

Truman City Council Minutes
November 6, 2023

The regular meeting was duly held at the Municipal Building in the fire department meeting room on the 6th day of November, 2023 at 5:30 p.m.

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

Absent: None.

Staff present: Utility Foreman Brent Brown, Street Superintendent John Bosshart, City Clerk/Treasurer Melissa Sirovy, Utility Billing Specialist/Deputy Clerk Carol Becker, Interim Police Chief Michael Schutz, Fire Chief Dave Bentz.

Also present: Larry Baarts and Steve Blaufuss City of Northrop, Brandon Mosloski Fire Department, Eric Sauer Boy Scouts, Nikki Meyer 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

Items added to the agenda: Facility use policy, Campground grant, and Painting at Community Building to New Business; Financing rescue truck moved to top of agenda. **Motion made by Kelley, seconded by Nickerson to approve the agenda as amended. All ayes - motion carried.**

Approve Minutes of Emergency and Regular Meetings

Motion made by Kelley, seconded by Truax to approve minutes of the October 15, 2023 Emergency Meeting and the October 16, 2023 Regular Meeting. All ayes - motion carried.

Financing Fire Rescue Truck

Mayor Ebert reviewed the proposed plan to fund the purchase of a rescue truck from the City of Shakopee. A bid of \$180,000 is pending acceptance. The old rescue will be advertised for sale, with proceeds to be returned to the fire truck reserve. **Motion made by Truax, seconded by Mosloski to fund the purchase using \$100,000 from the fire truck reserve, \$40,000 from the City using squad car reserve funds, and Waverly, Westford and Nashville Townships paying \$506.33 per section served totaling \$40,000. All ayes – motion carried.**

Public Comment

Eric Sauer from Boy Scouts requested use of the Community Building main level at no charge for scout meetings at 6:00 p.m. on the first and third Monday of each month. A key would be picked up and returned each time. **Motion made by Truax, seconded by Nickerson to approve the request to use the hall at no charge for scout meetings. All ayes – motion carried.**

Northrop Police Contract

Larry Baarts and Steve Blaufuss from the City of Northrop were present to discuss the police agreement. Contracted hours of service are 7 per week. That isn't being met with one officer on staff. The service rate is scheduled to increase \$5.00 per year to bring it up to the cost of providing the service, which is currently \$73.15 per hour. Northrop officials stated they want to pay their way for the service provided and will go back to their council to discuss the 2024 contract. It is understood that going forward the service hours provided will be less than the number contracted.

Utility Department

Utility Foreman Brent Brown reviewed department business. The power plant roof leaks and needs to be replaced. One quote is available and two are pending. Consideration was given as to keeping it a flat roof or adding a pitch. There are funds in reserve to pay for it and the funds could be replenished over a number of years. Further discussion will take place at the next meeting.

An application for a Heartland economic development grant has been submitted for the cement plant. A grant for the housing development project can be submitted once the cost for utilities is known. One economic development grant is available to the city each year.

Discussion on the capacity sale was tabled for a future meeting.

The proposed 2024 utility budgets were discussed. The wastewater fund saw a reduction in revenue due to a large industrial customer reducing their water use. A raz pump needs to be replaced, \$30,000 is budgeted. A 5% rate increase is planned, which would result in a \$13,000 loss to the fund. A 10% rate increase would result in break even. The pool pays for water only, but a portion of their water use reaches the sewer so it should pay for that service. That would provide \$4,000 to \$5,000 in revenue. The council agreed and that bill will be corrected. Other considerations are to split the cost of the raz pump over a number of years and to look at the administrative assistant hours charged to utilities, currently 50%. The water fund budget includes \$20,000 for watermain repair and \$10,000 for fire hydrants. The plan is to replace one hydrant per year. A 5% rate increase will result in a bottom line of \$3,000. The electric fund budget includes expenses for the metering project and capital improvements. The fund has a positive bottom line without roof replacement and depreciation included. The proposed budgets will be sent out for further discussion at the next meeting.

Resolution 2023-37 to Write-off Uncollectible EDA Loan

Motion made by Kelley, seconded by Nickerson to adopt Resolution 2023-37 to approve writing off the uncollectible EDA loan from BNMJ Properties of \$14,497.55. All ayes – motion carried.

Resolution 2023-34 to Approve Gambling Permit

Motion made by Truax, seconded by Kelley to adopt Resolution 2023-34 to approve a gambling permit for Southern Minnesota Ducks Unlimited for an event at the Community Building on February 3, 2024. All ayes – motion carried.

Resolution 2023-35 to Accept Compeer Grant

Motion made by Truax, seconded by Kelley to adopt Resolution 2023-35 to accept a \$5,000 grant from Compeer Financial Fund to be used for the housing study. All ayes – motion carried.

Resolution 2023-36 to Assess Unpaid Charges

Motion made by Mosloski, seconded by Truax to adopt Resolution 2023-36 to approve certifying unpaid utilities to property taxes. All ayes – motion carried.

Resolution 2023-38 to Accept October Donations

Motion made by Nickerson, seconded by Mosloski to adopt Resolution 2023-38 to accept donations received in October. All ayes – motion carried.

Approval of Claims

Submitted claims totaled \$90,442.15. Checks #41437 - #41439, #41441 - #41480, ACH #683E - #697E, #501174E, #501185E. **Motion made by Truax, seconded by Nickerson to approve payment of claims. All ayes - motion carried.**

Old Business

Quotes for replacement of the Community Building door opener were reviewed. The control box on the old opener can't be repaired. It was decided to look for grants to pay for it and to determine what the warranty is on a new opener. The sidewalk up to the building also needs to be repaired or replaced. It will be added to the budget when possible.

Councilor Kelley spoke about a USDA grant opportunity available to the city. CEDA would complete the application for the 50/50 matching grant to help fund the pickleball court and expansion of the campground. It will be determined if the match has to be in cash or if land and amenities can help meet that requirement.

New Business

A request for a key to the Community Building was made by Toys for Tots. The key would be returned after the holidays. **Motion made by Nickerson, seconded by Kelley to approve giving Toys for Tots a key to the Community Building for the holidays. All ayes – motion carried.**

A request was made for approval to allow a community group to paint the fireside room at the community building using money donated to the city. The work is not part of the ongoing grant funded rehab project. The council decided to wait to see if there are funds remaining when that work is complete.

Street Superintendent Bosshart advised the council of repair parts ordered for the street sweeper costing \$1,100.

Motion made by Mosloski, seconded by Kelley to adjourn. All ayes – motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 6:52 p.m.

Melissa Sirovy, City Clerk