

Truman City Council Minutes

The regular meeting was duly held at the Municipal Building Council Chambers and by electronic means remotely via Zoom on the 19th day of April 2021 at 5:30 p.m.

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

Staff present: City Clerk-Treasurer Amy Huber, Utility Billing Specialist/Deputy Clerk Thea Boesch via remote access, Utility Foreman Brent Brown, Street Superintendent John Bosshart, and Police Chief Justin Jobe

Also Present: Jennifer Brookens via remote access, Greg Mitchell, Mike Sheplee, Cathy Sorenson, David Sorenson, Lynn Brownlee, Nancy Salic, Faith Clow, Tim Bartels, Chris Studer, Josh Kitzerow, Mona Weihe, and Johnny Vuong.

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

Public comment

Tim Bartels, on behalf of the Truman Baseball/Softball Association, was seeking Council approval to add an 8' x12' utility building with a 6' x7' roll up door and a cement pad under it at Rosburg park. They would like the city to purchase the building so it could be covered under the cities insurance and would donate funds back to the city for the cost of the building/cement. The building would mainly be used to house equipment. It would be up to the city as to where it would be located.

A motion was made by Ebert, seconded by Mosloski, to approve the purchase of the utility building/cement pad by the city with a donation back to the city for the full expense from the baseball/softball association. All yeas – motion carried.

Mr. Bartels also inquired about summer help and mentioned the same person that provided summer help last year would again do it this year, but not for the wages he received before of \$8.14/hour. He would like \$12.00/hour which would be reimbursed through the baseball association.

Agenda Additions/Corrections

Mayor Bentele asked for any additions or corrections to the agenda. He mentioned that he would like to add to item 3a, Greg Mitchell from Bolton & Menk has an update and item 7, Curb Painters as a discussion item.

Update on SHIP Bike/Walking Path

Nancy Salic provided a handout of a proposed walk/bike template policy to be added as an addendum to the cities current policy for crosswalk painting. She asked the council if they would incorporate the touch-up and or painting of the templates (stencils) whenever the crosswalks are done or if the template (stencil) becomes unrecognizable. Lynn Brownlee had a stencil available for the council to view. Much of the path will be along County property, but some will be within the City limits.

The group also asked if the City would paint the curbs around the parade route and around the park. There was discussion about who has done the painting in the past and budget cuts that have happened where curb painting was eliminated and never added back to the budget. It was suggested that the summer help could possibly help with the painting if they are responsible and need little supervision. There is a sprayer that could be used, or it could be done by hand. Sentence to serve was another consideration, but due to COVID, the STS are not doing any work right now.

Pickle-ball Court Update

Greg Mitchell from Bolton and Menk discussed his rough draft layout of the pickle-ball/multi-use court. The preliminary drawing had three pickle-ball courts on the top half and a basketball court on the bottom half. The dash lines on the drawing represent two of the existing tennis courts. The question he asked the council is if they wanted two pickle-ball courts or three and if they want to incorporate or keep a tennis court within the pickle-ball court and blend the lines so it could be used universally, but there could be a lot of lines if that is the case. The other question is if they just wanted a pickle-ball court(s) and basketball court and not have a tennis court incorporated in it. He discussed several layout options, sizes, and uses and was looking for direction from the council on how to proceed. The concern was raised if a basketball court were part of the layout if a net or fence would need to be put up between the pickle-ball court and basketball court. The surface would be concrete.

Councilor Mosloski felt the tennis court has rarely been used the last several years, other than maybe the school would use it. He also mentioned he would be interested in an ice rink over the court to make it multi-use. However, Councilor Ebert and the Engineer were concerned about what that could do to the concrete and advised against the ice rink overlaid on the court. Mosloski suggested a liner be placed over the concrete. The Engineer wondered if the ice rink could just be placed to the west of the court since there is plenty of area there and that would eliminate the risk of potential damage to the court. He suggested a liner be placed on the grass area and situate the ice rink on that.

Mayor Bentele discussed surround netting for the pickle-ball court, which is about \$0.60/Sq. ft. He mentioned the need for it to the north, east, and possibly to the south side at a minimum. He also discussed the design options of the surround netting.

