

## Truman City Council Minutes September 16, 2024

The regular meeting was duly held at the Municipal Building Fire Hall on the 16<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2024 at 5:30 p.m.

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

Absent: None.

Staff present: Street Superintendent John Bosshart, Public Works Superintendent Brent Brown, City Clerk/Treasurer Melissa Sirovy, Deputy Clerk Carol Becker, Fire Chief Brandon Mosloski, Interim Police Chief Michael Schutz.

Also present: Skye Flohrs, Danielle Williams, Chad Truax, Pat Jones, Roger Carlson, Jeff Markquardt and Corey Klanderud Martin County Sheriff's Department, Kyle Liford, Caitlyn Carlson, Johnny Vuong, Lori Bartels, Elliot Belgard, Scott Halverson, Thomas and Shandon O'Brien, Marilyn Anderson, Jason Mau, Dave and Cathy Sorenson, Carl Vogt, Larry Baarts, Gary and Linda Meyer, Warren Schultz, Joseph Kreiss Truman Tribune, and others not signed in.

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

**Motion made by Mosloski, seconded by Truax to approve the agenda. All ayes - motion carried.**

### Approve Minutes of Work Session and Regular Meeting

**Motion made by Kelley, seconded by Nickerson to approve minutes of the September 3, 2024 Work Session and Regular Meeting. All ayes - motion carried.**

### Public Comment

Skye Flohrs asked what was discovered for the high water use on her bill. It will be monitored over the month of September. Pat Jones spoke on the importance of city amenities like the pool and campground, plus adding pickleball and a splash pad, and grand funding should be sought to help fund those projects. A group of residents had concern about stats in the housing study that are believed incorrect due to the low number of surveys completed by residents. It was explained the housing study was done to help apply for grants. Kyle Liford asked for information on a high utility bill, and has continued concern over the storm sewer near his house. A tracking meter was installed to determine when utility use is high and public works will continue to monitor the situation. The storm sewer has been jetted and is running freely now. Johnny Vuong is concerned about his utility bills, believing the meters aren't working right. The meters can be sent in for testing if he will pay the cost if they come back as working properly. The situation will continue to be monitored.

## Police Department Business

A number of residents present expressed concern over maintaining a local police department versus contracting with Martin County. Handouts were provided to them that show the cost for both options. Officer Schutz had been offered the police chief position earlier, and more recently, a contract for the position, both of which he declined. Schutz submitted a counteroffer to the city over the weekend that would raise departmental expenses considerably. Mayor Ebert explained the 2025 police department budget already significantly exceeds the cost to contract with Martin County, making contracting the more affordable option.

**Motion made by Mosloski, seconded by Nickerson to go into closed session to consider allegations of misconduct, per MN Statute 13D.058, Subd. 2(b). All ayes- motion carried.** The subject matter was actions taken by Officer Schutz during work hours that were not work related and were inappropriate for an on duty officer.

**Motion made by Truax, seconded by Mosloski to come out of closed session. All ayes – motion carried.** No action was taken as a result of the closed session.

It was decided to have Mayor Ebert and a council member meet with Schutz later in the week to discuss the contract offer for the police chief position.

## Utility Business

Public Works Superintendent Brent Brown met with officials from the Minnesota Department of Health regarding updates needed at the campground for the license. Items discussed included site size and space requirements, upgrades to peds, new water lines to some sites, backflow preventers, speed signs, and modification of the walkway to the restrooms. The wading pool is out of service and could be removed to provide space for the required walkway. The dump station needs water access, a hose, and signs at a cost of approximately \$4000. Alternatively, sewer lines could be added to all the sites and the dump station removed. That option will be discussed with MDH. Also, if camping is allowed across the creek, a special events license is needed, along with an access road and portable restrooms. Other items noted but not required, included adding lighting, extending the culvert, and modification of some pads. The estimated total cost for the work is \$11,000 to \$12,000. **Motion made by Truax, seconded by Kelley to move forward with the required modifications using campground reserve funds. All ayes – motion carried.** A Letter of Understanding from the IBEW labor union was considered for the Water/Wastewater position. It was recommended that Mike Rhey be placed at step 4. **Motion made by Kelley, seconded by Nickerson to approve the LOU and placement of Rhey on Step 4 of the wage scale. All ayes – motion carried.**

## Ordinance 2024-03 to Amend Public Sidewalk Snow Removal Regulations

**Motion made by Truax, seconded by Nickerson to adopt Ordinance 2024-03 to amend the sidewalk snow removal ordinance to require maintenance on through public sidewalks. All ayes – motion carried.**

## Renewal of Lease Agreement

Consideration was given to renewal of the dental office lease that expires at the end of the year. **Motion made by Nickerson, seconded by Mosloski to approve offering renewal of the three year lease agreement with Dr. Chris Olsen at the same rate. All ayes – motion carried.**

August Financial Statements

**Motion made by Truax, seconded by Mosloski to approve the August 2024 financial statements as presented. All ayes – motion carried.**

Resolutions 2024-38, 2024-39, and 2024-40 to Order Repair or Removal of Hazardous Buildings

**Motion made by Truax, seconded by Kelley to adopt Resolutions 2024-38, 2024-39, and 2024-40 ordering the repair or removal of hazardous buildings. All ayes – motion carried.**

2025 Budget and Levy

Items discussed included adding funds to the squad car reserve, funding a roof inspection and repair program, replacing the snow truck and a lawn mower. It was decided to approve a 15% proposed levy increase, with discussion on the budget to continue to adopt a final levy in December. **Motion made by Mosloski, seconded by Nickerson to adopt Resolution 2024-33 to approve a proposed tax levy payable in 2025 of \$680,101. All ayes – motion carried. Motion made by Kelley, seconded by Nickerson to approve December 2<sup>nd</sup> at 6:00 p.m. to hold the truth in taxation hearing. All ayes – motion carried.**

Payment of Claims

**Motion made by Mosloski, seconded by Truax to approve payment of claims. All ayes - motion carried.** Approved claims totaled \$217,686.29. Checks #42250 - #42285, ACH #913E - #925E, and #501556E.

Old Business

None.

New Business

None.

**Motion made by Mosloski, seconded by Truax to adjourn. All ayes – motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:22 p.m.**

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Melissa Sirovy, City Clerk/Treasurer