%. They are asking if they would raise it \$25 or \$50 dollars from the current amount of \$975. Three of the four councilors would have to abstain from voting due to them financially benefiting from this retirement fund. Councilor Brian Nickerson and Mayor Terry Bentele will take it under consideration and follow up at a later meeting.

Ron Kelley also is requesting the approval from the council to move forward with a fundraiser breakfast in April for the Fire Department. With the Governor loosening the restrictions the council would be okay with it. The new guidelines are set at a 50% capacity up to 250 people max.

### Approve Ordinance 2021-1

**A motion was made by Councilor Jake Ebert, seconded by Councilor Brian Nickerson, and motion carried to approve Ordinance 2021-1 an ordinance relating to the Public Utilities in the City of Truman assessing a monthly infrastructure charge as follows:**

**Residential - \$3.00**

**Small Commercial - \$3.75**

**Large Commercial - \$4.86**

### Utility Business

Utility Foreman Brent Brown provided a quote from Electric Pump for a wastewater plant grinder for \$30,701. This was budgeted in 2021 for \$32,000. There will be some additional expenses to wire up the control panel, however the cost will be minimal due to using some parts from control panels from old equipment that are not being used. **A motion was made by Councilor Jake Ebert, seconded by Councilor Brian Nickerson, and motion carried to approve the wastewater plant grinder quote from Electric Pump for \$30,701.**

### Minutes

**Motion made by Councilor Brandon Mosloski, seconded by Councilor Patty Truax, and motion carried to approve the minutes from the Regular Council Meeting on February 1st, 2021.**

### City Claims

Check #38505 - #38548 - \$204,765.90

**Motion Made by Councilor Brandon Mosloski, seconded by Councilor Brian Nickerson, and motion carried to approve the City Claims.**

### Splashpad Project/Grant Update

Faith Clow has been in touch with My Splashpad and there is an opportunity to have them come on April 19<sup>th</sup> and install the splashpad. The next available slot would be on July 26<sup>th</sup>. The bid for the freshwater splashpad is \$27,998. They suggest removing the existing concrete and make it 5 feet bigger to start with, then there will be more room down the road to add additional splash features. To start with we will have one hoop and the bollard activator. The city has to obtained proper permits, and install the water, electricity, and drain before they arrive for installation. The quote does not include the safety feature on the pad. Faith will contact John from My Splashpad and ask how much

more the safety surface would add to the quote and see if we still have the option to book the April 19<sup>th</sup> installation. Plumbing would need to be lined up by the city, therefore we need to get a quote from Beemer's for that portion of the project. Faith will also contact Boljtes in regard to a quote for fencing around the splashpad.

Faith also commented that there was some confusion on how long we have to complete the project for the grant. After doing some investigation on the grant deadline, Faith talked to John Helvig and he thinks that as long as the project is completed in 2021 that we should be fine. However, he was going to talk to the president to see what date it needs to be done by, as there was not an exact known date. He will check to see if they will make a motion to extend our time period at least through this season.

### Cemetery Update

Faith Clow informed the council that she was notified by Doug Fuller that cemetery burial rates would increase for 2021. Additional fees were as follows: \$100 for Saturday burials, \$200 for Sunday burials, and a Winter fee of \$200 from November through April. These fees are for both traditional and cremation burials.

### Old Business

Deputy Clerk Thea Boesch updated the council on the interim clerk situation. On February 2<sup>nd</sup> we were notified that Doris Troll, City Clerk for the City of Kiester, has offered to help us on Wednesdays with the Banyon Software. She already came over on February 3<sup>rd</sup> and started working with Sherry and myself. She will bill us monthly for her services to the city.

Amy Huber has accepted the position of City Clerk. She has been in the office a couple of times to start the paperwork and to begin getting familiar with the position. She will officially begin March 1<sup>st</sup>, and for the first few weeks work 4 days a week. The council agreed that she would be able to help her former employer with the transition of her leaving her prior position, and this would be temporary. **A motion was made by Councilor Patty Truax, seconded by Councilor Brandon Mosloski, and motion carried to approve Amy accepting the position with a contingency that she is able to work modified hours in order to help with the transition of her position with her former employer.**

### New Business

Deputy Clerk Thea Boesch presented a request from Brenda Hansen, the city website manager, to increase her monthly maintenance fee from \$50 to \$55. **A motion was made by Councilor Brian Nickerson, seconded by Councilor Jake Ebert, and motion carried to approve Brenda Hansen's request to increase her monthly website maintenance fee to \$55.**

Councilor Brandon Mosloski has been in contact with Superintendent Lisa Shellum about the signs at the school. They purchased visitor parking signs that they would like to put up in place of the 15-minute parking signs. The 15-minute parking signs were put up to discourage long term parking to create an area for loading and unloading. The school would like the area to be dedicated to visitor parking, that way if they have new families coming to visit the school or to do orientation, then they have a place to park. Another issue brought up was the snow removal in the high school parking lot. After further discussion it was determine that we should have Lisa Shellum and a representative from the school board attend our next regular meeting to resolve these problems. Councilor Brandon Mosloski will be in touch with her.

