

**Truman City Council Minutes  
December 18, 2023**

The regular meeting was duly held at the Municipal Building Council Chambers on the 18<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2023 at 5:30 p.m.

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

Absent: None.

Staff present: Street Superintendent John Bosshart, Utility Foreman Brent Brown, City Clerk/Treasurer Melissa Sirovy, Utility Billing Specialist/Deputy Clerk Carol Becker, Ambulance Director Josh Kitzerow, Assistant Director Matt Lange.

Also present: Ramona Weihe, Barb Kubly, Brandon Mosloski, Troy Nemmers Bolton & Menk, Joseph Kreiss Truman Tribune.

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: DNR grant, Rosburg invoice, Step rate increase, wage increase timeline, ambulance department. **Motion made by Kelley, seconded by Nickerson to approve the agenda with the additions. All ayes - motion carried.**

Approve Minutes of Regular Meeting

**Motion made by Kelley, seconded by Nickerson to approve minutes of the December 4, 2023 Regular Meeting. All ayes - motion carried.**

Public Comment

None.

Utility Department Business

Utility Foreman Brent Brown advised that one bid is still pending for the roof project and the matter was tabled. The roof above the utility office is leaking and it has damaged some sheet rock. An insurance claim will be filed if the repair cost warrants.

Bolton & Menk Master Service Agreement

Troy Nemmers reviewed a new two-year agreement that replaces one that expires at the end of 2023. **Motion made by Nickerson, seconded by Kelley to approve the two year service agreement with Bolton & Menk. All ayes – motion carried.**

### Liquor License Renewal

**Motion made by Truax, seconded by Nickerson to approve renewal of Aardvark's On and Off Sale and Sunday liquor licenses. All ayes – motion carried.**

### Resolution 2023-44 to Authorize Transfer of Funds and Loan Repayment

**Motion made by Kelley, seconded by Mosloski to adopt Resolution 2023-44 to approve transfer of \$24,000 from the Infrastructure Fund to the Water Fund, and payment of \$16,00.00 on a loan owed by the Water Fund to the Electric Fund. All ayes – motion carried.**

### Liability Coverage Waiver

**Motion made by Nickerson, seconded by Kelley to not waive monetary limits on tort liability. All ayes – motion carried.**

### November Financial Statements

**Motion made by Kelley, seconded by Nickerson to approve November financial statements as presented. All ayes – motion carried.**

### Approval of Claims

**Motion made by Kelley, seconded by Nickerson to approve payment of claims. All ayes – motion carried.** Approved claims totaled \$217,464.28. Checks #41559, #41561 - #41619, ACH #718E - #726E, #501221E and #501240E.

### Old Business

Council was advised that the Boy Scouts using the Community Building at no charge are meeting on different days than originally approved. An amended Sick and Safe Time policy was reviewed that includes language regarding annual carryover of hours. **Motion made by Kelley, seconded by Nickerson to approve the amended Sick and Safe Time policy as presented. All ayes – motion carried.** Deputy Clerk Becker reviewed the final numbers for the Community Building rehab project that was funded by a grant and donations. The grant agency has additional funds available so a second application was submitted to fund additional projects at the Community Building.

### Legislative Update

State Representative Bjorn Olson was present to provide a legislative update to the council. He encouraged the city to contact him when in need of his assistance.

### Old Business

Rosburg Construction submitted an invoice for additional work he completed at the Bau Property beyond what was on the original bid. **Motion made by Truax, seconded by Mosloski to approve payment of the invoice for \$3,950.00. All ayes – motion carried.** In the future, all project modifications will require submission and council approval of a written change order before the work is done. Councilor Nickerson will speak to Rosburg regarding the timeline for demolition of the building at 117 East Ciro Street so the fire department can have the siding removed in time.

The city clerk asked for clarification of the date when the approved wage increase for the interim police chief will take effect in 2024 and 2025. **Motion made by Mosloski, seconded by Nickerson to have the 5.5% wage increase take effect on September 1<sup>st</sup> in 2024 and 2025. All ayes – motion carried.** Also discussed was if there is a need for a part-time officer to fill in when Schutz is off, and about changing the department schedule to 8 hour shifts rather than 10. It was decided to plan a work session in 2024 to discuss police department business with the Interim Chief.

### New Business

Step Inc. notified the city of a rate increase from \$16.00 to \$17.00 per hour beginning January 1, 2024. **Motion made by Truax, seconded by Nickerson to approve the rate increase as proposed. All ayes – motion carried.**

Council considered a proposed schedule to hire for the administrative assistant position when Ingledew retires next year. It was recommended the position be advertised in mid-January, with someone hired to begin working by late April to allow for six weeks of training. **Motion made by Nickerson, seconded by Truax to move forward with the timeline as proposed. All ayes – motion carried.** Councilor Truax will act as council liaison in this matter.

Ambulance Director Josh Kitzerow and Assistant Director Matt Lange were present to review collection rates for ambulance receivables. A large portion of runs are covered by Medicare and their pay rates don't cover the cost of providing the service. Classes for training EMT candidates are getting harder to find and are farther away. Changes are being examined nationwide to keep emergency services viable. Councilor Kelley asked about the need for keeping the third ambulance. Kitzerow advised it is used mostly for events and fire rehab which brings in revenue to the department. There was concern that funds are being spent to keep it outfitted, and that it takes up valuable space in the fire hall. It is an annual decision whether to work at motocross events and if that is discontinued the rig would be sold.

Council was advised of the Salvation Army Heat Share program that could be utilized by the city. Information could be added to the city website and Facebook page to publicize the program at no cost to the city. It was recommended the city auditor be contacted to make sure the city is authorized to participate. **Motion made by Kelley, seconded by Truax to approve placing information about the program on the city website and Facebook page if the auditor approves. All ayes – motion carried.**

The Certificate of Deposit held for the Residential Development Reserve Fund comes up for renewal in January and council was asked to decide if it should be renewed for another six months or if funds will be needed before it renews again in July. **Motion made by Kelley, seconded by Nickerson to approve renewal of the CD for six months. All ayes – motion carried.**

Councilor Kelley provided a list of goals he would like to work on in 2024. Designating a public works director to oversee all departments has been a goal since the PUC was abolished. There isn't an established position or wage scale in the union contract for that job. A meeting was recently held with the union to discuss how the city might hire someone with no training or experience to work toward taking over the lineman position because no qualified candidates have applied for that job. That position would also need to be added to the contract. It was decided to have two members of the council meet with the union rep to discuss both positions. **Motion made by Kelley, seconded by Nickerson to move forward by meeting with the union to discuss revising the contract. All ayes – motion carried.** Councilor Kelley and another member of the council will meet with the union rep when he is available to do so.

Discussion followed regarding moving the street department office and equipment to the city building to allow the heat to be turned down in the street shop. Bosshart advised there isn't enough inside parking space for all of the equipment in the city shop. Also discussed was concern about city utilities that are provided to the ballfield at no charge. Discussion will continue at upcoming meetings.

Kelley updated the council on the DNR grant application and he asked about the availability of maps and additional information that is required to be included with the application.

**Motion made by Truax, seconded by Mosloski to adjourn. All ayes – motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:33 p.m.**

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**Melissa Sirovy, City Clerk /Treasurer**