

Truman City Council Minutes August 16, 2021

The regular meeting was duly held at the Municipal Building Council Chambers on the 16th day of August 2021 at 5:30 p.m.

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

Absent: Councilor Brandon Mosloski

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

Also Present: Jennifer Brookens, Brooke Wohlrabe, Bryan Stading, Jeff Rouse, Nancy Salic, Donna Kotewa, Elliot Belgard, 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A motion was made by Ebert, seconded by Truax, to approve the revised agenda with item 16 rescinded as noted. All yeas – motion carried.

Public Comment

Nancy Salic and Donna Kotewa attended the meeting to discuss Truman Days. Nancy distributed Minutes from their last meeting and discussed the success of Truman Days as well as areas that need to be addressed for next year. Raffle ticket sales were up this year thanks to the work of Patty Truax and others. There were issues with golf carts and ATV's roaming all over and sometimes parked in the way of vendors. She wondered if there could be better control of this next year. She also had concerns with lack of road closure signs, or some being moved. Nancy suggested that next year they would like to have a meeting with all groups involved, including the city, for better coordination and communication. She mentioned there were more porta potties than were needed. Donna mentioned they needed more help in the park – the toilets clogged twice, and she had to refill the toilet paper seven times. The garbage is very heavy, and help is needed with that. They mentioned that more help in general is needed.

Mike Taylor attended the meeting to address a concern regarding the stump removal on his property by the city. He wondered why the hole had not been filled in on his property, but his neighbor's property was filled in. The Utility Foreman assured him that he is on the list, and they will be filling in the hole at his property.

Martin County EDA Ignite

Bryan Stading, RCEF Business Facilitator, representing Martin County EDA/Ignite, addressed the Council about their programs and Services to Martin County and the City of Truman. He handed out folders with information and resources regarding their program. He mentioned these folders are resources for businesses that want to start up, or are struggling, or even those that are thinking about retiring and need someone to take over their business. He emphasized that they do not want to be the best kept secret and wanted to arm the city with resources. Martin County EDA/Ignite has been in existence since 2007 and is a free resource for those in Martin County.

Going Hog Wild in Martin County – Jeff Rouse

Jeff Rouse, representing the non-profit group of Going Hog Wild in Martin County, discussed a new tourism program in Martin County and provided some background information about it. The group has developed a concept to have multiple concrete hog statues on platforms as an attraction for tourists and visitors, each spotlighting businesses and organizations and recognizing the pork industry in the county, noting that Martin County is the pork capital of the state. Maps would be available of where they are located throughout the County and local artists would paint them. Then in the spring there would be unveiling of the pigs. The sponsorship enables the town to purchase a maximum of two statues initially to be placed in the community and then allow local businesses/organizations to become supporting sponsors. If purchased now, the hog statues would be available in the spring/summer of 2022. He mentioned almost all the cities located in Martin County have signed on to this program and he wanted to make sure Truman didn't miss out. They are only able to purchase 30 hog statues this year for 2022. The goal is to have over 100 of these hogs throughout Martin County in three years. The Council expressed interest but explained that they decided at their last meeting that they would like more time to find sponsors and identify interest before investing in this but would consider it for next year.

Bolton & Menk – Update on Projects

The Engineer was unable to attend the meeting but relayed to the Clerk that he has submitted the permit to MNDOT for the 5th street project but has not heard anything back yet. Amy said Greg has not heard back from anymore contractors regarding the Pickleball Court. The Clerk also added that she has contacted a contractor for an opinion of sealing the cracks and constructing an overlay of the existing Court. She said the Contractor did come look at it, but she is waiting for a hard quote from him for the project.

Santa Parade in December

Dave Bentz was on hand at the meeting to discuss the Santa Parade. He mentioned they had a good response last year for this event and wondered if the council desired to have the Santa Parade again this year. It would be held on the Saturday before Christmas. After some discussion, the Council agreed for Dave to move ahead with this event. Dave would be the coordinator of the event and questions should be directed to him. He hopes to work with more organizations and local businesses for this event and get the information out on Facebook.

Agreement with Public Power Energy Services LLC

Brent Brown discussed the agreement with Public Power Energy Services LLC, which was discussed at the last two meetings. The organization was confident that they would find savings for the city and were willing to take less up front. The Utility Foreman thought the city would have a pretty good idea in about six months where things are at and mentioned the organization comes with good recommendations based on comments from other people he has spoken with that were pleased with them. Brent said he has available funds in his budget to allocate this cost to. The Council agreed to move forward with the agreement as an attempt to lower energy costs.

