

Truman City Council Minutes July 6, 2021

The regular meeting was duly held at the Municipal Building Council Chambers and by electronic means remotely via Zoom on the 6th day of July 2021 at 5:30 p.m.

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

Absent: Councilor Brian Nickerson

Staff present: City Clerk-Treasurer Amy Huber, Utility Foreman Brent Brown, Street Superintendent John Bosshart, and Police Chief Justin Jobe

Also Present: Vicki Beckendorf, Brooke Wohlrabe, Greg Mitchell, Josh Kitzerow, and Dave Bentz.

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

Agenda

A motion was made by Ebert, seconded by Truax, to approve the agenda with the addition of the following item: 15a.) discuss lease agreement with Madelia Health. All yeas – motion carried.

Public Comment

None.

Update from City Engineer, Greg Mitchell

Pickleball Court - Greg mentioned he received the breakdown of costs on the bid from MR Paving. He also mentioned that he gave the plans and specs to Brian Boltjes a week ago Wednesday, but has not heard anything back from him, though he mentioned they are very busy. The Engineer inquired if the Council would like to just do the bituminous this year and then do the fence and surface treatment later or next year and have the topsoil done locally to try to save some money. He also mentioned that the school is working with Duinick on a project they plan to do this year and he has reached out to Duinick to see if they would be interested in this project, but his contact was not aware of the school's project. There was also discussion about whether the county would be interested in the tore up black-top from the tennis court. The Street Superintendent mentioned that the County is interested, but the trucking and timing may be an issue and the city may have to put it in a pile for a few weeks until the County can take it. Mr. Bosshart also alerted the Council to the fact that the sidewalk may have to be replaced if the large equipment driving across it to access the court damages the sidewalk. It was decided that the city could break-up the existing tennis court with their equipment and load the trucks from the County when they are available, but it would be better if it could wait until after Truman Days if it cannot be hauled away before Truman Days.

Councilor Ebert suggested that the pickleball court be downsized due to the cost. He mentioned they could possibly do the pickleball court in bituminous and then add the basketball court later in concrete. The Engineer thought that would work. Jake pointed out that there is a basketball court at the school and at Graf Park already. Greg said he could contact MR Paving with the revised plans to see what they come back with for a price quote.

Motion by Mosloski, seconded by Truax, to revise the pickleball court plans to exclude the basketball court at this time to save on the cost. All yeas – motion carried.

5th Street – The Engineer past out the plans from 1985 for the 5th street drainage improvements. He stated that back around the same time, Highway 15 was being redone and then went on to discuss the history and notes over the years regarding this area. Greg said he checked the elevation, and it would work to gravity flow to the storm sewer that is located along the highway. He said it is only about 2’ deep at the catch-basin, which is pretty shallow, so probably would only allow about an 8” pipe through there and by the time you get out to the highway ditch, it is only about 4-5’ deep. He cautioned that the shallow pipe could freeze in the winter, but it is still an improvement. Greg spoke with MnDOT and the person he spoke with did not think this would be a problem, but we would need to fill out a permit, send to them, and they review it. Once they get it back, then you can start talking to contractors. Currently, Greg did not have enough information on the cost.

Motion by Ebert, seconded by Mosloski, to prepare detailed drawings, fill out the permit, and send it in to the MnDOT. All yeas – motion carried.

Quarterly Updates

Fire Department: Dave Bentz reported that they have had eight runs and three assists. He said they did do a house burn a couple weeks ago as a training burn and they were able to do it before the burning ban. He said the flooring was recoated recently at the fire station and it looks much better. He mentioned that they did purchase some emblems for the floor but are having an issue with the way the emblems were applied in that they are curling up. He has had the company come back to look at them and they are purchasing more emblems. The vendor will be back to replace them and do it correctly. The city has not issued a final check to the vendor yet and will do so after the emblems have been satisfactorily redone. He also mentioned they had to order a new motor pump for tanker 5 and are hoping to install it themselves. Pump tests were done recently, and they all passed, so that should be good for a couple years.

