

Truman City Council Minutes
August 10, 2023

The regular meeting was duly held at the Municipal Building council chambers on the 10th day of August, 2023 at 5:30 p.m.

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

Absent: Councilor Brian Nickerson.

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

Also present: Lynn Brownlee, 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; Resolution 2023-24 grant acceptance, Ordinance 2023-05 summary publication, and review of insurance claim. **Motion made by Kelley, seconded by Truax to approve the agenda with the additions. All ayes - motion carried.**

Approve Minutes of Regular Meeting

Motion made by Kelley, seconded by Truax to approve minutes of the July 17, 2023 regular council meeting. All ayes - motion carried.

Public Comment

None.

Ambulance Business

Director Josh Kitzerow requested approval to purchase an ice machine for approximately \$2000.00 using donations received. Council was asked to consider setting a cap for purchases using donations whereby department officers can approve and make a purchase without prior council approval. Formal council approval would take place when the claim is approved. **Motion made by Truax, seconded by Mosloski to approve purchases up to \$1,500 using ambulance donations without prior council approval. All ayes – motion carried. Motion made by Truax, seconded by Kelley to approve purchase of the ice machine using ambulance donations, with the relief association paying for half of the cost. All ayes – motion carried.**

Truman Days

Nancy Salic was unable to be present.

Truman Active Living

Lynn Brownlee provided an update regarding the Community Building project. The roof is the last item yet to complete. They are looking for donations to do some additional work that is needed. Next year's Truman Days celebration was briefly discussed. Councilor Truax is the council liaison for the event. Various cleanup and maintenance projects were requested to be completed before that time.

Ordinance 2023-05 Housing Code

Motion made by Truax, seconded by Kelley to adopt Ordinance 2023-05 to amend Chapter IX, Building and Land Use Regulations, Housing Code. All ayes – motion carried. Motion made by Truax, seconded by Kelley to approve summary publication of the ordinance, with the full text available by contacting city hall. All ayes – motion carried.

Utility Business

Utility Foreman Brent Brown requested approval for pay request #4 from Rubin Construction of \$308,729.92 for the filtration project. **Motion made by Truax, seconded by Kelley to approve pay request #4 as requested. All ayes – motion carried.** Generator maintenance at the power plant is scheduled for Monday morning, with testing late Monday night to determine if the repair work was successful.

The Distribution-Transmission Interconnection Agreement, a Utility Permit, and the Bill of Sale and Instrument of Assignment for sale of transmission lines to ITC were reviewed for signatures.

Motion made by Kelley, seconded by Mosloski to approve execution of the documents for the sale of transmission lines to ITC. All ayes – motion carried.

Resolution 2023-22 to Certify Unpaid Charges to Taxes

Motion made by Truax, seconded by Mosloski to adopt Resolution 2023-22 to certify unpaid charges to property taxes. All Ayes – motion carried.

Parcel 41.060.0540 Lot 018, Block 005 Original Truman Blight abatement \$18,649.24

Resolution 2023-23 to Accept Donations

Motion made by Truax, seconded by Kelley to adopt Resolution 2023-23 to accept donations received in July. All Ayes – motion carried.

Approval of May and June Financial Statements

Motion made by Kelley, seconded by Truax to approve the financial statements for May and June as presented. All ayes – motion carried.

Approval of Claims

Submitted claims totaled \$421,134.68. Checks #41204 – #41247, #41249 - #41260, ACH #621e – 632e, ACH #501050e. **Motion made by Kelley, seconded by Truax to approve payment of claims. All ayes - motion carried.**

Old Business

Discussion took place regarding the plan for the grocery store. There are multiple parties interested in purchasing the property. Electrical service won't be installed because it will depend on what the building is used for. The property will be advertised for bids and sold as is, including contents, to the highest bidder. The buyer will be required to establish a business that is in operation at that location within two years of taking possession. Sealed bids will be accepted until 4:30 p.m. on Tuesday, September 5th, with bid opening at the meeting that evening which begins at 5:30 p.m.

Cleanup of the property at 117 West Ciro was discussed. It will cost \$15,000 to demolish and clean up the property. The relief association will pay half the cost. The city has \$30,000 set aside for demolition projects. **Motion made by Kelley, seconded by Mosloski to approve paying \$7,500 from the demolition reserve for the project. All ayes – motion carried.**

City ordinance requires ice and snow be removed from sidewalks within 24 hours of a snowfall. Council discussed developing a plan for enforcement. It will be focused on sidewalks that extend the length of the block. Snow and ice removal will need to be completed within 24 hours after the adjacent street is plowed. The street department will watch for sidewalks in violation of the ordinance. The city will advertise for bids for snow removal for the 2023-2024 season. The charge will be per job and property owners will be billed for the cost plus 10% for administration. Snow removal bids will be due by 4:30 p.m. on Monday, October 1st, and will be opened at the council immediately following at 5:30.

New Business

Street Superintendent John Bosshart reviewed a request from business owner for a curb cut to add a ramp for handicap access to his business. The business owner will hire the contractor and pay the full cost. Council gave their approval.

Council reviewed an ordinance from another city to regulate the use of cannabis in public places. It was the consensus of the council to wait and see how things develop before taking action.

Council discussed how to use public safety funds that will come from the State in December. The city will receive \$47,435. The general consensus was to split it between the police, ambulance, and fire departments. Further discussion will take place during 2024 budget discussion.

Council was updated by Fire Chief Bentz regarding an insurance claim submitted for damaged gear and equipment as a result of chemical contamination during a recent fire call. Several sets of turnout gear need to be replaced and he requested approval to place an order now due to the turnaround time. The department has enough gear to manage until the new gear comes in. A full list of damaged items with replacement cost will be made for insurance.

A question regarding city boundaries was briefly discussed. It was decided that no further action was required on the matter.

Motion made by Kelley, seconded by Truax to adopt Resolution 2023-24 to accept grant funds of \$3,000.00 from Martin County Area Foundation for the campground. All ayes – motion carried.

Mayor Ebert advised the City of Northrop is concerned about receiving the number of contracted hours of police coverage they are paying for. They would like to begin paying half the contracted rate until December, at which time the amount due for actual hours provided would be reconciled for the December payment.

Motion made by Truax, seconded by Mosloski to approve having Northrop pay half of the contracted rate for police coverage until December, when the actual hours provided will be calculated for the final payment for 2023. All ayes – motion carried.

Motion made by Truax, seconded by Mosloski to go into closed session, per Statute 13D.05, Subd. 3(c), to discuss the sale of excess capacity. All ayes – motion carried. Those present in addition to the council included Brent Brown, Melissa Sirovy and Carol Becker. The closed session was recorded.

Motion made by Truax, seconded by Mosloski to reopen the meeting. All ayes – motion carried.

Motion made by Truax, seconded by Mosloski to adjourn. All ayes – motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 6:13 p.m.

Melissa Sirovy, City Clerk