Councilor Brandon Mosloski would like to see the old police department office cleaned out, and the water and heat turned off. We have discussed it in the past about turning it into cold storage and it needs to be done. Police Chief Jobe will make sure that we move forward with this project in the spring.

Councilor Brandon Mosloski also would like to know if there would be cost savings in switching phone service from Frontier to Bevcomm. Deputy Clerk Thea Boesch made contact with them last fall and worked with them on getting services switched, however Bevcomm was still working on getting internet service to all their customers in town. She will reach out to them again about getting them switched over.

Councilor Brandon Mosloski and City Clerk Amy Huber met with Greg Mitchell from Bolton & Menk about our residential development project. He gave Greg an idea of what the council is envisioning for that new development. However, he also wanted Greg to know that we purchased approximately 10 acres on top of the 3.5 from the prior proposal, and we need to consider what's going to happen with that additional land. The prior proposal dates back to 2015, so Greg would like to re-work it and lay it out better with the 10 acres. The cost to do so would be approximately \$1,500 to \$2,000. **A motion was made by Councilor Jake Ebert, seconded by Councilor Brian Nickerson, and motion carried to approve the re-drawing of the residential plan with Bolton & Menk.**

Councilor Brandon Mosloski also discussed that funding for the project needs to be addressed. After meeting with Greg Mitchell, he said that this project would be close to \$800,000 to a \$1,000,000. We have \$500,000 set aside so far. We may have to think about bonding some of the cost of the project to help so that the lots can be sold at a reasonable price.

Councilor Brian Nickerson said we have people interested in commercial land and asked if we are going to be investing in additional land on the east side of Hwy 15 on the south side of town. We have money assigned to commercial development, and council would like to see that developed. He said that he would be in touch with the landowner about that. Also, he needs to contact Bolton & Menk about a quote for a sewer lift for the commercial development on that piece of land.

#### IBEW – Discussion on Outside Utility Foreman Classification

IBEW union representative Andrew Kieffer was in attendance for the discussion on the classification of the Outside Utility Foreman position currently being held by Brent Brown. Brent is performing job duties that are above and beyond his current list of job duties. Andrew Kieffer said that there are few towns in our area that have managers that are responsible for electric, water, and sewer. The closest town being Janesville. If he would go back to what he is contractually obligated too, the city would have to hire a manager to take over his additional job duties and would cost the city significant amount of money. We can negotiate a memorandum of understanding that would cover a temporary bump to the Utility Foreman classification, if that person takes on additional responsibilities in which we could lay out. Then in the future when the position needs to be filled again, if we can't find someone with the qualifications for the bumped-up classification, then the city would not be contractually obligated to put additional responsibilities on someone not qualified. Some of the additional duties that Brent is doing are rate reviews, recommending rate re-structures, rate adjustments, and billing audits. If the city had to hire a contractor to do these job duties would cost roughly \$20,000.

Councilor Brandon Mosloski also brought to the council's attention that through the LMC positions with supervisory duties can no longer be included in the same bargaining unit as the employees you oversee. City Clerk, Deputy Clerk, and Utility Foreman Manager would all be supervisory positions. Having these positions in the union is still the vision of the council, however we need to make sure we follow state statute. The City Attorney needs to be contacted to advise the council on whether the City Clerk and Deputy Clerk positions qualify for the same bargaining units as the employees that they oversee.

For the Outside Utility Foreman position we need to obtain the current job description and layout the additional job responsibilities that Brent has taken on that are not included in that. Then we can revisit this at the next meeting on March 1st and negotiate the contract with Andrew.

Andrew also addressed that when Judy left her position, they did not give up her duties that were in the bargaining unit. Therefore, with Thea taking over some of her duties they are asking for voluntary recognition of her classification to join the bargaining unit. A memorandum of understanding would be negotiated to include Thea and her classification under a Utility Billing Specialist. The city needs to contact City Attorney about her supervisory duties and how to move forward in negotiating a union contract. **A motion was made by Councilor Brandon Mosloski, seconded by Councilor Jake Ebert, and motion carried to approve the MOU for the Utility Billing Specialist/Deputy Clerk contingent on contacting the Bureau of Mediation Services and the city legal counsel to ensure this step is okay.**

Mayor Terry Bentele entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting. **Motion made by Councilor Jake Ebert, seconded by Councilor Brian Nickerson, and motion carried to adjourn the meeting at 8:05 p.m.**

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**Thea Boesch, Deputy Clerk**