Motion by Truax, seconded by Nickerson, to approve Public Power Energy Services LLC to work with the city, allowing Brent to negotiate compensation no higher than \$3000.00/month. All yeas – motion carried.

Star Energy Agreement

The Utility Foreman provided the Council with a proposal from Star Energy Services LLC. When the city is working with customers on solar, this company would be a helpful resource. This is a company they have used in the past for Solar installations or questions. The city gets quite a few questions about Solar. Star Energy works with these questions every day. There is a customer that is looking at a large-scale solar installation and in helping the customer fill out an application, there were questions he was unable to answer. Brent contacted two other communities with these questions and they both use Star Energy. The rules and regulations with this change frequently. This company works with this every day, and they have a web portal for customer assistance. As part of the service, they would have a link on our website that our customers could access to assist with questions. The company has engineers on staff and people that deal with this every day. There is an annual contract with a fee of \$2000.00/year plus some hourly fees assessed for some services as spelled out in the contract. Brent mentioned he could utilize funds from energy conservation to pay for this.

Motion by Ebert, seconded by Nickerson, to approve the agreement with Star Energy Services LLC as presented. All yeas – motion carried.

Hedge Trimming at Cemetery

Wayne Wiederhoeft was in attendance to address the Council about trimming hedges on the west side of the cemetery. He mentioned the city had the south side of the hedges trimmed two years ago, but would like to trim hedges on the west side. Wayne said he received a verbal quote from Brian Rahm of \$2000.00 to trim the hedges on the west side. However, the Council requested that Wayne get a written quote from Brian and bring it back at the next Council meeting for them to consider. The Council also mentioned there are about four trees dying at the cemetery that need to come down. The Utility Foreman mentioned the city could take those trees down but would need better saws to do that.

Employee Review Summary from August 2nd

The Clerk-Treasurer went through the summary of employee reviews that took place on August 2nd.

Motion by Truax, seconded by Nickerson, to approve the Employee Review Summary from August 2, 2021. All yeas – motion carried.

Location for Truman Days Float

The Senior Living Facility, which has housed the Truman Days Float recently, has asked the city to find a location for the float. The Street Superintendent wondered about the future of the float as it was not used this year during Truman Days. John said he does not have room for the float in any of the city buildings. After further discussion, Councilor Truax volunteered to find a location for the float and report back to the council.

Mayo's Mobile Clinic Location Request

Amy Long from Mayo Health systems has asked the city for a suggestion of where to park their Mobile Clinic. They are planning to come to Truman every other week about two days a week at this point. They have not submitted their permit to come to Truman but are working on it and intend to have it back to the city soon. The Council discussed possible locations with easy access and decided the school parking lot would be the best option, but Mayo would need to contact the school to get

permission and work out an appropriate location. Amy mentioned she will contact the school Superintendent to let her know this was discussed at the meeting and let Mayo know of the suggested location.

Motion by Ebert, seconded by Nickerson, to have Mayo contact the school to see if they could use the school parking lot for their mobile unit. All yeas – motion carried.

Quote from Bevcomm to Replace Computer

Bevcomm provided a quote to replace Sherry's computer system, which was discussed at the prior meeting. The price includes a 3 year warranty.

Motion by Ebert, seconded by Nickerson, to approve the quote and replacement of Sherry's computer and monitor. All yeas – motion carried.

Approve Resolution 2021-11 Accepting ARPA Funds

The city Clerk-Treasurer has submitted the request for the ARPA funds to the state and has recently received the first of two payments for those funds. Amy mentioned the 2nd half of those funds will be distributed by the state to the city next summer.

A motion was made by Ebert, seconded by Truax to approve Resolution 2021-11, accepting the Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Fund Allocation Amount Under the American Rescue Plan Act. A roll call vote was taken, those voting in favor thereof: Ebert, Truax, Nickerson, and Bentele. Those against: none. Absent: Mosloski. Resolution 2021-11 accepting the ARPA funds was duly adopted. The complete Resolution is available and can be obtained at the Truman City Clerk's office.

Discuss Tax Forfeited Property Options

The County has notified the city of a tax forfeited parcel in Truman that has come up due to non-payment of property taxes. The Clerk-Treasurer discussed some of the options the city has regarding the property, which include leaving it as is and letting it go to public auction and see if anyone buys it or if the city has funds available, the city can request a deed from the state and correct the blight, demolition the property and try to sell the property. Amy mentioned the Council could consider the options and it could be brought back for a decision at the next council meeting, which is what the council decided.

