

**Truman City Council Minutes  
November 1, 2021**

The regular meeting was duly held at the Municipal Building Council Chambers on the 1st day of November 2021 at 5:30 p.m.

Present: Councilor Brian Nickerson, Councilor Patty Truax, Councilor Brandon Mosloski, and Councilor Jake Ebert

Absent: Mayor Terry Bentele

Staff present: Utility Billing Spec./Deputy Clerk Thea Boesch, Utility Foreman Brent Brown, and Police Chief Justin Jobe

Also Present: Jennifer Brookens and Brooke Wohlrabe

Mayor Pro-tem Jake Ebert presided over the meeting, opening with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Agenda

**A motion was made by Truax, seconded by Nickerson, to approve the agenda with the additions under New Business - a) New Part-time Officer, and b) Wellness Reminder. All yeas – motion carried.**

Public Comment

None

Review/Approve Documents for the C & B Offer/Proposal

Council reviewed the purchase agreement prepared by City Attorney Derrick Greiner. **A motion was made by Mosloski, seconded by Truax, to approve the C & B Operations purchase agreement as prepared by City Attorney Derrick Greiner. All yeas – motion carried.**

Deputy Clerk Thea Boesch will contact Derrick to ensure that he is taking care of the release of the bond for the street.

Old Grocery Store Proposal

Councilman Jake Ebert reached out to Jason Mau and visited with him about his letter of intent to purchase the old grocery store at 141 W. Ciro St. He will have to put money into cleaning it up, electric repairs, and roof repairs. Council agrees that we need to do something with the building and would like to see the building improved on and used for a business. **A motion was made by Truax, seconded by Mosloski, to approve the letter of intent from Jason Mau to purchase the old grocery store as is, at 141 W. Ciro St. for \$1,500, and with a stipulation that he pays the closing costs. All yeas – motion carried.**

Discuss/Approve Employee Vision Plan

The council reviewed individual vision plans for Justin Jobe. The options through VSP were: EyewearOnly120 at a \$10.55/mo. premium, Standard at a \$13.86/mo. premium, EasyOptions at a \$27.46/mo. premium, or Enhanced at a \$32.96/mo. premium. The premium would be paid 80% by the city and 20% by employee. **A motion was made by Truax, seconded by Nickerson, to approve the individual Standard Plan through VSP at a monthly premium of \$13.86.**

### Discuss City Budget

Discussion was held on if we should break down the cost of the squad car over more years so that there is not that large of a dollar amount in capital outlay over just two years. Justin's squad is due to be replaced in 2023, and Mike's squad is due to be replaced in 2026. They also discussed the 4-year rotation for the sealcoating and possibly stretching the sealcoating out to a 6-year rotation. The council agreed to set up a work session on Monday November 8<sup>th</sup> at 1p.m.

### Discuss Water Tower Rehab – Design Services

Utility Foreman Brent Brown reviewed the water tower rehab and filter plant rehab material from the meeting with City Engineer Greg Mitchell of Bolton & Menk, and John Graupman, Principal Environmental Engineer. The original report was for \$2.9 million with Nero Engineering. Some of the work included de-commissioning the downtown well, install new well by the water tower, install reverse osmosis filter plant and the water tower rehab. The city did not qualify for grants and low interest loans because of the rates, which we have been working on that the last couple years. Bolton & Menk came in shortly after that and gave their opinion on the filters and contradicted what the previous report said. So, when Brent met with them last week, they reviewed what they found and compared them to the original report, options to upgrade, and what needs to be done. The first priority would be the water tower, due to changes coming with the paint after 2022, and filters project. Their recommendation is to move forward with the design services, and then the bidding services. This should be started as soon as we can, and we can advertise for bids in late December, and award bids in February. Then the work can be completed in the summer and fall of 2022. We can include the cost of the engineering fees in with the bond. To complete filters project and water tower project, it would be in the \$1 million range, which at that price level you would not qualify for any grants. So, the best option is to go through Northland Securities and get a bond, which will have a lower rate than what you can get through other programs. Discussion was held on ways to payback the bond, however no decisions were made. **A motion was made by Nickerson, seconded by Truax, to approve moving forward with the design services and bidding services for the water tower rehab project at \$22,000.00 with Bolton & Menk. All yeas – motion carried.**

### Discuss Utility Budget

Utility Foreman Brent Brown discussed the preliminary 2022 utility budget with the council. On the electric fund, one item they are focusing on is the MISO transmission cost which has increase 16% over the last two years. Brent is continuing to work on possible ways to decrease that cost. The distributed maintenance labor we no longer have a contract with Madelia as they don't have the staff to do it. Trying to work out a deal with MMUA. He also budgeted in for a part-time summer employee, with the request that they get their own versus sharing the seasonal employee. The credit card costs have increased due to increase of payments being made with credit card, so discussion was held on whether we build that increase into the rates or start charging a fee for customers that pay with credit card. No motion was made. Another discussion was held about the franchise fee of \$17,000 paid to the city, and whether the utility department needs to keep paying that to the city. No motion was made on that topic. In the water fund he made adjustments where needed based on year-to-date numbers. Then in the sewer fund he discussed with the council about when they took out a sewer bond, and the city choose to pay for it. That is the bond that we paid off, and the sewer department is paying back the city at 2% interest. That payment is less than what is set up with the city currently, therefore it would be less revenue for the sewer fund, and less expense on the city fund. So as not to be a huge hit to the sewer fund it was recommended to slowly adjust that payment to the sewer fund over the years, until paid off. No decisions were made.

Review Applications for City Clerk-Treasurer Position

The council reviewed 8 applications for the City Clerk position. Agreeing to move forward with interviewing 3 of the applicants. Council would like to hold interviews as soon as possible. There was also discussion held about forming an interview committee. Councilman Brandon Mosloski had reached out to former clerks Monte Rohman and Amy Huber to sit on that committee. Deputy Clerk Thea Boesch will contact the applicants to set up interview times.

Approve Regular Meeting Minutes from October 18, 2021

**A motion was made by Nickerson, seconded by Truax, to approve the regular meeting minutes from October 18, 2021. All yeas – motion carried.**

Approve City Claims

Check #39287-39318

**A motion was made by Nickerson, seconded by Mosloski, to approve the claims totaling \$92,794.28. All yeas – motion carried.**

Old Business

Discussion was held about if the utility department should move forward with winterizing the property located at 814 E 1<sup>st</sup> St S. Utility Foreman Brent Brown said that they are going to install a curb shutoff for the water, and then they could drain the lines and winterize the house. Then it will be taken care of for the winter season until the council decides what they are going to do with the property.

New Business

Police Chief Justin Jobe said they have all the paperwork and have completed a background check on Cory Lyons. He is recommending to the council to hire him as a part-time officer. **A motion was made by Mosloski, seconded by Nickerson, to approve hiring Cory Lyons as a part-time officer. All yeas – motion carried.**

Utility Foreman Brent Brown expressed concern to the council that they should send a reminder notice to staff that if they are experiencing any illness symptoms that they should remain home until symptoms improve. Council discussed if an employee is showing symptoms of COVID that they should be tested. If the test is positive they would go into quarantine, and if it is negative they can return to work when their symptoms improve. Councilor Mosloski said he may have a template of a letter that he could send out to the staff.

Mayor Pro-tem Jake Ebert entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting. **A motion was made by Truax, seconded by Nickerson. All yeas - motion carried to adjourn the meeting at 8:39 p.m.**

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**Thea Boesch, Deputy Clerk**