

Truman City Council Minutes
September 30, 2024

A Special Meeting was duly held at the Municipal Building Fire Hall on the 30th day of September, 2024 at 5:30 p.m.

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

Absent: None.

Staff present: City Clerk/Treasurer Melissa Sirovy, Deputy Clerk Carol Becker, Public Works Superintendent Brent Brown.

Also present: Tim Akers, Brooke Wohlrabe Fairmont Sentinel.

Mayor Jake Ebert presided over the meeting, beginning at 5:30 p.m., opening with the Pledge of Allegiance.

The special meeting was called to discuss the lineman and administrative assistant positions, and police department business.

Mayor Ebert advised that he and Councilor Nickerson met earlier today with Interim Chief Mike Schutz for contract negotiation. Though earlier stating he would be willing to remain at his current wage, Schutz is asking for \$40.32 on January 1, 2025, and a 3.2% cola increase in 2026 and 2027, with the contract renegotiated for 2028 and beyond. A squad car will be needed in 2026, so \$15,000 needs to be added to the budget for the next 4 to 5 years. The 2025 police budget is \$189,554. Based on hours of coverage after deducting vacation time, holidays and hours patrolling Northrop, the cost per hour of coverage will be \$105.51. The cost for Martin County to provide 2080 hours of coverage with a step 8 officer would be \$181,999, \$87.49 per hour of service. Truman would pay only for hours when the officer is in the city limits. Lengthy discussion took place on the pluses and minuses of both options.

Motion made by Mosloski to proceed with contracting with Martin County for police services, pending approval of the contract by the city attorney, and following additional discussion, seconded by Kelley. Motion carried 4-1, with Truax voting nay.

Public Works Superintendent Brent Brown advised that Alex Kjolstad had been interviewed for the lineman position and he recommended approval to hire him at Step 8. **Motion made by Kelley, seconded by Mosloski to approve hiring Alex Kjolstad in the lineman position as proposed. All ayes – motion carried.**

Brown advised that posting the administrative assistant position for applicants will be put on hold to provide time for staff to analyze workflow. A meeting will be held with the union if any changes are desired for the position.

Motion made by Mosloski, seconded by Kelley to adjourn. All ayes – motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 6:38 p.m.

Melissa Sirovy, City Clerk/Treasurer