Councilor Ebert mentioned we do have a budget to follow for this project and thought there should be two pickle-ball courts and within one of those courts they would make a 2/3 size half-court basketball court with a three-point line. There would essentially be two pickle-ball courts, but one of them would be shared space with the basketball court. He too felt there was not very many tennis players, conceding that the court has been unusable the past several years. However, with his suggested design there would be two pickle-ball courts, a permanent net between the two courts, and they could still play basketball there. Jake reminded the council that there are basketball courts at the park and behind the school and we could always add on to the pickle-ball/basketball court in the future. Greg agreed to modify the design based on the discussion and wishes of the Council.

Rural Service District

The Martin County Assessor explained there are a couple parcels that are conflicting with the City of Truman RSD policy – the Bau property and the Hansen property. Rural means rural and unimproved, but those two parcels do have improvements on them, therefore he suggested the council require two parcels out of each one so the City can be true to its policy and only allow for the

rural service district to the unimproved land. The levy will still be in effect, but it is just a matter of who is paying for it. Additionally, he mentioned that one parcel can only be in one district – urban or rural. The stated parcels would need to be split. The Bau property, which will be city owned, has a good portion that is farmland which could be split out and in the rural service district so the city would pay less tax on it. The Assessor inquired if the city requires a survey as part of its planning and zoning. The Auditor's office needs a legal description of the properties, whether it be by a survey to split it or some other means to obtain a legal description and drawings. If a person can find someone to do a legal description, you do not need to have a survey if it is not required by the city ordinance. County property requires a survey paid by the taxpayer to obtain those legal descriptions, however. There was also discussion on the building site of the Bau property and how to classify that. The Assessor mentioned that if the improvements were cleared off by the time the City turns the RSD list in, the whole parcel could be in the rural service district if it is not plotted.

Councilor Mosloski agreed that we need to move forward with transferring these into the urban district and we would need to contact Hansen's to get a legal description to do a parcel split. The Clerk will check the ordinance to see if there is any requirement for a survey and if not, offer the option to the Hansen's to provide a legal description to the city or the landowner could have a survey done to obtain the legal description. The Bau property the city can wait on to see how that project progresses and decide how to classify that this summer.

Motion by Mosloski, seconded by Ebert, to have the Hansen property moved to the urban district with a proper legal description. All yeas – motion carried.

Outdoor Carpet for Mini-golf Course

Faith Clow provided the Council with outdoor carpet bids from Menards and Carpet Plus, along with a couple outdoor carpet samples from Carpet Plus. The existing carpet came from Menards but needs to be replaced. It was discussed that the samples from Carpet Plus appeared to be of good quality and probably would wear better than that from Menards. Faith said the course needs about 3,000 sq. ft. based on what was previously purchased. She said she has not had anyone come to the course to do an actual measurement yet, so is basing her square footage from the past. The existing carpet was installed about seven years ago. She hopes to have someone provide a bid to install the carpet soon. The school FFA is planning to help with the weeds and shrubs at the mini-golf course. The Clerk mentioned there is \$15,011.00 in the Mini-golf fund.

Motion by Mosloski, seconded by Ebert, to approve the purchase of the outdoor carpet from Carpet Plus. All yeas - motion carried.

Quarterly Report – Ambulance Dept.

Josh Kitzerow said they are currently at 86 runs for the year which is up from last year at 71. The transfer volume is beginning to go up – they have turned down a few. They have one new member that has started and one more that has just taken the test and he has not heard if she passed the test or not. Things seem fine with equipment and they have had some donations. He is not aware of anyone desiring to quit or retire. They did just put a new battery in rig #2 ambulance – goes through about two a year. He also discussed the Lewisville contract, which has historically been done one year at a time, but he would like to go with a five-year contract instead. This would eliminate the need to approve it yearly, as currently they are working without a contract as it expired on January 1st. There would be a clause in there that with 30 days' notice, we/they can cancel the contract or change

it. The only thing changed in the contract is the five-year instead of one-year term. Additionally, he said they spoke to the City attorney and City insurer about the transfers. The City would not have to employ Lewisville ambulance staff because they are already on the MN League of Cities for insurance, and they are already required by the state to have all the licensing, so we just need to agree on what to pay them. Would keep track based on whether they are a first responder or EMT for payment schedule and at the end of the year the City would submit a check to them. We would not need to do a 1099 or worry about taxes – that is up to Lewisville and would be a part of the mutual aid agreement. The League of MN said running in ours is like running in theirs because the insurance is the same. They would need to have variances like ours and they are willing to do that. However, one of our ambulance staff would need to be with a Lewisville staff.

