

Truman City Council Minutes
May 15, 2023

The regular meeting was duly held at the Municipal Building Council Chambers on the 15th 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, Fire Chief Dave Bentz, Assistant Ambulance Director Matt Lange.

Also Present: Troy Nemmers City Engineer, Tosha Davis, Nate Bond, Dani Williams, Faith Clow, Dave and Kris Rode, Brandon Mosloski, Kirsten Bressler, 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; Ambulance Department, Main Street Parking, Municipal Liquor Store, Highway 15 Sidewalks. **Motion made by Truax, seconded by Nickerson to approve the agenda with additions. All ayes - motion carried.**

Approve Minutes of Regular Meeting

Motion made by Kelley, seconded by Truax to approve minutes of the May 1, 2023 regular council meeting. All ayes - motion carried.

Public Comment

Dave Rode spoke about storm water backing up into his yard, requesting the storm drain be jetted. Mayor Ebert advised staff to call Beemer to have them jet the line to resolve the problem.

Nate Bond asked about the drain Tosha Davis has in her basement that may be connected to the city storm sewer. It was capped inside but it didn't hold. Bosshart will look at the catch basin to see if the drain line is connected and cap it if it is. Tosha Davis asked about teens that are causing problems in the park. Interim Chief Schutz asked for those witnessing the problem to call the law enforcement center at the time of the incident.

Assistant Ambulance Director Matt Lange was present to recommend hiring Cody Wiens as an EMT, pending a successful background check and completion of training. **Motion made by Nickerson, seconded by Kelley to approve hiring Cody Wiens as requested. All ayes – motion carried.**

Fire Chief Dave Bentz and Brandon Mosloski addressed the council to talk about donations coming to the fire department and the relief association. Council requested the auditor be invited to attend the next meeting to discuss further. Bentz asked for confirmation that city policy pays an advance per diem for up to four members to attend fire conferences. Council confirmed that is city policy. The request for payment needs to be made in writing. The city pays for motel rooms as well. Council was advised that two pumps failed testing and the estimated repair cost is \$8,700.

Campground Expansion Bids

Troy Nemmers with Bolton & Menk reviewed bids that were opened May 10th. The bid request included two options. Option A is the complete project to add 28 campsites and Option B is for 10 sites. Four bids were received. Holtmeier Construction was the low bidder for both options: Option A \$327,867.15 and Option B \$236,684.75. Additional project cost estimates include engineering of \$10,000-\$35,000, Electrical of \$50,000, and tables/fire-rings for \$25,000. The DNR has a grant available with a 50/50 cost share. Bolton & Menk can write the grant for \$7,000. Applications are due in March, 2024, are awarded in August, and construction could proceed in 2025. No action was taken on the matter.

Professional Services Agreement

Nemmers reviewed an engineering services agreement that will provide 16 hours of services per month at a reduced rate of \$95 per hour, with task orders written for larger projects to detail specific services and the cost. It is an annual agreement, with the initial one covering the remainder of 2023. **Motion made by Kelley, seconded by Truax to enter into the agreement with Bolton & Menk as proposed. All ayes – motion carried.**

Residential Development Planning

Nemmers reviewed a map Bolton & Menk developed in 2021 for the proposed development area. He recommended drafting preliminary cost estimates for various portions of the project. Discussion included the location of infrastructure, options for lot locations, and if the city would develop the area to sell lots or plat the area to sell lots with a developers agreement for infrastructure. Council desires to plat the area and sell lots before adding infrastructure. **Motion made by Truax, seconded by Kelley to have Bolton & Menk draft a task order to consider. All ayes – motion carried.**

Utility Business

Foreman Brent Brown advised council of pending repair orders. A transformer may need to be replaced, pending inspection. It might be possible to buy one from another community. The cost is expected to be under \$100,000. The jetter truck is getting inspected by a local contractor for possible repair, depending on the cause of the gear box damage. In the interim, the cost to hire out for jetting is about \$5,000 per day. Jetting sewer lines generally takes 2-3 days, with additional time required for incidental work and storm sewer jetting. It was decided that repair or replacement of the city jetter would be the most cost effective.

Ordinance 2023-03 to Amend Chapter IV Public Utilities

Motion made by Truax, seconded by Nickerson to adopt Ordinance 2023-03 to amend Chapter IV Public Utilities . All ayes – motion carried.

Resolution 2023-13 to Accept Donations

Motion made by Nickerson, seconded by Truax to adopt Resolution 2023-13 to accept April donations. All ayes – motion carried.

Resolution 2023-14 to Contract with a City Official

Motion made by Truax, seconded by Mosloski to adopt Resolution 2023-14 to contract with a city official. All ayes – motion carried.

Approval of Claims

Submitted claims totaled \$193,222.29. Checks #40985 – 41036, ACH #570e - 578e, ACH #500916e, EDA Check #11430. **Motion made by Truax, seconded by Kelley to approve payment of claims. All ayes - motion carried.**

Old Business

Councilor Truax provided a pool update. Pool cleaning will be done on May 31st, with opening anticipated on June 3rd. There currently is no one certified for lessons, so they may not be held this year. An interview is pending for a pool manager and the person hired for that position may be certified to oversee lessons. Water aerobics are pending finding someone to teach the class.

New Business

The contract with the City of Northrop for police services was reviewed for years 2023-2024. There was a verbal agreement in place for the rate this year to be \$45 per hour, but payments are coming in at the old rate of \$40. It was decided as part of the 2023 budget process to increase the rate in increments to bring the rate up to the cost of providing the service of \$60 per hour. The proposed rate for 2024 is \$50 per hour. **Motion made by Mosloski, seconded by Truax to approve update of the written contract charging \$45 per hour in 2023, \$50 per hour in 2024, and with incremental increases annually thereafter. All ayes – motion carried.** The rate charged will be reevaluated annually after it reaches \$60 per hour.

Councilor Kelley asked the council for their thoughts on establishing a municipal liquor store. Aardvark's is for sale and it may have potential to raise revenue for the city. A public hearing is one of the requirements for this to happen. A work session will be held on June 12th to discuss further.

Councilor Kelly asked about lifting restrictions for parking on Ciro Street for those living in the business district. Staff will look into drafting an ordinance amendment to allow residential parking for consideration at the next meeting.

Council asked for an update on the prospect of adding a sidewalk along Highway 15. Bosshart advised he is working with the State on the matter and more information is forthcoming.

**Motion made by Truax, seconded by Nickerson to adjourn. All ayes – motion carried.
Meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.**

Melissa Sirovy, City Clerk