July Financial Report

The Clerk-Treasurer had the July Financial report available for the Council to review. She mentioned this is the first report to the council following the accounting software change and utility billing conversion. Amy said the report will look different than the reports they have had in the past due to the new software and the account codes are different. She was not asking them to approve the report at this time as they are still working with Burkhardt's to decipher any discrepancies in the utility side of the accounting system yet from when they converted utility information from one system to the other. She said that by next month, the information should be reconciled, but until then she wanted the council to have a first glimpse of the new reports.

Approve Regular Meeting Minutes from August 2, 2021

Motion by Nickerson, seconded by Truax, to approve the regular meeting minutes from August 2, 2021. All yeas – motion carried.

Approve City Claims

Check #39047 – 39099

Motion by Ebert, seconded by Truax, to approve the Claims totaling \$186,514.67. All yeas – motion carried.

There was discussion about the utility bills at the baseball field. The Utility Foreman mentioned that they broke out the costs a little more but would check with the Utility Billing Specialist on more specifics about it and get back to the Council. It was decided that the baseball association should attend a future meeting to discuss some of the costs at the field as past arrangements may need to be relooked at.

Old Business

Discuss next steps on Splashpad, Pickleball Court, and Campground projects: Amy mentioned that she added future year capital outlay funds to the project spreadsheet, but the only funds allocated to future years were \$6,000.00 total under the Splashpad. There were no other future capital outlay funds to add to the pickleball court or campground project spreadsheet. The Clerk-Treasurer wondered how the Council would like her to proceed on these projects. She offered ideas for the Council to consider to fund the shortage for these projects considering the significant costs. Amy mentioned she will be meeting with the engineer again next week and if anyone has any further suggestions or considerations on these projects, to let her know before next week. Amy will continue to look at other options, such as crack-filling and then an overlay of the existing court and the engineer was working on quotes for a new concrete court.

Finalize plans for city-wide clean up days: It was mentioned that the city-wide cleanup day is still planned for the weekend following the city-wide garage sales. Household hazardous waste will not be allowed at the roll-offs, but Councilor Truax was going to reach out again to Prairieland to see if they would be open just for the HHW items. Amy summarized minutes from prior meetings regarding this topic. The location of the city-wide clean up was discussed and determined that the school parking lot would be the best location if that works okay with the school. Amy will follow-up with the school to see if the school parking lot is available and not interfere with other school functions. Further discussion on this will be brought to the next Council meeting. Once the details are determined, more information can be put out on the website, Facebook, and the newspaper.

New Business

Next Regular Meeting: Amy reminded the Council that the next regular Council meeting wouldn't be until Tuesday, September 7th, at 5:30 p.m. The Labor Day holiday falls on Monday the 6th.

Consider 2022 Budget Work Session: Amy suggested the Council have a Budget work session on September 7th prior to the regular meeting to begin preparations of the 2022 preliminary budget.

Motion by Nickerson, seconded by Ebert, to have a Council Work Session beginning at 4:30 p.m. on September 7th. All yeas – motion carried.

The Street Superintendent mentioned there are no more games at the ballfield and wondered if he should have the bathrooms winterized and dumpster removed. It was decided that the bathrooms should be locked up after Labor Day.

Councilor Truax mentioned that 601 W Ciro where the handicap access is, the dirt is not all the way to the curb and wondered if that could be filled with dirt. John mentioned he could take care of that.

Councilor Ebert mentioned that with the increase in COVID concerns, he felt Thea should be moved to the records room, so Sherry and Thea aren't sitting back-to-back. There was discussion about where to put all the file cabinets and records if Thea were moved. The Council felt the old police building may work, but Justin would need to move some things around to make room and the time to move everything was the other concern. The other issue pointed out is that the building is not heated, or temperature controlled which may not be good for record retention. Amy pointed out that some of the files are used frequently, some are not, and some can be purged, but will take time to go through all the files to do this. It may be best to set up a partition in the main office to separate Thea and Sherry until all the files can be gone through, purged, and moved. Councilor Ebert also wondered about the tablets Brenda had purchased for the Council and mentioned he would like to use them for council packets. It was stated that there were passwords placed on them and they would need to be factory reset. Amy will investigate this and see if they can be restored to factory settings.

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

Amy Huber, City Clerk – Treasurer