

Truman City Council Minutes
December 4, 2023

The regular meeting was duly held at the Municipal Building Council Chambers on the 4th 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, Interim Police Chief Michael Schutz.

Also present: None.

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: Subcontractor project procedures. **Motion made by Mosloski, seconded by Truax to approve the agenda with the addition. All ayes - motion carried.**

Approve Minutes of Regular Meeting

Motion made by Mosloski, seconded by Truax to approve minutes of the November 20, 2023 Regular Meeting. All ayes - motion carried.

Public Comment

None.

Property Sale to C & B Operations

Documents from the city attorney were presented for signatures to finalize the sale of property to C & B Operations that was approved by council earlier in the year.

Utility Department Business

Utility Foreman Brent Brown advised that one bid is pending for the roof project so it was tabled for the next meeting. Renewal of the lease agreement with MN Para Transit was discussed. A rate increase was recommended to cover increased costs and the utility charge should be increased based on the new rates in 2024. **Motion made by Mosloski, seconded by Traux to approve increasing the rent by \$50 per month and utility charges by the rate increases scheduled for 2024. All ayes – motion carried.**

Discussion took place regarding the work remaining at the Bau Property and the \$5,000 balance due on the invoice from Rosburg Construction, along with \$12,952.50 due on the invoice from Truax

Concrete for street repair costs in excess of the project estimate. The Bau project included removal of all trees and concrete, however a large amount of concrete was buried and it added to the cost of waste disposal that was unforeseen. An invoice and explanation of the extra work that was completed at the Bau property will be obtained from Rosburg Construction for consideration at the next meeting. He will also be asked for a timeline on the demolition project at 117 East Ciro so the fire department can schedule removal of the siding prior to that. It was decided that in the future a detailed bid sheet will always be used for such projects and written change orders will need to be approved before any extra work is done that will lead to cost overruns. This process will not be used for emergency projects.

Truth in Taxation Hearing

The time being 6:00 p.m., the Truth in Taxation Hearing was called to order. Interim Chief Schutz indicated a squad car will need to be purchased by 2027 so funds will need to be set aside over the next few years. **Motion made by Kelley, seconded by Mosloski to allocate revenue in the 2024 budget for the following expenditures: \$16,000 toward the purchase of a mini-excavator, \$12,950 to replenish street reserves for the added cost of repair work on East 2nd Street North, \$4,000 for sewer expenses added to the pool budget, and a reduction in revenue from the Northrop police contract of \$5,050. All ayes – motion carried.** No residents were in attendance to comment on the levy or budget. **Motion made by Mosloski, seconded by Truax to adopt Resolution 2023-41 to approve the tax levy collectible in 2024 and the 2024 budgets as amended. All ayes – motion carried.** The 2024 levy is set at \$591,392.00, a 6% increase over 2023.

Resolution 2023-39 to Approve 2024 Utility Rates

Motion made by Nickerson, seconded by Truax to adopt Resolution 2023-39 providing for an increase to water, wastewater and electric utility rates. All ayes – motion carried. A comprehensive utility rate schedule is available upon request to the city.

Public Safety Aid

The city will receive \$47,435 in public safety aid from the state and discussion took place regarding how best to use the funds. City utilities and public works have need of gear and equipment for responding to emergencies in the road right of way including barricades, signs, cones, and high visibility gear. The police department provided estimates for solar powered radar signs to post on Highway 15. Foreman Brown recommended buying electric signs that work better in winter. **Motion made by Nickerson, seconded by Mosloski to approve \$2,700 for emergency response, and the balance split evenly between the police, fire and ambulance departments. All ayes – motion carried.**

Approval of License Renewals

Motion made by Mosloski, seconded by Kelley to approve renewal of sanitation licenses for Hometown Sanitation, Madelia Sanitation, Hansen Sanitation, and Waste Management, and tobacco licenses for Casey's General Store and Dollar General. All ayes – motion carried.

Resolution 2023-43 to Accept November Donations

Motion made by Nickerson, seconded by Truax to adopt Resolution 2023-43 to accept donations received in November. All ayes – motion carried.

Resolution 2023-42 to Contract with a City Official

Motion made by Kelley, seconded by Mosloski to adopt Resolution 2023-42 to contract with a city official. Councilor Truax abstained due to a conflict of interest. Motion carried 4-0.

Motion made by Mosloski, seconded by Kelley to approve payment of the balance on Truax Concrete Invoice 9023 of \$12,952.50. Councilor Truax abstained due to a conflict of interest. Motion carried 4-0.

Approval of Claims

Motion made by Kelley, seconded by Nickerson to approve payment of claims. All ayes – motion carried. Approved claims totaled \$81,434.54. Checks #41526 - #41558, ACH #710E - #717E, #501209E.

Old Business

The relief association retirement benefit was discussed. Mayor Ebert mentioned many cities are moving to the state program where the benefit is calculated according to the money contributed to the fund and no audit is required thereafter. The association is looking into that option. **Motion made by Mosloski, seconded by Nickerson to approve a \$50 increase to the retirement benefit paid by the Truman Fire Relief Association. Mayor Ebert, Councilors Kelley and Truax abstained due to a conflict of interest. Motion carried 2-0.**

Mayor Ebert reviewed the status of union negotiations with Law Enforcement Labor Services. The proposed 5.5% wage increase in each of the next two years was discussed and found to be accurate as previously proposed. **Motion made by Truax, seconded by Nickerson to approve the 2023–2025 Lels union agreement. All ayes – motion carried.**

New Business

Deputy Clerk Carol Becker reviewed a request for a refund of \$150 for an event planned at the Community Building that was canceled. **Motion made by Nickerson, seconded by Mosloski to approve the refund request. All ayes – motion carried.** The no refund policy will be in place going forward. Becker provided details of a grant application that was submitted that would cover the cost of concrete work and an automatic door opener at the Community Building. If not approved, a new round of funding will allow for another application next year.

Councilor Truax spoke about new grant opportunities that CEDA can apply for on behalf of the city. There is a webinar on the 12th that provides additional information and Councilor Kelley agreed to attend.

Street Superintendent Bosshart advised of a snow fence that extends across a sidewalk and the right of way that needs to be removed. Interim Chief Schutz will take care of it. Bosshart spoke about the charge to the baseball association for moving rock at their request, asking how it should be handled going forward. Members of the association will be invited to an upcoming meeting to discuss this and other matters.

Bosshart asked about the status of getting a dumpster to clean out the old police building, and to remove the wall to provide space to park the squad car. Schutz advised the evidence from Martin County hasn't been brought up yet so this was put on hold.

Motion made by Truax, seconded by Mosloski to adjourn. All ayes – motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:06 p.m.

Melissa Sirovy, City Clerk

12/4/2023

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