

## **Truman City Council Minutes March 20, 2023**

The regular meeting was duly held at the Municipal Building Council Chambers on the 20<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2023 at 5:30 p.m.

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

Absent: None.

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

Also Present: Greg Burkhardt Burkhardt and Burkhardt, Brook 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

Additions and changes to the agenda, Resolution 2023-09 to approve a funds transfer and the Bau property were added, item 6 property sale was removed. **Motion made by Truax, seconded by Nickerson to approve the agenda with changes. All ayes - motion carried.**

### Minutes of Regular Meeting

**Motion made by Truax, seconded by Nickerson to approve minutes of the March 6, 2023 regular meeting. All ayes - motion carried.**

### Public Comment

None.

### Greg Burkhardt 2022 Year-end Audit

Audit results were summarized, with a clean unmodified audit opinion issued. Management and auditor's responsibilities, internal controls, legal compliance, and required communications were reviewed and explained. Burkhardt advised of a new audit standard, GASB87, that requires additional audit work to examine lease agreements the city takes part in. It was recommended the council consider moving \$490,000 from assigned reserves to the unassigned fund balance to replenish the general fund. Cash balances as a whole are very good, but the fund balance is at 31%, which is lower than is required by city policy. Further, he recommended the city should continue to evaluate utility rates to ensure adequate future cash flow.

## Fire Department Business

Fire Chief Dave Bentz advised that department members attended township meetings and they are on board with the proposed rescue truck purchase. Section fees were discussed and need to be set for 2024. Bentz met with Minnesota West to review three properties for proposed training burns. The house on 1<sup>st</sup> Street is scheduled to be burned on April 27<sup>th</sup>. STS will be contacted to empty the house and clear brush. The Bau house will be scheduled to burn when it is cleaned out. The third property is unsafe for training so it can't be burned. The department received a resignation from Jason Nickerson. **Motion made by Truax, seconded by Mosloski to accept the resignation from Jason Nickerson. All ayes – motion carried.** Profinium is willing to finance the rescue truck purchase at 4.9% interest for up to 7 years. No action was taken on the matter.

## Utility Department

Utility Foreman Brent Brown notified the council that all repair work has been completed in the space leased to MN Para, with the exception of carpet replacement. The estimated cost for that is \$2,510. After consulting with the tenant, Brown recommended the carpet not be replaced at this time. Discussion took place regarding operation of the generation plant. A former employee of the city is willing to work part-time to maintain the plant and he would provide training to current city employees. The position would be for 4 hours per week on average, at the journeyman wage, for an approximate annual cost of \$9,000. **Motion made by Truax, seconded by Mosloski to approve hiring Mike Heckman for the position as proposed. All ayes – motion carried.**

## February 2023 Financial Statements

**Motion made by Truax, seconded by Kelley to approve February 2023 financial statements as presented. All ayes – motion carried.**

## Approval of Claims

Submitted claims totaled \$232,241.49. Checks #40854 – 40893, ACH #531e - 541e, #500860e, and EDA Checks #11426 - 11427. **Motion made by Truax, seconded by Nickerson to approve payment of claims. All ayes - motion carried.**

## Old Business

A revised bid sheet was considered for removal of the house on 1<sup>st</sup> Street. It includes a bid if the house is burned, and a second bid for demolition and removal of debris, to determine which is more cost effective. Council approved the bid sheet to accept bids until Friday, April 14, 2023.

Mayor Ebert recommended putting off discussion on campground expansion to schedule a work session. A work session will be held on Monday, March 27, 2023 beginning at 4:00 pm to discuss campground expansion, fire township contracts and the rescue truck purchase, police department business, Community Building rental policies, and streets & truck routes.

## New Business

Renewal of the property and liability insurance policy was discussed. Due to significant rate increases, it was recommended the council consider increasing the deductible from \$250 to \$1,000, and also to drop medical payments that provide a very limited amount for injuries occurring on city owned property for which the city is not liable. The changes would save the city approximately \$7,500. **Motion made by Nickerson, seconded by Truax to approve an increase of the insurance deductible to \$1,000. All Ayes – motion carried.**

3/20/2023

Resolutions 2023-09 to Approve Fund Transfer

**Motion made by Truax, seconded by Mosloski to adopt Resolutions 2023-09 to approve a transfer from savings to checking in the Residential Development Reserve Fund of \$15,000. All ayes – motion carried.**

Councilor Nickerson advised he would like signs reinstalled on the highway to enforce noise laws. Bosshart will check with the State to get permission.

A count was taken of dumpsters on residential property and there are 6 or 7. Discussion followed regarding whether they should be allowed on residential property at all. Chief Jobe will continue to monitor the situation and will deal with problems that arise.

**Motion made by Truax, seconded by Mosloski to adjourn. All ayes – motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.**

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Melissa Sirovy, City Clerk