Motion by Nickerson, seconded by Ebert, to approve a five-year contract with Lewisville. All yeas – motion carried.

Ambulance Purchase

Regarding the ambulance purchase consideration, Josh mentioned it would be about \$1800.00 for the ambulance detailing/signage. The vendor is asking \$34,900.00 for the ambulance, but that is not what Josh believes should be offered. He said they trade about every ten years. Josh hoped that by doing this trade, it would buy them a couple extra years or more. There was discussion as to whether Josh should offer the Vendor a price and then come to the Council for final approval, but during discussion it was pointed out that the City has had the ambulance already for a month and not to risk the sale of the ambulance to someone else. The Council then suggested offering the vendor \$30,000.00 and negotiating up to the asking price, hoping they take less. This way the ambulance department does not need to wait for a couple more weeks for final approval from the Council.

Motion by Mosloski, seconded by Ebert, to offer the vendor up to the asking price of the ambulance, but to keep it as low as possible. All yeas – motion carried.

Summer Seasonal Help

The Utility Foreman mentioned we should post the positions with a minimum requirement to be 16 years of age or older. It was also clarified that the summer help that works at the ballfield does not do any tasks for the city – that person works exclusively at the ballfield and the city is reimbursed by the baseball/softball association for their wages through the end of July. Beginning in August, the City would be responsible for their wages if any time is spent. The City would need to hire one full-time and one part-time summer/seasonal employee to assist in the maintenance and utility department, which is what they have done in the past. But with the added tasks of the painting, the Council discussed with John and Brent if they need to have two full-time summer workers. They discussed having the summer help clean and prepare the areas for painting and if John and Wayne could then do the painting or if there is a responsible summer worker, they could possibly do the painting too. John mentioned that Wayne has the summer help vacuum a couple times per week at the pool, which takes about half a day

Motion by Mosloski, seconded by Truax, to post for two full-time seasonal summer help positions for the Utility and Maintenance/Grounds department. All yeas – motion carried.

Councilor Mosloski mentioned we will need to figure out where to get the funds for the paint. John mentioned he does have some paint. Amy will check to see if there are any funds available in the

budget for paint. It was also discussed that it would be good to post the positions as soon as possible so that the workers can be approved at a May Council meeting and start as soon as school is out.

The Council also discussed having the same workers take care of the pool testing this summer. John said TJ and Danielle Williams are willing to continue to do this and are certified. John also mentioned that Wayne has times when he will be gone, and it would be nice to find someone else to take care of the pool when Wayne is gone.

Motion by Nickerson, seconded by Truax, to hire TJ and Danielle Williams to continue to do the testing at the pool. All yeas – motion carried.

Casey's General Store Application for 3.2% Off Sale Liquor License Request

A copy of the Store's application was provided to the Council. Amy contacted legal counsel with concerns that the age of the workers at the store are sometimes under the required age of 19 or older in a "beer store" which is prohibited in the city's ordinance #603.01. The city attorney agreed with this interpretation and offered options for the City in dealing with this request, which Amy passed out to the Counsel to consider. It was clarified that the City does have an available license for the 3.2% off sale liquor license. Councilor Ebert mentioned he is not in favor of approving the application because of the minors that work at Casey's and there is a business right across the street that offers the off-sale beer already. The Police Chief mentioned he was concerned about the minors that work at the store and having to handle the beer.

The Mayor asked if the Council would like to put forth a motion on the Liquor License request. The Council did not put forth a motion or act on the Liquor License request.

Minutes from April 5, 2021

Motion by Nickerson, seconded by Truax, to approve the regular meeting minutes from April 5, 2021. All yeas – motion carried.

