

**Truman City Council Minutes**  
**February 6, 2023**

The regular meeting was duly held at the Municipal Building Council Chambers on the 6<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2023 at 5:30 p.m.

Present: Mayor Jake Ebert, Councilor Brian Nickerson, Councilor Ron Kelley, and Councilor Chris Mosloski.

Absent: Councilor Patty Truax.

Staff present: Police Chief Justin Jobe, City Clerk/Treasurer Melissa Sirovy, Deputy Clerk/Utility Billing Specialist Carol Becker, Street Superintendent John Bosshart, Utility Foreman Brent Brown, Assistant Ambulance Director Matt Lange, Fire Chief Dave Bentz.

Also Present: Brandon Mosloski, Kaleena Wiens, 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

General ambulance business was added to agenda item 5. **Motion made by Nickerson, seconded by Kelley to approve the agenda with the addition. All ayes - motion carried.**

Minutes of Regular Meeting

**Motion made by Nickerson, seconded by Mosloski to approve minutes of the January 17, 2023 Regular Meeting. All ayes - motion carried.**

Public Comment

None.

Ambulance Business

Assistant Director Matt Lange provided 2023 officer selections for council approval. Director Joshua Kitzerow, Assistant Director Matt Lange, Captains Ramona Wiehe, Barb Kubly, Curtis Hodge, Secretary Josh Tonkin. **Motion made by Nickerson, seconded by Kelley to approve Ambulance Department officers for 2023. All ayes – motion carried.** Lange recommended approval to hire Kiley Graham, pending completion of school and the EMT program. **Motion made by Nickerson, seconded by Kelley to approve hiring Kiley Graham upon completion of school and EMT training. All Ayes – motion carried.**

## Fire Department Business

Chief Dave Bentz reviewed information from the recent meeting with township officials. Discussion centered around the purchase of a rescue truck at an estimated cost of \$250,000, with proposed use of \$70,000 from the truck fund. Past truck purchases were made with reserve funds, assistance from the relief association, and the city and townships split the balance. Relief Treasurer Brandon Mosloski advised the relief association could pick up the cost to outfit the new rescue, and the purchase cost in excess of \$250,000, if any. The old rescue will be sold once the new rig is in service. The next fire truck purchase is projected for 2033. Bentz advocated an increase in township rates in 2024, with the additional revenue to be added to the truck fund. Further discussion will take place at the next council meeting on February 21<sup>st</sup> for a decision so townships can be provided financial information for their March meeting.

## Seal Coat Project

Information was provided to council for the proposed 2023 seal coat project. **Motion made by Kelley, seconded by Mosloski to approve advertising for bids for the seal coat work as proposed. All ayes – motion carried.**

## Utility Department

Utility Foreman Brent Brown reviewed the green energy initiative, legislation that will increase rates and adversely affect energy generation in emergencies. Truman is under contract for power until 2040, the majority of which comes from coal. He suggested that city officials contact state representatives to convey their concern. Brown recommended adding LED lighting in the council chambers using available grant money, leaving the city to pay approximately \$500. **Motion made by Nickerson, seconded by Kelley to approve the work. All ayes – motion carried.** The library and the fire hall will be evaluated next. Information was provided to council to clarify city policy for ownership and responsibilities of water lines and curb stops that they can share with residents as issues arise. A letter from MN Para Transit was reviewed which requests various repair work in the space they lease from the city. The thresholds have been ordered and will be replaced, as will stained ceiling tiles. The carpet will be inspected, with pictures brought back to the council. It was noted the council may want to look at policies regarding allowing smoking and pets in city buildings. Utility expenses at the municipal building and the ball field were reviewed with council. Utilities at the Municipal Building are split between the departments using the building, with the exception of the fire department. The city bill averages \$1017 per month and gas averages \$725.00. Utility charges at the ball field are currently paid by the city parks and recreation department. The cost for electric service is approximately \$1700, and water about \$1300. The baseball association might be able to help with those costs.

## Resolution 2023-05 Assignment of Equity

The schedule of assigned equity for year-end 2022 was reviewed. The balance assigned to the fire department truck reserve is less than anticipated because additions were not budgeted the past three years. Council requested additional information on this issue to consider at the next meeting, so adoption of the resolution was tabled until then.

### Approval of Claims

Submitted claims totaled \$54,243.62. Checks #40733, #40738- 40781, ACH #502e - 512e, #500814e. **Motion made by Kelley, seconded by Nickerson to approve payment of claims. All ayes - motion carried.**

### Approval of December 2022 Financial Statements

December financial statements were reviewed by council. It was noted that the cash deficit in the general fund is due to receiving the Martin County November Settlement in January, 2023. The net loss in the general fund is due to forgiveness of a loan to the sewer fund to avoid a rate increase.

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

### Old Business

The parks and rec manager position is being advertised and there has been some interest. A hiring committee was recommended to review applications that come in.

### New Business

The Martin County Assessor's office provided notification of the Local Board of Appeal and Equalization for Truman. It will be an Open Book Meeting held on Thursday, April 20<sup>th</sup>, at 5:00 p.m. at the Martin County Courthouse.

Street Superintendent John Bosshart reviewed an estimate of \$1500.00 from Schwickert's Roof Repair to fix the roof leak at the Community Building. **Motion made by Nickerson, seconded by Mosloski to approve the work as proposed. All ayes – motion carried.**

Council was advised of errors made to payroll deductions for AFLAC insurance in 2021 and 2022, to determine how to handle the shortfall. Council advised allowing those affected to repay the amount due over the next quarter.

Police Chief Justin Jobe reported that the printers in both squad cars quit working and he was able to obtain replacement printers and docking stations from another department at no cost.

Mayor Ebert informed the council that the school's insurance claim for water damage remains unresolved. Councilor Nickerson recommended contacting our state legislator and the insurance commissioner to look into it, which he agreed to do on behalf of the school.

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

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Melissa Sirovy, City Clerk