

## **Truman City Council Minutes May 1, 2023**

The regular meeting was duly held at the Municipal Building Council Chambers on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of May, 2023 at 5:30 p.m.

Present: Mayor Jake Ebert, Councilors Brian Nickerson, Ron Kelley, Patty Truax, and 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, Interim Police Chief Michael Schutz.

Also Present: TJ Williams, Faith Clow, 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; water filter project pay request, grants, campground software, PUC Commission. **Motion made by Truax, seconded by Kelley to approve the agenda with additions. All ayes - motion carried.**

### Approve Minutes of Regular Meeting

An addendum was made regarding Truman Days; Councilors Kelley and Mosloski, and Chad Truax, will assist with managing garbage during the festival. **Motion made by Nickerson, seconded by Truax to approve minutes of the April 17, 2023 regular council meeting with the addition. All ayes - motion carried.**

### Public Comment

TJ Williams requested use of city property for a grass volleyball league he is working to set up. **Motion made by Nickerson, seconded by Truax to approve the use of city property for the league as proposed. All ayes – motion carried.**

### Utility Department

Utility Foreman Brent Brown advised that the jetter truck gear box is inoperative . The cost to replace it is \$11,000, and a new strainer will need to be manufactured, taking 6-8 weeks. Parts will cost about \$15,000, plus labor. A local contractor is willing to look at it to see if it is worth repairing. They have a 2008 jetter that may be available next year for around \$100,000. Jetter work could be hired out temporarily and council requested a quote for that service to be brought to the next meeting.

Safety training through MMUA will cost \$14,219 this year, and cities in the area are looking into sharing a trainer to cut costs. Co-oping with Madelia would cost \$4,200, split between Truman and Amboy. A portion of the savings could be used to obtain safety equipment. A 50/50 OSHA grant application will also be submitted for that purpose. **Motion made by Kelley, seconded by Mosloski to approve leaving the MMUA safety training program and co-oping with Madelia as proposed. All ayes – motion carried.**

Amendments to Chapter IV Public Utilities Ordinances were considered to combine and clarify existing regulations of the PUC and City. The cost to publish is \$600. **Motion made by Truax, seconded by Nickerson to introduce the ordinance, and approve publishing the entire text. All ayes – motion carried.** It will be considered for adoption at the next meeting.

The utility policies and rules handbook was considered for adoption. The fee schedule includes a charge for manual meter reads and a reduction of utility penalties from 10% to 5% of the full overdue balance. The water connection fee will be set at a later time. **Motion made by Nickerson, seconded by Mosloski to adopt the utility handbook as proposed. All ayes – motion carried.**

Pay request #2 was considered for work completed on the water filter project by Rubin Construction. **Motion made by Nickerson, seconded by Truax to approve the request for payment. All ayes – motion carried.**

Council was advised a contractor will be replacing a broken water valve and capping a leaking hydrant. Water service may be disrupted in the area during that time. Engineers estimates for the campground expansion project were provided to council. Councilor Kelley asked why the PUC and city public works departments have not been streamlined as intended when the PUC was dissolved. Rather than heating two shops, council directed staff begin using the street shop for cold storage, and street department staff to begin working out of the utility shop.

#### Internal Control Policy Review

A revised Internal Control Policy was provided to council. The city and PUC had separate policies, and the revision combines them, giving consideration for the office structure at this time. Council and staff were asked to provide comments, with the revised policy brought to the next meeting for further discussion. The policy was sent to the city auditor for comment, and if desired, a full review could be done for an estimated cost of \$600.

#### Resolution 2023-11 to Accept Donation

**Motion made by Truax, seconded by Nickerson to adopt Resolution 2023-11 to accept a contribution of \$4,669.57 from the Truman Fire Relief Association. All ayes – motion carried.**

#### Resolution 2023-12 to Amend the 2023 Budget

**Motion made by Truax, seconded by Kelley to adopt Resolution 2023-12 to approve amending the 2023 Water Fund budget to include revenue from the infrastructure fee and bond interest expense for the 2022A bond issue. All ayes – motion carried.**

#### Approval of Claims

Submitted claims totaled \$128,881.80. Checks #40960 – 40984, ACH #561e - 569e, #500898e & #500901e. **Motion made by Nickerson, seconded by Truax to approve payment of claims. All ayes - motion carried.**

## Old Business

Residential development was briefly discussed, with additional information to be provided at the next meeting.

Interim Police Chief Michael Schutz provided a department update. It has been determined that as an essential employee, a police chief not supervising other officers is ineligible for membership in either the LELS or IBEW unions. Schutz is checking in to other unions recommended by LELS. Negotiations with Schutz will continue while union membership is resolved. Ordinance violations are being addressed, as are property complaints that have been received. Discussed the new squad on order for the police department. The former police building needs to be cleaned out and walls removed for space to park squad cars. Schutz will contact Martin County to determine what to do with evidence stored in the building. Ebert and Mosloski agreed to look at the building to determine if the walls can be safely removed. **Motion made by Truax, seconded by Nickerson to cancel the order for the new squad. All ayes- motion carried.** The city clerk will contact the dealership.

Faith Clow addressed the council regarding the pool. There are 4 lifeguards hired to date, three coming back from last year, and one new applicant who will need training. There is one applicant to interview for the pool manager position. The applicant has no previous experience, and none of the lifeguards are certified to give lessons. It was decided to run another ad for lifeguards and a manager and to pay for the cost of training. Chemicals and supplies need to be ordered soon. Staff will check with suppliers on lead time. Approval was given to get rid of the pop machine.

## New Business

Discussed a proposal from Bolton & Menk to update city maps. **Motion made by Truax, seconded by Nickerson to approve the work proposed. All ayes – motion carried.**

Considered a request Shane Nelson to use the community building for an event at no charge. **Motion made by Nickerson, seconded by Truax to approve the request. All ayes – motion carried.**

There are no funds available in this year's budget to replace chairs in the council chambers. The cost will be considered for the 2024 budget.

Councilor Kelley spoke to Amber Patten with the Martin County EDA regarding grant opportunities for various projects. Information will be brought back to an upcoming meeting for discussion.

Requests for proposals were sent to various vendors for campground management software. The information received from those who responded will be sent to council for discussion at an upcoming meeting.

**Motion made by Truax, seconded by Nickerson to adjourn. All ayes – motion carried.  
Meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m.**

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**Melissa Sirovy, City Clerk**