

**Truman City Council Minutes**  
**February 5, 2024**

The regular meeting was duly held at the Municipal Building Council Chambers on the 5<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2024 at 5:30 p.m.

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

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 Mike Schutz.

Also present: Barb Kubly, Brooke Wohlrabe Fairmont Sentinel, 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: Labor negotiations. **Motion made by Kelley, seconded by Nickerson to approve the agenda with the addition. All ayes - motion carried.**

Approve Minutes of Regular Meeting

**Motion made by Truax, seconded by Nickerson to approve minutes of the January 16, 2024 Regular Meeting. All ayes - motion carried.**

Public Comment

None.

Labor Negotiations

**Motion made by Kelley, seconded by Nickerson to move into closed session for labor negotiations pursuant to MN Statute 13D.03. All ayes – motion carried.** Interim Police Chief Schutz, City Clerk Sirovy, and Deputy Clerk Becker were present during the closed session.

**Motion made by Truax, seconded by Nickerson to reopen the meeting. All ayes – motion carried.** A workshop will be held on February 26<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m. to discuss police department matters.

Utility Department Business

Utility Foreman Brent Brown asked if the job description for maintenance worker provided at the last meeting was acceptable to post the utility job opening. **Motion made by Nickerson, seconded by Kelley to post the job opening as proposed. All ayes – motion carried.**

**Motion made by Kelley, seconded by Mosloski to approve a 4% cost of living wage adjustment for generation plant operator Mike Heckman. All ayes- motion carried.**

MN Para Transit has requested various updates to the building before they renew their lease that expired at the end of January. It was the consensus of the council that the city is not in a position to fulfill the requests. Councilor Nickerson agreed to speak to the lessee on the matter.

#### Sidewalk Snow Removal Ordinance 2024-01

Ordinance 2024-01 would allow a minimum of 48 hours following a snow event for residents to clear public sidewalks adjacent to their property. If there is a wind event, the allowed time begins after the wind diminishes. The policy and procedures for sidewalk snow removal will be provided to the contractor, who will be contacted by the city office when snow removal is deemed necessary for properties in violation. **Motion made by Kelley, seconded by Nickerson to adopt Ordinance 2024-01 to allow 48 hours for sidewalk snow removal. Councilor Truax abstained due to a conflict of interest. Motion carried 4-0. Motion made by Kelley, seconded by Mosloski to approve paying Truax Concrete invoices for \$2,080.00 using funds budgeted for street department repairs and maintenance. Councilor Truax abstained due to a conflict of interest. Motion carried 4-0**

#### Resolution 2024-09 Assignment of Equity

A schedule of equity reserves and details on additions and uses in 2023 were reviewed by council. The city contribution to the fire truck reserve will continue to be \$6,000 annually and township agreements currently stating it is \$5,000 will be amended as such. **Motion made by Truax, seconded by Kelley to adopt Resolution 2024-09 for assignment of equity as of December 31, 2023. All ayes – motion carried.**

#### 2024 Sealcoat Bids

**Motion made by Kelley, seconded by Nickerson to advertise for bids for sealcoat work, with a bid deadline of March 28, 2024. All ayes – motion carried.**

#### Approval of Claims

**Motion made by Nickerson, seconded by Kelley to approve payment of claims. All ayes – motion carried.** Approved claims totaled \$83,910.91. Checks #41699 - #41737, ACH #748E - #759E, #501277E.

#### Old Business

Councilor Kelley advised that Lynn Brownlee is applying for a grant to help fund a pickleball court. The estimate to remove the tennis court base is \$17,000 and it was questioned if the city could assist with the demolition process. Bosshart advised the city doesn't have the equipment needed for that work. Councilor Mosloski agreed to check with a contractor he knows to see if they could help.

There are 9 applicants for the administrative assistant position and the deadline is Friday. Councilor Truax will go through them to plan for interviews.

Regarding utilities at the school ball field, Mayor Ebert stated that utilities for the concession stand should be billed to the school. There were questions regarding which lights are owned by the school. The utility department will look into that. Discussion continued regarding a water line at the field that has required constant heat to prevent freezing. It has been winterized and the heat is off now.

The cost for utilities should be down to about \$2,000 per year. This item will be added to the next meeting agenda for further discussion.

Options for council chamber chairs were considered, with \$2,5000 in the budget for the purchase. Councilor Truax will check into other options and the matter will be discussed further at an upcoming meeting.

#### New Business

Barb Kubly was present on behalf of Kitzerow Repair to review a cost estimate to repair the 2015 squad car. The cost to replace a module, including labor and towing, is \$865.00. **Motion made by Truax, seconded by Nickerson to approve the work as proposed. All ayes – motion carried.**

Amber Patten with CEDA is requesting approval to proceed with the housing study, asking the city to approve paying the remaining cost of \$4,206 not covered by grants. **Motion made by Kelley, seconded by Nickerson to approve paying the remaining \$4,206 for the housing study. All ayes – motion carried.**

Street Superintendent Bosshart requested approval to rehire Danielle Williams for summer seasonal help. **Motion made by Nickerson, seconded by Kelley to approve rehiring Danielle Williams for the street department seasonal position at \$14.50 per hour. All ayes – motion carried.**

A status update was requested for cleanout and renovation of the police building. Schutz advised of a delay due to certain evidence in storage.

At the request of the fire department, a work session will be held on Wednesday, February 28<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m. for the council to meet with department members and township officials to discuss township contracts and other fire department business.

**Motion made by Kelley, seconded by Truax to adjourn. All ayes – motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 6:58 p.m.**

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Melissa Sirovy, City Clerk /Treasurer