

Truman City Council Minutes
August 19, 2024

The regular meeting was duly held at the Municipal Building Fire Hall on the 19th day of August, 2024 at 5:30 p.m.

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

Absent: None.

Staff present: Street Superintendent John Bosshart, Utility Foreman Brent Brown, City Clerk/Treasurer Melissa Sirovy, Deputy Clerk Carol Becker, Interim Police Chief Mike Schutz.

Also present: Skye Flohrs, Troy Nemmers Bolton & Menk, Chris Studer, Danielle Williams, 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

Motion made by Truax, seconded by Kelley to approve the agenda. All ayes - motion carried.

Approve Minutes of Regular Meeting

Motion made by Kelley, seconded by Mosloski to approve minutes of the August 5, 2024 Regular Meeting. All ayes - motion carried.

Public Comment

Skye Flohrs asked about a large utility bill she received due to higher than normal water use. City staff will research the usage over that time to provide her with additional information to help determine the cause.

Baseball Association

Chris Studer addressed the council to ask if a decision was made regarding the city paying payroll taxes and work comp expenses for the summer baseball employees. Wages were higher this year and Studer felt that was likely due to additional field maintenance required from weather conditions. The city requested that in the future a supervisor approve timecards before they are submitted to the city for payment. There is also concern over liability for employees working on property not owned by the city. The city attorney provided an opinion on the issues and a copy will be sent to Monte Rohman to review so a solution can be found going forward. **Motion made by Kelley, seconded by Truax to approve the city covering FICA and work comp costs this year. All ayes – motion carried.**

Amber Patten with CEDA

A Small Town Grant application is ready to be submitted that would provide \$10,000 toward a pickleball court. Additional grants are being explored. A response from MPCA is pending related to grant funds to help clean up a hazardous property in Truman. More information will follow.

Utility Business

Utility Foreman Brent Brown advised of a damaged utility box due to a fallen tree. There will be a small area power outage in order to repair it. Staff is assisting Bolton & Menk to obtain photos of incoming water lines as required by the department of health lead service line inventory mandate. A grant application will be submitted for funds to remove city owned ash trees. Councilor Mosloski asked about treating shade trees, specifically those at the ballfield. Engineer Troy Nemmers advised the cost is from \$300 to \$400 per tree. Nemmers was present to review a notice from Bolton & Menk forewarning of an expected \$20,000 cost overrun for engineering services for the Jones Subdivision. It is generally due to poor weather conditions that caused delays, but they are trying to manage time and minimize the cost as much as possible. Mayor Ebert expressed concern over how the cost could increase when no one was working on site during bad weather. He also asked about the 7th lot in the subdivision and why it wasn't finished and ready for development like the other six are. It was included in the plan and was to be ready to build. Nemmers agreed to look into it and to ask that more fill to be added. He will also look further into the projected cost overrun.

Pool Business

Wayne Wiederhoeft was present to go over issues with the pool. The wading pool is deteriorating and may not be open next year. He has contacted vendors to look at and fill cracks in the big pool, but none of them have responded. There are no schematics available for the pool to see the underground layout. There is concern that staffing may still be an issue next season. It was decided to plan for the wading pool to be closed and focus on maintaining the big pool. Wiederhoeft will continue to look for help from contractors.

July Financial Statements

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

2025 Budget and Levy

A new draft of the 2025 budget was reviewed. The city's share of the Highway 15 sidewalk project estimated at \$75,000 needs to be added to the budget. Commercial development reserve may be used. Also discussed was the purchase of a lawn mower and how that cost would be split between departments, along with adding to the squad car reserve.

Resolution 2024-32 and 2024-34 Approving Fund Transfers

Motion made by Truax, seconded by Nickerson to approve Resolution 2024-32 to transfer \$4,026 from the EDA fund to the Residential Development Reserve to pay the balance of the housing study, and Resolution 2024-34 to transfer \$233,080.58 from the Public Works New Streets Reserve to the Residential Development Reserve for the Jones Subdivision. All ayes – motion carried.

Sidewalk Snow Removal

It was decided the snow removal services should be bid by the hour with a minimum charge rather than by the job. Notices and an advertisement for bids will be drafted for consideration at the next meeting.

Invoice for Building Demolition

The contractor was unwilling to accept the \$2,000 deduction from payment of the demolition project invoice to partially recoup the excess cost for tree removal at the Bau property. It was discussed to pay the invoice in full and to bill the contractor for the excess cost. **Motion made by Truax, seconded by Kelley to approve payment of the invoice for \$15,000. All ayes – motion carried.** The contractor has not moved the tree stumps that were left at the city brush site in error. That will need to be taken care of before he does any future work for the city.

Payment of Claims

The invoice for the new ambulance was reviewed as it was \$1,500 higher than anticipated. It was for the addition of an opticon. **Motion made by Truax, seconded by Kelley to approve payment of claims. All ayes - motion carried.** Approved claims totaled \$459,997.23. Checks #42113, #42151 - #42181, ACH #897E - #905E, #501518E and #501522E, EDA Check #11431.

Old Business

The proposed contract for police chief from the city attorney was provided to council and a copy will be given to Interim Chief Schutz to review for discussion at an upcoming meeting. An impounded vehicle was discussed.

Nuisance and Hazardous properties were discussed. A letter from Kitzerow's was considered for a property that has been on the abatement list for over two years. **Motion made by Truax, seconded by Kelley to proceed with court action on the matter. All ayes – motion carried.** Another property owner has until the end of the month to remove tires and a hazardous structure from his property, and the city attorney will serve notice to a third property owner this week due to a hazardous structure from a fire.

New Business

Employee reviews will be held at a special meeting tomorrow night and the process was discussed and set by council.

Motion made by Truax, seconded by Kelley to adjourn. All ayes – motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

Melissa Sirovy, City Clerk/Treasurer