Ambulance Department: Josh Kitzerow reported that they are currently at 134 runs for the year, which is up from 93 the year before. He said they have done 117 911 calls, 11 transfers – 104 were out of the Truman area, 7 from Lewisville, and 23 responded to Fairmont. He reported that the average response time is in the range of 0-5 minutes – 78% of responses fall within that range. Josh said they are continuing with the COVID policies with their jumpsuits – it is easier to identify the EMT’s they have found. He mentioned they just about have rig #2 done, the new unit. Josh said they did have a little battle with Arrow Manufacturing on some of the agreements they had, but they finally settled on the decals. He mentioned they plan to meet this month and discuss what they want to do with rig #3. It is currently being utilized as a first response truck for motor-crosses, which allows them to have two trucks still in town in case something happens. He said they are making about \$3500.00/year on motor-crosses, so it may be worth something just for that purpose. Josh said there is no trade in value on rig #3. Options to explore are to keep it outfitted and use as a back-up or list it on a few sites to see if someone wants to buy it. He said there is currently one member in the process of becoming a first responder until they can complete their EMT training and there is one member retiring. Transfer requests seem to be steady – no higher or lower than in the past. Lewisville has been able to help them out some, which is helpful. Josh mentioned they did need to put a set of tires on the recently purchased rig. The Council did caution that they did not want the old rig to nickel and dime them and to consider what is taken in versus the cost.

Police Department: The Police Chief reported that he had a very busy weekend. He mentioned he spoke with Lisa at the school about their wi-fi updates and she said they would be okay if we wanted to put a camera up near the pool and campground area and utilize the wi-fi. Justin is waiting to hear back on the cost of the camera system he spoke about at a prior meeting. He did state that there have not been any recent problems at the park, so he wondered how long the Council wanted to keep the camera there. Councilor Mosloski felt if there is not a need anywhere else right now, just keep it in place as opposed to having it sit in the office unused.

Utility Department: The Utility Foreman mentioned they have flushed hydrants and got through that without issues; they have installed a new hydrant downtown at the back-up well; rebuilt a motor in a pump and the float is working; they are waiting on two check valves and then they will be able to put that well back in service; they installed banners and brackets for the high school along the highway and will likely do this again next year; the gutters at Graf Park on the shelters seem to be working good; purge tested the generators and noted only a few minor maintenance issues; plans to order about 2,000 gallons of fuel; replaced a lift-pump which is good as one went out – this was a budgeted item he noted; had a street-light pole get hit so they replaced that and they had a pole break off in a storm so had that replaced as well; they have been working on jetting the sewer lines and have been running into a lot of lines that they cannot get through – he would like to get to 12,000’ which would put them on a four year rotation; once they are through with the sewer lines, they will move to grinding stumps.

Street Department: The Street Superintendent mentioned that the parade route has been cleared of trees, but will check it again to be sure; they have done the yellow painting along main street and the parade route; the department has went around various areas of town and sprayed round-up, which they typically do 2-3 times a year; got parts for the sweeper as the belt went bad; discussed painting the cross-walks and patching streets; said he spoke to Brent about checking the lift-pump at the Senior Living to make sure that is functioning okay; discussed the maintenance at the pool; and said Gary Meyer donated grass seed at the park and replanted some grass, which appears to be coming up. The Council inquired if the pile of branches could be cleared away at the cemetery, and John said he would let Wayne know about it.

Discuss Painting – supply of paint, additional painting to be done this year

The Street Superintendent said the parade route and main street are done. He stated he has a couple pails left and has used roughly two pails. The mayor inquired if it were possible to continue to do some more painting such as on the driveway approaches where it is faded along the parade route and do as much as can be done this year and then divide it up, so some painting gets done every year or is on a schedule. He suggested doing a quadrant one year and then another the next, etc. Another suggestion was to do the painting maintenance on the seal-coat schedule. The school and public access areas need attention too it was noted. The Council felt that if he has the summer help to do this, it would be good to continue with the painting. The Street Superintendent mentioned they will need to do the white painting too, which will take about four people to do that project. It was decided that John come up with a four year painting schedule and get back to the council with that schedule and finish up the painting along the parade route and public access areas.

