

**Truman City Council Minutes**  
**June 20, 2023**

The regular meeting was duly held at the Municipal Building Fire Department meeting room on the 20<sup>th</sup> day of June, 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, Street Superintendent John Bosshart, City Clerk/Treasurer Melissa Sirovy, Utility Billing Specialist/Deputy Clerk Carol Becker, Interim Police Chief Mike Schutz.

Also present: Danielle Williams, Steve Carson, Kirk and Laura Langvardt, Mark Durkee, Jodi Graplar, Carl Vogt, Belinda Kitzerow, Derrick Greiner City Attorney, Staci Thompson Habitat for Humanity, Troy Nemmers Bolton & Menk.

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; Public works, EDA grants, Police department, Residential development, Campground monitoring. **Motion made by Truax, seconded by Kelley to approve the agenda with additions. All ayes - motion carried.**

Approve Minutes of Regular Meeting and Work Session

**Motion made by Kelley, seconded by Mosloski to approve minutes of the June 5, 2023 regular council meeting and the June 13, 2023 work session. All ayes - motion carried.**

Public Comment

Mark Durkee, Kirk and Laura Langvardt, and Jodi Graplar addressed the council regarding a nuisance property on 4<sup>th</sup> Street. Numerous ordinance violations exist and citations have been issued. Steve Carson was present and offered to assist the city at no cost with ordinance and nuisance enforcement like he does for other cities. Council accepted his proposal for assistance. Carson will work with the police department, city attorney, and the building inspector to abate the violations on 4<sup>th</sup> Street and other problems as they occur. Residents present were asked to call law enforcement as violations occur to help build a case on the 4<sup>th</sup> Street property.

Belinda Kitzerow was present regarding a hazardous property letter she received. The same issue had been addressed in 2022 with no improvements having been made. Kitzerow advised she will be consulting with a contractor to demolish the house and she agreed to keep the city informed of the progress.

Staci Thompson with Habitat for Humanity of Martin & Faribault Counties

Thompson offered information about programs the organization administers. They have an opportunity to move a donated house onto an available lot and would like to bring it to Truman. It could be a publicly owned lot or privately owned and donated as a tax deduction. They want to have a property in place by fall, with groundbreaking in spring of 2024. The council voiced support for the project and will look for property to utilize.

Ordinance 2023-02 to Amend the Rural and Urban Service District

**Motion made by Truax, seconded by Nickerson to adopt Ordinance 2023-02 to Amend the Rural and Urban Service District. All ayes – motion carried**

**Motion made by Truax, seconded by Nickerson to approve publishing a summary version of Ordinance 2023-02. All ayes – motion carried.** The ordinance is available in its entirety at City Hall.

City Attorney Proposal for Services

City Attorney Derrick Greiner advised the council he is resigning from his position with Krahmer, Shaffer, and Edmundson and that there are no attorneys with the firm who wish to provide municipal legal services. Greiner is opening his own law firm and is interested in continuing to provide this service, either under a \$1000.00 monthly retainer or on an hourly basis as it is now. **Motion made by Kelley, seconded by Truax to retain the services of Derrick Greiner as City Attorney on an hourly basis at his new law firm Axxess Legal & Tax Solutions. All ayes – motion carried.**

Revised Personnel Policy for Non-Union Employees

Council considered revisions to the personnel policy to make it consistent with the IBEW union agreement. The city attorney read through the revisions and advised they are acceptable and in line with the union agreement. **Motion made by Kelley, seconded by Truax to approve and adopt the revised personnel policy as proposed. All ayes – motion carried.**

Police Department Business

Council discussed wages and benefits for the police chief/interim police chief position. Schutz is still a member of the LELS Union, but can't be if promoted to chief. He is looking at other unions that will represent him. Schutz was named interim chief on April 17, 2023 and a wage adjustment retroactive to that date was considered. Attorney Greiner advised against having an employment contract for the position because it removes the 'at will' terms of employment. The proposed wage starting April 17<sup>th</sup> was \$31.23, and \$36.23 after six months' probation. Sick leave accrual and payout policy in the revised personnel policy were also discussed. **Motion made by Kelley, seconded by Mosloski to set the wage for Schutz as Interim Police Chief at \$31.23 retroactive to April 17<sup>th</sup>. All ayes – motion carried.** Further discussion on the position and wage will take place in September when the probationary period has ended.

Utility Business

Utility Foreman Brent Brown provided a department update. The jetter truck is back in service and sewer lines will be jettted soon. A trash pump has been temporarily repaired but will need to be replaced in the near future. Options are being explored. The water filter project is nearing completion. It will be backwashed and disinfected this week and put back in service.

### Ordinance 2023-04 to Amend Parking Regulations

**Motion made by Truax, seconded by Kelley to adopt Ordinance 2023-04 to amend parking regulations and winter parking limitations on Ciro Street. All ayes – motion carried.**

### April Financial Statements

The city clerk reviewed details from the April, 2023 financial statements. Ambulance revenue is not included due to problems with the billing service transitioning to a new system. **Motion made by Kelley, seconded by Truax to approve the April financial statements as presented. All ayes – motion carried.**

### Resolution 2023-16 to Authorize Investment

Profinium's interest rates for certificates of deposit were considered for investment of funds from several savings accounts. **Motion made by Kelley, seconded by Mosloski to adopt Resolution 2023-16 to authorize investment of funds as proposed, in two certificates of deposit, each with a one year term. All Ayes – motion carried.**

### Resolution 2023-20 to Accept June Donations

**Motion made by Nickerson, seconded by Truax to adopt Resolution 2023-20 to accept donations received in June. All ayes – motion carried.**

### Approval of Claims

Submitted claims totaled \$190,640.21 Checks #41093 – #41094, #41096 - #41135, ACH #595e – 604e, ACH #500959e, #500967e. **Motion made by Kelley, seconded by Nickerson to approve payment of claims. All ayes - motion carried.**

### Old Business

Campground expansion bids first considered at the May 15<sup>th</sup> council meeting were reviewed. Councilor Nickerson stated he believes the bids are all high and he would like to reach out to other contractors. **Motion made by Nickerson, seconded by Kelley to reject the bids received for campground expansion. All ayes – motion carried.**

MnDot provided the cost for installation of noise enforcement signs on Highway 15 of \$1,508 each, and the city would be required to adopt a resolution vowing to enforce noise laws. No action was taken.

### New Business

Hazardous and nuisance properties were discussed. Two properties of concern will be forwarded to Steve Carson. The city attorney agreed to meet with the county judge to determine how best to pursue abatement of hazardous property matters.

The campground was briefly discussed regarding monitoring registration of campers and collection of receipts on weekends when no officer is on duty. This will be added to the next meeting agenda.

Councilor Kelley reported that a meeting will take place on Friday at 3 pm to go over grant opportunities with Amber Patten from the Martin County EDA. Councilor Truax and the city clerk will also attend.

Councilor Kelley asked about the structure of the public works department. Who is responsible for management of various departments, is city equipment made available to be used by all departments, and why the street and parks departments operate from a separate building. The council ultimately wants one person in charge of public works and everyone operating out of one building.

Interim Chief Schutz was asked how it has been going working with the Martin County Sherriff's department in his new position. The County has asked for a copy of his schedule so they know who is on call. Schutz advised he gave them his work schedule through August when he became interim chief. There is uncertainty as to calls for service that the county will respond to. Mayor Ebert spoke to the county and they will be providing details on the coordination of services in the near future.

**Motion made by Truax, seconded by Nickerson to adjourn. All ayes – motion carried.  
Meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.**

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**Melissa Sirovy, City Clerk**