

**Truman City Council Minutes**  
**March 18, 2024**

The regular meeting was duly held at the Municipal Building Council Chambers on the 18<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2024 at 5:30 p.m.

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

Absent: None.

Staff present: Street Superintendent John Bosshart, Utility Foreman Brent Brown, City Clerk/Treasurer Melissa Sirovy, Deputy Clerk Carol Becker, Interim Police Chief Mike Schutz.

Also present: Cathy Sorenson, Faith Clow, Greg Burkhardt, Derek Behrens Bolton & Menk, Brooke Wohlrahe Fairmont Sentinel, Nikki Meyer 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

Changes or additions to the agenda: Add N 5<sup>th</sup> Street. **Motion made by Kelley, seconded by Nickerson to approve the agenda as amended. All ayes - motion carried.**

Approve Minutes of Regular and Special Meetings

**Motion made by Nickerson, seconded by Mosloski to approve minutes of the February 26, 2024 Special Meeting and the March 4, 2024 Regular Meeting. All ayes - motion carried.**

Public Comment

Cathy Sorenson asked about removing trees at the post office. The owner of the property has approved. Because the city does not remove trees on private property she will look for other options. Spruce Up Truman is applying for a grant to paint areas in need of improvement. Permission was requested and given to hang metal artwork at the library.

Greg Burkhardt 2023 Audit

The 2023 year-end audit was presented by auditor Greg Burkhardt with Burkhardt and Burkhardt. Management and council responsibilities were reviewed, along with reports on internal controls and MN Compliance. An unmodified clean audit opinion was issued. Brent Brown asked about an audit adjustment moving public safety aid out of the electric fund. Burkhardt stated the funds were intended for use in the general fund. If there is an approved use for the money in an enterprise fund, that fund could be reimbursed from the general fund. **Motion made by Nickerson, seconded by Kelley to accept the 2023 year end audit statement as presented. All ayes – motion carried.**

### Faith Clow Cemetery and Pool Business

Cemetery Commissioner Clow received a call concerning the \$600 maintenance fee charged for cemetery maintenance when a monument is purchased from another entity. The charge is listed on the rate sheet provided when burial plots are purchased. Consideration was given to placing a notice in the paper and adding a sign at the cemetery. It was recommended the fee be increased from \$600 to \$1,000 for double markers. **Motion made by Nickerson, seconded by Truax to approve keeping the maintenance fee for single markers at \$600, to increase the charge for double markers to \$1,000 effective June 1, 2024, and to allow only the City to set markers. All ayes – motion carried.**

A pool meeting is schedule for Wednesday to discuss the upcoming season. Two managers have agreed to work again this year. They are working on becoming certified to provide swimming lessons. Lessons may need to be scheduled for later in the summer.

### Residential Development & Highway 15 Sidewalk Project

Derek Behrens with Bolton & Menk provided a draft of the preliminary plat for the Jones Addition. It identifies 5 lots on Bau Court. Council advised the lot along 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue will be sold separately, and a 7<sup>th</sup> lot to the south of Bau Court will be included in the development. **Motion made by Truax, seconded by Nickerson to approve the preliminary plat as amended. All ayes – motion carried.** Discussion followed regarding water service to the addition. The watermain on 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue is fed by a 4” main, which limits fire suppression. It was recommended to add a block of watermain to loop the system to avoid that issue for an estimated cost of \$190,400. It would be installed in the boulevard to save on street repairs. The project will be bid to include that work to determine if it is affordable.

Behrens briefly spoke about an award letter from MNDOT advising that the City’s application for a grant from the Local Partnership Program was approved and will provide an estimated \$440,360 to install a portion of sidewalk along Highway 15. Construction is expected in 2025.

### Utility Department Business

Utility Foreman Brent Brown updated the council on matters regarding the generation plant. Pricing on roof repair is still pending. Urge Testing is scheduled for the morning of April 4<sup>th</sup>. Air emissions testing will take place in June and will use an estimated 2400 gallons of fuel over 1900 hours of testing. Two estimates were obtained to purchase additional fuel. That cost is in the budget so no council action was required. Pricing on a kill switch for the transformer is pending.