Pool Discussion

The Street Superintendent said there have now been three incidents of fecal matter in the large pool. John discussed how the issue has been handled to date and that no one has confessed to doing it. He mentioned that if anyone is caught, they are banned from the pool for two weeks. It is believed that the kids in the pool are old enough to know better.

John also mentioned that the burner for the pool is about 3-4 weeks out to get it. The current one is repaired and running but would like to purchase another one as a back-up in case the current one fails.

Motion by Ebert, seconded by Mosloski, to purchase another burner for the pool at an estimated cost of \$3000.00 - \$4,000.00. All yeas – motion carried.

Discuss Utility Truck/Employee in Truman Parade

It was discussed if the city council is okay with paying a utility employee over-time to drive the utility truck through the Truman parade. Councilor Ebert mentioned that the ambulance and fire department are employees, but they do not get paid to do this. The Public Utilities used to do this when it was not part of the city. The Council did not feel the city should pay over-time to do this, unless the time an employee comes in to do their routine checks can be incorporated with the parade and does not include extra time. Brent felt they would run past their standard two-hour checks. It was decided that the utility truck would not be included in the parade.

Discuss Mayo Clinic Mobile Unit

Amy mentioned that the city attorney has reviewed this issue and mentioned how permits factor into this or having an agreement with Mayo. The Council discussed their concerns with Mayo coming in with their mobile unit, while Madelia is looking to support the Truman community and lease the Truman Clinic that Mayo gave up the lease on. Some Council members felt the city needs to reciprocate support to Madelia if they are willing to come and support the Truman community by leasing the Truman Clinic. The Mayor mentioned his concern about people that are on Medicare and are in-network and that network, depending on the contract, cannot be changed every year, so that is an issue for people in that situation. He said there are people that have a tough enough time trying to get to Fairmont versus Mayo coming in and just hoping in a van and going to the school parking lot, as an example. The Council acknowledged that concern and suggested that maybe the city could have a short-term agreement with Mayo, so folks can get insurance changed over if they want to or something on that order. The Council also felt the city needs to hear from Madelia first. The Mayor added that he spoke with someone that said some of the contracts with Medicare do not change or change yearly and it depends on how your contract reads. The Council decided to wait on any action with Mayo until after they have met with Madelia.

Approve Regular Meeting Minutes from June 21, 2021

Motion by Truax, seconded by Mosloski, to approve the regular meeting minutes from June 21, 2021. All yeas – motion carried.

Approve City Claims

Check #38909 – 38968

Motion by Mosloski, seconded by Ebert, to approve the Claims totaling \$48,445.14. All yeas – motion carried.

Approval of Resolution No. 2021-10 Acknowledging 2nd Quarter Donations

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

A motion was made by Mosloski, seconded by Truax to approve Resolution 2021-10, acknowledging the quarterly donations as listed for a total amount of \$92,395.00. A roll call vote was taken, those voting in favor thereof: Ebert, Truax, Mosloski, and Bentele. Those against: none. Absent: Nickerson. Resolution 2021-10 acknowledging 2nd 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.

City of Truman Job & Safety Procedures Manual prepared by MMUA

The Clerk mentioned that Anthony from MMUA provided her with the Job & Safety Manual that they use in safety instruction to the city along with a schedule of monthly trainings for 2021. However, the Utility Foreman felt that some of their guidelines may not be what we want to follow and would like to look through the manual and bring it back to another meeting for final approval.

Old Business

Fall Clean-up: It has been determined the fall garage sale will be on September 17th and 18th. The Council discussed when to have the city-wide clean-up and decided it should be held the weekend following the garage sales this fall, which would be September 24 – 26, 2021. Roll-offs would be available the entire weekend and picked up on Monday the 27th.

Motion by Truax, seconded by Mosloski, to have roll-offs available for the city-wide clean up on September 24 – 26, 2021. All yeas – motion carried.

