

Truman City Council Minutes **April 17, 2023**

The regular meeting was duly held at the Municipal Building Council Chambers on the 17th day of April, 2023 at 5:30 p.m.

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

Absent: None.

Staff present: Utility Foreman Brent Brown, City Clerk/Treasurer Melissa Sirovy, Deputy Clerk/Utility Billing Specialist Carol Becker, Street Superintendent John Bosshart, Fire Chief Dave Bentz, Interim Police Chief Michael Schutz.

Also Present: Amber Patten Martin County Economic Development, Nancy Salic and Jess Urban Truman Days, Brandon Mosloski Fire Relief Treasurer, 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

Motion made by Nickerson, seconded by Truax to approve the agenda. All ayes - motion carried.

Minutes of Regular Meeting and Special Meeting

A correction was made to the councilor making the motion to adjourn the April 3, 2023 regular meeting from Truax to Nickerson. **Motion made by Nickerson, seconded by Kelley to approve minutes of the April 3, 2023 regular council meeting with the correction, and minutes of the April 12th special meeting. All ayes - motion carried.**

Public Comment

Brandon Mosloski addressed the council to ask about donations made to the relief association versus those made to the fire department. Donations coming in as a result of fundraising get deposited by the relief association, although a couple of donations that came to the city were deposited to the city general fund and designated for use by the department. He is waiting for a response from the auditor regarding the procedure for checks made payable to city departments rather than the relief association.

Amber Patten Martin County Economic Development

Information was shared regarding how the EDA can assist in promoting the city to bring people to Truman for celebrations, to use city facilities, and to support local businesses. Grant writing assistance is also available.

Truman Days Update

Nancy Salic and Jess Urban shared information about ongoing plans for the celebration. Assistance is needed with managing trash and bathroom upkeep during the event. Councilors Mosloski and Kelley, and Chad Truax, will help with trash management this year. Barricades are provided to block streets by the park, but they are either not getting set out or they are getting moved, causing problems particularly for the horse drawn wagons.

Utility Department

Utility Foreman Brent Brown advised that the necessary easements have been drafted and it was recommended to move forward with the sale of the transmission lines to ITC. **Motion made by Kelley, seconded by Nickerson to approve moving forward with the sale of the transmission lines to ITC as recommended. All ayes – motion carried.**

The policies and rules handbook that was given to the council at an earlier meeting was briefly reviewed for any questions. It will be added to the next meeting agenda for approval.

The campground expansion project will be ready to be sent out for bids next week. Bid opening will be held on Wednesday, May 10th, with the low bid brought to the council to approve at the Monday, May 15th meeting. Bid opening will take place virtually at 2:00 P.M. on May 10th.

Bids for House Demolition Project

Three bids came in for demolition of the house on W 1st Street S. Bids included both demolition of the house or removal of debris after the house is burned, along with capping a hazardous well on the property. The lowest bid was from Rosburg Construction to remove debris following the house burn at a cost of \$12,000, along with capping the well for \$1,800. **Motion made by Kelley, seconded by Nickerson to accept the bid from Rosburg Construction to remove debris after the house burn and to cap the well. All Ayes – motion carried.**

Rural Service District Hearing

Motion made by Nickerson, seconded by Mosloski to set the Rural Service District Hearing date of Monday, June 5, 2023 at 5:30 P.M. All ayes – motion carried.

Approval of Claims

Submitted claims totaled \$188,224.17. Checks #40917 – 40959, ACH #552e - 560e, #500882e & #500886e, EDA Check #11429. **Motion made by Truax, seconded by Nickerson to approve payment of claims. All ayes - motion carried.**

Approve March Financials

Motion made by Nickerson, seconded by Truax to approve March Financials as presented. All ayes – motion carried.

Residential Development Planning

Council reviewed drawings for various options to decide the best area to begin developing residential lots to sell. It was decided to have Bolton & Menk design 5 or 6 lots on the Bau property. The scope of work will be determined after contacting engineers.

Old Business

An update was provided regarding the police department. Unions are conferring on the possibility of having the chief as a member. Once that is clarified, Mayor Ebert and Councilor Nickerson will meet with them to negotiate wages and benefits.

Councilor Truax advised the pool commission has a meeting scheduled for Tuesday, April 18 to begin working on plans for the pool opening.

New Business

Foreman Brown asked about plans to manage ash trees with regard to the ash borer infestation in the area. The DNR has a grant available with a 25% match to assist cities with removal and replacement of trees on city property. Approval was given to apply for the grant when the application period opens. It was recommended that a tree ordinance be drafted to detail responsibilities for ash trees in the city.

Superintendent Bosshart provided an estimate for the cost to replace grass with concrete in the boulevard in front of the Community Building. It was noted that the ramp on the sidewalk and the top step to the building also need work. It was decided to budget for the work in 2024.

Motion made by Nickerson, seconded by Truax to go into closed session for labor negotiations related to the utility worker position pursuant to MN Statute 13D.03. All ayes – motion carried. Others present during the closed session included City Clerk Melissa Sirovy, Deputy Clerk Carol Becker and Utility Foreman Brent Brown. The closed session was recorded.

Motion made by Kelley, seconded by Nickerson to reopen the meeting. All ayes – motion carried.

Motion made by Kelley, seconded by Nickerson to offer the utility worker position to Calob Prange. All ayes – motion carried.

Motion made by Kelley, seconded by Nickerson to begin Prange on Step 3 of the wage scale. All ayes – motion carried.

Options for adding a lock box for donations at the community building were considered. Approval was given to place the order.

Motion made by Truax, seconded by Nickerson to adjourn. All ayes – motion carried.
Meeting adjourned at 7:22 p.m.

Melissa Sirovy, City Clerk