

Truman City Council Minutes
September 3, 2024

The regular meeting was duly held at the Municipal Building Fire Hall on the 3rd 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.

Also present: Bjorn Olson, Skye Flohrs, Troy Nemmers Bolton & Menk, 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: Pay request #3 and a change order, chair purchase, union discussion added to the agenda. **Motion made by Truax, seconded by Kelley to approve the agenda with the additions. All ayes - motion carried.**

Approve Minutes of Work Session, Regular Meeting and Special Meeting

Motion made by Kelley, seconded by Truax to approve minutes of the August 19, 2024 Work Session and Regular Meeting, and the August 20, 2024 Special Meeting. All ayes - motion carried.

Public Comment

Skye Flohrs asked what was discovered concerning the high water use on her last bill. It was used over a four day period. Following discussion, it was decided to monitor the situation over the next month. No late fees will be assessed on the excess charges.

State Representative Bjorn Olson

Representative Olson advised of measures the city can take to request state funding for streets and infrastructure projects. He encouraged the city to identify an important project to send to him so he can work on funding over the next few years.

Utility Business

Public Works Superintendent Brent Brown advised of a power outage on August 26th due to an animal getting into the substation. An updated wage scale for the public works water/wastewater position was reviewed. If adopted, step 4 was recommended for Mike Rhey in that position. An MOU will be drafted to consider at the next meeting. The lineman position has been open and

advertised for 1½ years. It was suggested to post the utility foreman position to try to get more interest. **Motion made by Kelley, seconded by Mosloski to approve posting the utility foreman position as proposed. All ayes – motion carried.**

The Minnesota Department of Health has requested a meeting at the campground on September 17th to discuss licensing. Staff will review requirements to discuss at the next council meeting.

Resolution 2024-35 and 2024-36 to Accept Grants

Motion made by Nickerson, seconded by Kelley to adopt Resolutions 2024-35 and 2024-36 to accept grant funds as proposed. All ayes – motion carried.

2025 Budget and Levy

It was recommended that as head of the department, a portion of the public works superintendent wage and benefits be expensed to the street department. The proposal would add 2.6% to the proposed levy. The proposal to purchase a mower was discussed, in part to determine if could be used to move snow from the Highway 15 sidewalk. Councilor Mosloski referenced a mower that has a front deck that could be switched out for a blower or broom for snow removal. Bosshart will check with John Deere to see if they have a similar option. It was decided to update the budget to add a portion of the PW Superintendent wages to the street department, and to include the estimated cost to the city for the Highway 15 sidewalk of \$75,000, to be paid for using commercial development reserve funds.

Payment of Claims

Motion made by Kelley, seconded by Nickerson to approve payment of claims. All ayes - motion carried. Approved claims totaled \$181,416.56. Checks #42182 - #42194, #42221 - #42249, ACH #906E - #912E, and #501543E.

Old Business

The ordinance that requires snow removal from public sidewalks was reviewed, along with a public notice and an advertisement for bids. It was decided to amend the ordinance so that only through sidewalks are included. **Motion made by Mosloski, seconded by Kelley to amend the ordinance to cover all through sidewalks only. All ayes – motion carried.** The revised ordinance will be considered for adoption at the September 16th council meeting. The cost for the city to clear a sidewalk will be billed to property owners at a one hour minimum charge for each property served, plus a \$50 administrative fee. An advertisement for bids will be published, with bids due prior to the October 7th council meeting. A map of all through sidewalks will be prepared to aid with enforcement.

The clerk was asked to contact Interim Chief Schutz to get a response on the contract offer made at the last meeting. A decision is needed so the police department budget can be set before the proposed levy is certified.

Nuisance and Hazardous properties were reviewed. It was decided to proceed with court action on the hazardous commercial building on Highway 15, while still exploring grant funding options. A resolution ordering repair or removal of a hazardous building on Central Avenue was provided to council for review. It will be considered for adoption at the upcoming meeting if the owner does not respond to the notice for abatement.

New Business

Councilor Truax located 8 used chairs for the council chambers for sale at \$40 each. **Motion made by Mosloski, Seconded by Kelley to approve purchasing the chairs. All ayes – motion carried.**

Motion made by Kelley, seconded by Nickerson to approve pay request #3 to Mensing Construction for \$57,817.09. All ayes – motion carried. Motion made by Mosloski, seconded by Kelley to approve a change order for the Jones Subdivision project for grading the 7th lot for \$7,000.00. All ayes – motion carried.

Motion made by Truax, seconded by Kelley to adjourn. All ayes – motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 6:43 p.m.

Melissa Sirovy, City Clerk/Treasurer