Update on Utility Bill at Graf Park & Ballfield: The Clerk mentioned that this is a follow-up to their questions from the prior meeting and that she has placed a breakdown of expenses in their packets. It was then discussed if there is a way to lock the lights at the field or if just anyone can turn them on. There was discussion if it were locked, who would need keys or a code and if the baseball association plans to give the city a donation for the cost of the electrical use. It was mentioned there was no Legion baseball team this year, just the Amateur team and sometimes it gets late if there are double-headers. The Police Chief noted that there have been a couple instances where he found lights on at Rosburg park and he had to turn the lights off as they are not locked on either field. Brent discussed the costs and he also mentioned that a lot of the charges they are seeing at Graf Park are the streetlights and decorative lights. It was also brought up to discuss the baseball field situation with the baseball association as times have changed and agreements that were made in the past may need to be relooked at. The baseball field is property of the school, and the baseball association is paying to maintain it for using it, but the city needs to find out if they are willing to pay for utilities. It was suggested that the city may have to lock access to the lights and then if someone is using the field, they would need to obtain a key from the city like that which is done with the community building.

Motion by Ebert, seconded by Mosloski, to move forward with securing the lights at Rosburg field and to talk to the Baseball Association about the Baseball Field. All yeas – motion carried.

Update on Electrical Issues at Campground: Brent met with County Line about the electrical issues at the campground and discussed the options for electrical improvement as well as the estimated costs. He mentioned there are 30 amps available now and a 120. There have been yearly occurrences of electrical issues at the campground, so the council discussed upgrades, especially with Truman Days coming up. They discussed upgrades to include 50-amp outlets on the east side, leaving the middle area at 30 amps as they are now for smaller units. Brent mentioned that the estimated cost to upgrade the service is about \$6,000.00.

Motion by Ebert, seconded by Mosloski, to approve the electrical upgrades from 30 amp to 50 amp on the east side for an estimated cost of \$6,000.00. All yeas – motion carried.

The Clerk mentioned that she did send out vouchers for one free night of camping to the campers that experienced electrical issues a few weeks ago.

New Business

Lease Agreement: The Clerk-Treasurer mentioned that she has sent the proposed lease agreement she received from Madelia to the City Attorney. Derrick has made some suggestions to the lease. It was decided to discuss this further after Madelia has addressed the Council. Amy mentioned that Derrick would be willing to come to a meeting and discuss this with the Council as well.

Councilor Ebert mentioned he has recently spoke with Amy and she is having difficulty with folks getting back to her on projects or issues. Jake mentioned that if she is not getting answers back from people, the Council needs to know about it so they can put pressure on those people as both Amy and the Council need answers to keep things moving forward.

The Council discussed the private roadway south of John Deere and whether the City should notify the other businesses in the area as well as the public that the entrances into John Deere are private drives. The Police Chief was concerned if we did that, then we would need to enforce it as this is a private drive. He mentioned they would need to put up no trespassing signs for example. It was also discussed to put notices in the utility bills to make people aware that it is a private drive and to have a notice in the paper possibly.

Councilor Mosloski said a campground patron approached him and suggested the city increase the camping rates as the camping patron felt the rate was cheap for the benefits you receive. The city would need to purchase new envelopes with new rates printed on them and post a notice if the council decides to change the rates. One suggestion was to increase rates to \$30.00 a night for the sites where the electrical upgrades were changed from 30 to 50 amps. It was also mentioned that at Truman days last year, the city lost a lot of revenue with people not paying. Tags on the pedestals was suggested to help deal with the issue so the information is very visible when the police drive through and try to monitor this. The Police Chief mentioned he will take care of getting something purchased and set up, but Councilor Mosloski said he would take care of it instead.

Mayor Terry Bentele entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting. **Motion made by Ebert, seconded by Mosloski. All yeas - motion carried to adjourn the meeting at 7:11 p.m.**

Amy Huber, City Clerk – Treasurer