Consideration was given to designating various equipment as surplus to list for sale on an auction website. **Motion made by Truax, seconded by Mosloski to designate a 2003 Ford F550 service truck, a plow with wing, and a truck plow as surplus equipment to sell as stated. All ayes – motion carried.**

Council was advised that no applications have come in for the maintenance opening and data is still getting collected for consideration of adding a public works supervisor position. Heartland has a workforce development grant available and it was recommended that an application be submitted for the incoming administrative assistant. **Motion made by Nickerson, seconded by Mosloski to approve submitting the grant application as proposed. All ayes – motion carried.**

The water department was notified that a fire hydrant was damaged today when in use by the fire department to fill tankers. The estimated cost of a new hydrant is \$16,000. The clerk was asked to check on insurance coverage.

Mayor Ebert passed out information from the baseball association related to the school ballfield. Further discussion will take place at the next meeting.

### February Financial Statements

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

### Resolution 2024-13 to Accept January and February Donations

**Motion made by Nickerson, seconded by Mosloski to adopt Resolution 2024-13 to accept donations received in January and February. All ayes – motion carried.**

### Resolution 2024-14 to Accept Grant Funds

**Motion made by Nickerson, seconded by Truax to adopt Resolution 2024-14 to accept grant funds of \$4,500.00 from Heartland Energy to update lighting to LED at the power plant, and at city hall and the shop. 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 \$171,958.23. Checks #41806 - #41843, ACH #781E - #790E, #501322E, #501325E.

### Old Business

Shelby Wiederhoeft declined the offer of the administrative assistant position. Another applicant was interviewed and it was the recommendation of the committee to offer the position to Raquel Ebeling at the year 3 wage. **Motion made by Truax, seconded by Nickerson to offer the position of administrative assistant to Raquel Ebeling at the year 3 wage. All ayes – motion carried.**

One bid was received for mowing private nuisance properties over the coming season as directed. Terry Bentele bid \$65.00 per hour. **Motion made by Kelley, seconded by Nickerson to accept the bid. All ayes – motion carried.**

Mayor Ebert opened discussion regarding options previously considered for the police department; contracting for police services or advertising for applicants for the police chief position. Interim Chief Mike Schutz reiterated he is not interested in the position because he wants to remain in the union. Ebert noted that if a chief is hired, the budget does not have funding for two officers. Information was provided on the cost to contract with Martin County for public safety services. It was decided to place an ad to take applications for the chief position for three weeks. Pay will depend on experience and the individual must be willing to relocate.

In other police business, Schutz advised that evidence has been removed from the old police building so work can proceed to remove the wall. The 2015 squad car has been repaired and can be considered for designation as surplus equipment to sell. It was decided to wait on both matters until a decision is made regarding the department.

### New Business

Council considered an agreement from Dakota State University to conduct a cybersecurity assessment via the Heartland Project. **Motion made by Nickerson, seconded by Kelley to approve the agreement with Dakota State University as proposed. All ayes – motion carried.**

Councilor Nickerson asked about placing no thru trucks signs on 5<sup>th</sup> Street North to prevent trucks from running the stop sign. Bosshart noted the street is already marked with an axle weight limit. Motion made by Nickerson to approve adding the signs as proposed. Following discussion, Nickerson rescinded the motion to wait for more information from the street department.

Habitat for Humanity advised city staff that the house is expected to be moved into Truman in July. The property will be transferred to them prior to that time. They are looking for a lot for another project next year so the council will continue to look for options. Councilor Nickerson asked to have HFH contact him to discuss one option.

**Motion made by Nickerson, seconded by Truax to adjourn. All ayes – motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:52 p.m.**

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**Melissa Sirovy, City Clerk /Treasurer**