

## Truman City Council Minutes August 5, 2024

The regular meeting was duly held at the Municipal Building fire hall meeting room on the 5<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2024 at 5:30 p.m.

Present: Mayor Jake Ebert, Councilors Patty Truax, Chris Mosloski, and Ron Kelley.

Absent: Councilor Brian Nickerson.

Staff present: Street Superintendent John Bosshart, Utility Foreman Brent Brown, City Clerk/Treasurer Melissa Sirovy, Deputy Clerk Carol Becker, Interim Police Chief Mike Schutz, Ambulance Director Josh Kitzerow, EMT Curtis Hodge.

Also present: Tim Bartels, Jerome Gerdts, Kyle Liford, Caitlyn Carlson, Joseph Kreiss Truman Tribune, 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

Changes or additions to the agenda: ambulance business and nuisance properties added. **Motion made by Kelley, seconded by Truax to approve the agenda as amended. All ayes - motion carried.**

### Approve Minutes of Regular Meeting

**Motion made by Kelley, seconded by Truax to approve minutes of the July 15, 2024 Regular Meeting. All ayes - motion carried.**

### Public Comment

Jason Nickerson, Kyle Liford, and Caitlyn Carlson addressed the council about street flooding at Central and 2<sup>nd</sup> Street South and water in their basement following the recent heavy rain. Street Superintendent John Bosshart explained that it takes time for the storm sewer to catch up with heavy rain because everything is going into one line. If the water in the basement is a result of street flooding, it may have an illegal connection to the storm sewer. The catch basin in that area will be cleaned out again to make sure it runs freely.

### Baseball Association

Tim Bartels and Jerome Gerdts from the Baseball Association were present at the council's request to talk about shared expenses and responsibilities. Due to budget constraints the association is unable to reimburse the city this year for taxes related to the seasonal workers they hired. Following discussion Mayor Ebert recommended the council assign a liaison to work with the group to help with communication. The city attorney will be contacted to get an opinion on the cost and liability for the city for further discussion.

## Utility Business

Utility Foreman Brent Brown advised of two watermain breaks that will be repaired tomorrow. The bucket truck is repaired and back in service. The cost was more than anticipated. Letters of Understanding from IBEW were reviewed that will add a public works superintendent position to the contract and a public works maintenance classification that would be used to hire someone to work into the lineman position. The utility foreman classification would remain in the contract but would be unfilled unless or until needed. A third LOU provides updated wage scales for administrative positions. Reviews will be held to determine placement on the new wage scales for current employees, which will be at or around, but not less than, the current wage. **Motion made by Kelley, seconded by Mosloski to approve the Letters of Understanding as proposed. Motion carried 3-1 with Truax voting Nay.** A special meeting will be held on Tuesday August 20<sup>th</sup> for employee reviews.

## June Financial Statements

**Motion made by Mosloski, seconded by Kelley to approve June financial statements. All Ayes – motion carried.**

## 2025 City Budget

Council reviewed a first draft of the 2025 City budget. Details were briefly reviewed with further discussion to take place at the next meeting.

## Resolution 2024-31 to Accept July Donations

**Motion made by Truax, seconded by Kelley to adopt Resolution 2024-31 to accept donations received in July. All ayes – motion carried.**

## Pay Request #2 Mensing Construction

**Motion made by Kelley, seconded by Mosloski to approve Pay Request #2 to Mensing Construction for the Jones Subdivision project. All ayes – motion carried.**

## Consider building demolition invoice

Discussion on payment of the invoice was tabled until the August 19<sup>th</sup> meeting when Councilor Nickerson will be present.

## Payment of Claims

**Motion made by Kelley, seconded by Mosloski to approve payment of claims, with the exception of Rosburg Construction. All ayes - motion carried.** Approved claims totaled \$348,265.03. Checks #42114 - #42150, #42195 - #42200, ACH #881E - #896E, #501474E and #501496E.

## Old Business

Police business was moved to the end of the agenda to go into closed session for labor negotiations.

## New Business

Ambulance Director Josh Kitzerow advised the 2019 ambulance rig they've been demoing is a good fit for the department and he is recommending approval to purchase the unit for \$184,700. It comes

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with a power load cot and three warranties. They will take the 2006 ambulance in trade for \$7,000. Decals will cost \$4,500 and it could use new tires. The next ambulance remount would be in 2030. There is about \$301,000 in reserve for the purchase. **Motion made by Mosloski, seconded by Kelley to approve the purchase of the 2019 ambulance rig and to trade in the 2006 ambulance as proposed. All ayes – motion carried.**

The police contract with the City of Northrop was discussed for renewal in 2025. The rate is proposed to increase from \$50 to \$55 per hour, but the cost of providing the service is considerably higher. A letter will be sent to get their input regarding renewal at \$64.46 per hour for 2025, along with another increase the following year to get the rate up to the cost of service.

Council was advised that Small Cities Assistance from the State for street projects and road maintenance will be \$21,178 this year. The aid will come annually now, with the amount based on revenue generated by the program. It is recommended the funds be used within two years of receipt. The funds might be considered as part of the 2025 budget for street maintenance or for use in conjunction with other projects.

Councilor Truax reviewed plans to close the pool for the season later this month. There are only three lifeguards still working, so open hours will be limited, and the pool will close around August 14<sup>th</sup> to the 18<sup>th</sup>. Pool business will be added to the August 19<sup>th</sup> meeting agenda.

Mayor Ebert said the time capsule that was opened during Truman Days had sustained water damage so the contents could not be explored. He asked that council give thought as to items to place in a new time capsule to open at the 150<sup>th</sup> city celebration.

CEDA has the housing study ready to present to council and it was decided hold a work session just prior to the August 19<sup>th</sup> council meeting at 5:00 p.m. for that purpose.

Councilor Kelley advised of an upcoming meeting to explore grant funding options for cleanup of environmentally hazardous properties. More information will be shared with council at the next meeting.

Superintendent Bosshart advised council the street sweeper recently broke down and parts costing approximately \$1,800 are on order. Seal coat work will take place on Friday, which will include the cemetery.

**Motion made by Truax, seconded by Kelley to move into closed session at 7:08 p.m. for labor negotiations per Statute 13D03. All ayes – motion carried.** Those present for the closed session included Mayor Ebert, Councilors Truax, Kelley, and Mosloski, and City Clerk Sirovy. The session was recorded.

**Motion made by Truax, seconded by Kelley to reopen the meeting at 8:05 p.m. All ayes – motion carried.**

**Motion made by Kelley, seconded by Truax to have the city attorney draft a three-year contract, through 2027, for the police chief position at \$35.00 per hour, with 4% cost of living adjustments each January. All ayes – motion carried.** The contract will take effect immediately upon endorsement by both parties.

**Motion made by Truax, seconded by Mosloski to adjourn. All ayes – motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.**