

Truman City Council Minutes
November 15, 2021

The regular meeting was duly held at the Municipal Building Council Chambers on the 15th day of November 2021 at 5:30 p.m.

Present: Mayor Terry Bentele, Councilor Brian Nickerson, Councilor Patty Truax, and Councilor Jake Ebert

Absent: Councilor Brandon Mosloski

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

Also Present: Jennifer Brookens

Mayor Terry Bentele presided over the meeting, opening with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Agenda

A motion was made by Ebert, seconded by Truax, to approve the agenda with the additions under New Business – b) Sherry Hansen – Retiring February 2022. All yeas – motion carried.

Public Comment

None

Approve of 2022 Licenses

Motion made by Ebert, seconded by Truax, to approve the 2022 licenses for the following:

Aardvark’s Bar & Grill: Games, Music Box, Sunday Liquor, Intoxicating Off-sale, Intoxicating On-sale; Casey’s General Stores: Tobacco; Dollar General Store: Tobacco; Hometown Sanitation, Waste Management, Hansen Sanitation, Inc., and Madelia Sanitation: Garbage hauling. **All yeas – motion carried.**

Special Assessments

Discussion took place around the interest rate for special assessments which was lowered last year from 6% down to 4.5%. Council agreed to not change the interest rate this year.

Council reviewed the assessment roll to be certified to the County along with Resolution No. 2021-18 Adopting Assessments for Unpaid Charges. **Motion made by Ebert, seconded by Nickerson, to approve Resolution No. 2021-18 Adopting Assessments for Unpaid Charges. All yeas – motion carried.**

City 2022 Budget Discussion

Council reviewed the updated budget from the changes that were discussed in the work session on November 8th. With those changes the levy is sitting at 6.5% increase. They discussed ways or places to make cuts, however no further decisions were made.

Update on City Clerk Position

Two additional interviews were schedule last week, one of them was a no-show and the other interview went well. Councilor Nickerson is recommending a seconded interview with that applicant from last week. The applicant did call Councilor Nickerson after the interview in regard to the Utility Billing Specialist/Deputy Clerk position that had posted. If this applicant is a better fit for the other position, they discussed re-posting the clerk position on Indeed. **A motion was made by Ebert, seconded by Truax, to approve re-posting the clerk position on Indeed until filled, if they fill the utility billing specialist/deputy clerk position first. All yeas – motion carried.**

Review Applicants for Utility Billing Specialist/Deputy Clerk

Council reviewed the applications for the Utility Billing Specialist/Deputy Clerk position. They determined 2 applicants that they would like to move forward with interviewing. They also asked if Utility Billing Specialist/Deputy Clerk Thea Boesch would sit in on those interviews since she has more knowledge of the position.

Utility Business

Utility Foreman Brent Brown requested approval to declare surplus the 2002 Chevy 3500 Utility Truck and authorize to get bids on it. **A motion was made by Ebert, seconded by Truax, to approve declaring the 2002 Chevy 3500 Utility Truck as surplus and authorize it to get bids. All yeas – motion carried.**

Utility Foreman Brent Brown also asked the council's permission to set up an informational meeting between the City of Truman, the Public Power Representative's, and Great River Energy to discuss some transmission options. Then he also mentioned in 2016 Lake Crystal worked with a law firm out of Oregon in which Truman and Madelia were mentioned in this work that had been done. The employees that would have been working here during that time are no longer employed here, so he can't investigate why this wasn't followed up on. So, Truman did not initiate it but was a part of it, but they came back and discussed qualified facility options and what their legal opinion was. This law firm specializes in power, electric utility field. So, Brent would like to reach out to them to see what they would share with us in regard to that matter. **A motion was made by Ebert, seconded by Truax, to approve contacting the law firm out of Oregon to further research the work that had been done in 2016. All yeas – motion carried.**

Utility Foreman Brent Brown updated the council on the utility 2022 budget. He continues to work on updates on capital, and working on some of the water chemical pricing as new rates have now been come in for 2022. He will provide them with a copy of the budget, and they can review it and come back to the next meeting with questions.

Approve Regular Meeting Minutes from November 1, 2021, Work Session Minutes from November 8, 2021, and Emergency Meeting Minutes from November 8, 2021

A motion was made by Truax, seconded by Ebert, to approve the regular meeting minutes from November 1, 2021, the work session minutes from November 8, 2021, and the emergency meeting minutes from November 8, 2021. All yeas – motion carried.

Approve Financials

October financials were provided to the council; however, they were incomplete due to missing Ambulance documents that had not been received yet. Therefore, adjusting journal entries had not been done yet to complete the October ambulance portion of the financials. Council reviewed the

preliminary financials that were provided. Councilor Ebert questioned the fire truck grant funds on the revenue side. Utility Billing Specialist/Deputy Clerk Thea Boesch will check the records to ensure those were put in the right place. **A motion was made by Ebert, seconded by Nickerson, to approve the preliminary October 2021 Financials. All yeas – motion carried.**

Approve City Claims

Check #39319 - 39356

A motion was made by Nickerson, seconded by Truax, to approve the claims totaling \$120,223.44. All yeas – motion carried.

Old Business

The County approved selling the forfeiture property owned by Michael Halverson for \$1.00 plus applicable fees to the City of Truman. Councilor Brian Nickerson talked to Brian Rosburg about getting the trees removed on that property, and to Josh Kitzerow about a practice burn on the house. The asbestos report has been completed by the building inspector.

New Business

No odor complaints for Prairieland for the month of October.

The council received a letter from Sherry Hansen announcing her retirement in late February 2022. They decided to hold off advertising her position until they fill the other vacancies first.

Mayor Terry Bentele entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting. **A motion was made by Ebert, seconded by Nickerson. All yeas - motion carried to adjourn the meeting at 6:56 p.m.**

Thea Boesch, Deputy Clerk