Approve City Claims

Check #38681 - 38719

Motion by Nickerson, seconded by Ebert to approve the Claims totaling \$179,025.37. All yeas – motion carried.

Old Business

Pickle-ball/Multiuse Court – Mayor Bentele obtained a quote from Nicklasson Athletics, which was available to the Council to review as a discussion item and give the Council an idea of some apparatus costs. The quote for a permanent package of two post, ground sleeves, post caps, and net was \$950.00 and the quote for a portable pickle-ball system was \$130.00. The netting was quoted at about \$0.60 per sq. ft.

New Business

Amy mentioned a couple ladies from the Fairmont Senior Center stopped at the City office today and had a list and pictures of some chairs that they are looking to get rid of and would simply like a donation for them if the City is interested. She mentioned they would like to know by the end of the month if the City has a need for them.

Johnny Vuong addressed the Council and inquired about the potential expansion of ethnic food in Truman and wondered if there were buildings available in the downtown area. Johnny mentioned he knows of up to three potential investors that could possibly open a food/restaurant business in Truman, but they are leery because of the small population. They are currently in large cities but would be interested in getting out of the large city. He mentioned they would not have to invest a lot to get started here and the taxes are low, which is an attraction to come here. Johnny wanted to know how many buildings are available. The Council mentioned that the building next to him and the antique store as well as a couple others that someone has started to fix up. Johnny inquired about the building across from him if that was available. The Council overwhelmingly supported the idea of more business.

Councilor Nickerson was concerned about how the Spruce-up Truman group could purchase paint if they need to. The Spruce-up committee said they can get the paint and bill the city if the Council would be willing to give them the discretion to do that. Councilor Ebert felt that the full Council trusts the group, but that the purchases be run through Amy at the City office, so she has a handle on what is going on. Mr. Sorenson suggested he could run it by the Mayor and wondered if he could give them the go ahead to purchase the paint as an option.

Councilor Mosloski discussed the idea of the Spruce-up Truman committee potentially sending out a letter asking for donations, which the group said they did last year. Cathy Sorenson said they do have quite a stock pile of paint, but need a gallon of blue paint for the campground.

Cathy Sorenson mentioned she started writing a grant for equipment for the pickle-ball court, but wondered how much more money was needed for the project. The group wanted to know how much money the city currently has for the pickle-ball court. Amy shared a spread-sheet with the breakdown of what has been allocated to the pickle-ball court to date which amounted to \$27,500.00. Councilor Ebert estimated the project cost to be a range of \$40,000.00 - \$60,000.00. Councilor Mosloski mentioned that in years passed they had received binders of the approved budget and wondered if they could get something like that again for the 2021 budget, which Amy said she would look into and could prepare.

Councilor Nickerson wondered if there were funds budgeted for rock to put in some of the alleys where needed. John said they are waiting for the frost boils to dissipate and then they will take care of that issue. Brian also mentioned that during Truman Days, the White Sidewalls will be playing down at the park and he would like to see some time put toward the large drain there by trying to break it up some by re-sloping it as it is quite deep. John said it would be tight to get that done before Truman Days and the grass re-established.

Councilor Mosloski wondered if there was any news on the old Police station clean out. Justin said they are at a bit of a stand-still until they can tear out walls and add a bay door and the large flowerpots are still in there. He stated that the back room alone will be filled with items he has at the impound. The heavy safe cabinet needs to be moved – it is currently in the middle of the room.

The street superintendent mentioned there was glass broke and shattered all over by the Graf Park building. He also mentioned there was a white pick-up with a trailer behind it sitting in the same place in town for several weeks. John also discussed the need for someone to mow the properties that no one is mowing or maintaining this summer, which in the past was an independent contractor. After discussion, it was decided to have the same person do it again this year since they are familiar with the process.

The Council discussed some garbage issues in town. The Police Chief mentioned they put several door hangers out about a week ago and then after the 10 days, they will follow up again with the residents where door hangers were issued.

Mayor Terry Bentele entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting. **Motion made by Ebert, seconded by Truax. All yeas - motion carried to adjourn the meeting at 7:31 p.m.**

Amy Huber, City Clerk – Treasurer