

Truman City Council Minutes
July 17, 2023

The regular meeting was duly held at the Municipal Building fire department meeting room on the 17th day of July, 2023 at 5:30 p.m.

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

Absent: None.

Staff present: Street Superintendent John Bosshart, City Clerk/Treasurer Melissa Sirovy, Utility Billing Specialist/Deputy Clerk Carol Becker, Fire Chief Dave Bentz.

Also present: Lynn Brownlee, Nancy Salic, Jess Urban, Joseph Kreiss Truman Tribune, Brooke Wohlrabe Fairmont Sentinel.

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; Grocery store property. **Motion made by Truax, seconded by Kelley to approve the agenda with the addition. All ayes - motion carried.**

Approve Minutes of Regular Meeting

Motion made by Kelley, seconded by Truax to approve minutes of the July 5, 2023 regular council meeting. All ayes - motion carried.

Public Comment

None.

City Auditor Greg Burkhardt to Review Donation Regulations

Burkhardt reviewed laws regulating donations made to the fire department and the fire relief association. Only the relief association is allowed to fundraise and those donations should be made to the relief association not the fire department. The city council can accept tax deductible donations for the fire department by adopting a resolution that specifies how the donation is to be used. When unsolicited donations come into the city made out to the fire department, there is uncertainty about where the donation is meant to go. Burkhardt recommended that the relief association educate the public that donations to them need to be made to the relief association specifically. He suggested envelopes could be provided so those donations are directed to the relief association. It was decided that when donations come into the city, they be held to provide time for the fire chief to call the donor to establish which entity they want the donation to go to. The chief will advise the city of the donor's choice. Burkhardt was not concerned about the relief association depositing checks made out to the City of Truman fire department if that is the donor's intention.

Truman Days Update

Nancy Salic, Jess Urban and Lynn Brownlee provided information about the upcoming event. Discussion included maintenance of the welcome signs on the highway, street closure plans, and power needed for the 40 vendors expected. Picnic tables have been painted, but because the paint always peels, Councilor Nickerson offered the use of sand blasting equipment to remove the old paint before they are painted next year. Fire Chief Dave Bentz spoke about a request for the department to spearhead a fireworks program for next year. Fairmont spends about \$25,000 and the display company gets 10% . Bentz recommended that amount as the fundraising goal. **Motion made by Nickerson, seconded by Truax to approve moving forward with planning and fundraising for fireworks in 2024. All ayes – motion carried.**

Ordinance 2023-05 to Amend Chapter IX Building and Land Use, Section 901.08 City Housing Code

The ordinance provides minimum standards for buildings to assist the city in pursuing hazardous and nuisance properties for abatement. **Motion made by Kelley, seconded by Truax to introduce Ordinance 2023-05, City Housing Code. All ayes – motion carried.** The ordinance will be considered for adoption at the August 7th council meeting.

Utility Business

Utility Foreman Brent Brown was unable to be present due to an issue at the power plant. Council reviewed documents related to the sale of the transmission lines to ITC to complete the sale. Motion made by Nickerson to approve signing the distribution interconnection agreement, bill of sale, and the utility permit form. Councilor Truax requested to wait until Brown could go over the details before approving. The motion did not receive a second and the matter was tabled for more information.

Resolution 2023-21 to Accept Donations

Motion made by Nickerson, seconded by Truax to adopt Resolution 2023-21 to accept donations received in June. All Ayes – motion carried.

Approval of Claims

Submitted claims totaled \$198,270.60. Checks #41171 – #41203, ACH #612e – 620e, ACH #501024e. **Motion made by Truax, seconded by Nickerson to approve payment of claims. All ayes - motion carried.**

Old Business

The Truman Public School Board of Directors has requested a meeting with city officials to discuss water damage at the school in 2022. The meeting will be held Monday, August 14th at 5:30 p.m.

Cleanup of 117 West Ciro property was discussed. The fire relief association planned to pay a portion of the cost and assistance from Martin County was requested. The property was not tax forfeited, so the request was denied. Bids had been sought for the project, with the low bid being \$15,000. The matter was tabled to determine if that bid had been approved.

Council discussed property that might be used to locate the house that Habitat for Humanity has available. Various options will be explored further.

New Business

Three members of the council will be out of town the week of August 21st so the regular meeting needs to be rescheduled. **Motion made by Kelley, seconded by Nickerson to move the August 21st regular meeting to Monday, August 28th. All ayes – motion carried.**

Consideration was given to setting a monthly camping rate. **Motion made by Kelley, seconded by Truax to charge \$500 per month for 30 amp campsites and \$600 for 50 amp sites. All ayes – motion carried.**

Council reviewed an agreement drafted by the city attorney to require a downpayment for a transformer to be ordered for YohnCo. Approval was given to proceed with the agreement as proposed.

A walk-thru of the grocery store property recently took place. STS is scheduled to clean out the building. Dumpsters will be ordered and they will work on it as time allows. There is interest in the coolers, with the interested party willing to do the work to remove them. It was suggested that a liability waiver be signed if that is done. There is no power to the building so the coolers can't be tested. Council requested an updated cost estimate to reconnect electrical service. Councilor Nickerson will verify if someone will take the metal or if a dumpster is needed.

Motion made by Truax, seconded by Kelley to adjourn. All ayes – motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

Melissa Sirovy, City Clerk