

Truman City Council Minutes September 18, 2023

The regular meeting was duly held at the Municipal Building fire department meeting room on the 18th day of September, 2023 at 5:30 p.m.

Present: Mayor Jake Ebert, Councilors Ron Kelley, Patty Truax, Brian Nickerson, 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, Ambulance Captain Ramona Weihe.

Also present: Daryl Thormodsgard, 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; community building, ambulance stair chair. **Motion made by Truax, seconded by Nickerson to approve the agenda with additions. All ayes - motion carried.**

Approve Minutes of Regular Meeting and Work Sessions

Motion made by Mosloski, seconded by Truax to approve minutes of the September 5, 2023 Regular Meeting and two Work Sessions on September 12, 2023. All ayes - motion carried.

Public Comment

Daryl Thormodsgard commented on an incident about a missing license plate that was handled by the police department.

Zoning Request for Variance

It was the recommendation of the Planning and Zoning Commission to approve the request for a variance from Terry Michalke and Larry Jones to have more than one accessory building on their property at 113 W 3rd Street N. **Motion made by Truax, seconded by Kelley to approve the zoning request for a variance from Terry Michalke and Larry Jones. All ayes- motion carried.**

Utility Business

Utility Foreman Brent Brown provided details of a grant application that was submitted to the DNR for funding to enhance community forest health, to perform a tree inventory, for planning, assessment, and restoration of trees. A second grant application will be submitted to request funds to remove and replace trees. Maintenance work at the generation plant will require a planned outage overnight which will affect portions of town. A map of the affected area will be posted. Three

change orders for the water filtration project were reviewed for approval. **Motion made by Kelley, seconded by Nickerson to approve three change orders for the filtration project. All ayes – motion carried. Motion made by Kelley, seconded by Truax to approve Pay Request #5 of \$96,7110.18 to Rubin Construction for the water filtration project. All ayes – motion carried.**

Resolution 2023-28 Repair or Removal of Hazardous Building

Motion made by Kelley, seconded by Mosloski to adopt Resolution 2023-28 to order the repair or removal of a hazardous building at 118 East 1st Street South. All ayes – motion carried.

August Financial Statements

City Clerk Melissa Sirovy reviewed notable details of the August financial statements. Pool admissions revenue was significantly lower this year. A portion of the difference was due to not having swimming lessons this year. **Motion made by Kelley, seconded by Nickerson to approve the August financial statements. All ayes – motion carried.**

2024 Proposed Budget and Levy

The proposed budget was adjusted to include \$3,000 for fire department physicals. Mayor Ebert asked about including the cost to replace carpet in the fireplace room of the community building that sustained damage from the roof leak this past spring. The clerk was asked to check into insurance coverage for the damage. Grants might also be sought to cover the cost. Also discussed was including a portion of the cost for a mini excavator. Brown will explore options for the equipment. Funding for additional street repair was also considered. The cost for snow removal on sidewalks will be added to the budget, along with revenue from billing property owners, with no effect to the levy. Mayor Ebert recommended setting the proposed levy at a 6% increase. **Motion made by Kelley, seconded by Nickerson to adopt Resolution 2023-26 to set the proposed 2024 levy at \$591,392, a 6% increase, for the proposed 2024 budget as presented. All ayes – motion carried.** The Truth in Taxation hearing will be held on December 4, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.

Approval of Claims

Submitted claims totaled \$352,943.75. Checks #41322 - #41362, ACH #651E - #658E, #501126E. **Motion made by Nickerson, seconded by Truax to approve payment of claims. All ayes - motion carried.**

Old Business

Councilor Kelley spoke with a property owner willing to sell a lot to the city for \$7,000 to locate the house Habitat for Humanity wants to move into Truman. **Motion made by Kelley, seconded by Mosloski to approve the purchase of property from William Zehnder for \$7,000 to be used by HFH. All ayes – motion carried.** Funds from the residential development reserve will be used for the purchase.

Outstanding delinquent ambulance accounts receivable from the former billing company Expert Billing were considered for write off. Collection efforts will continue on the accounts. **Motion made by Mosloski, seconded by Kelley to approve writing off ambulance bad debt from 2021 and 2022 per the attached schedule. All ayes – motion carried.**

Consideration was given to the housing study proposal from CEDA. The cost is \$10,206 and there is grant funding available to pay for it. Residential development funds will be used to fund the study and will be replenished if the grant application is approved. **Motion made by Kelley, seconded by**

Mosloski to approve the housing study proposal from CEDA. All ayes – motion carried. Motion made by Kelley, seconded by Mosloski to apply for the grant as proposed. All ayes – motion carried.

Policies and procedures to be used for the Resnexus reservation system were discussed including how to manage cancellations and refunds, how fees and sales tax will be paid, and who will be the contact person if needed when the city office is closed. It was decided that taxes and fees will be included in the charge. Tents will cost \$20 per day, 30 amp service \$30 per day and \$555 per month, 50 amp \$40 per day and \$665 per month. All sites will be reservable and payments will be made online or over the phone. Cancellations can be made up to the date of the reservation. Refunds will be made for the amount paid less one day's camping fee. Councilor Truax will meet with staff to discuss other policies related to the campground. The Resnexus system will also be used to reserve the community building and the park shelter.

New Business

Ambulance Captain Ramona Weihe was present to obtain approval to purchase the stair chair that was discussed at the recent work session. **Motion made by Truax, seconded by Nickerson to approve the purchase of a stair chair for \$9,400. All ayes – motion carried.** Funds from a recent fundraiser of \$4,300 will be used toward the purchase, along with \$4,343 held in reserve for a monitor/defib, and the balance coming out of the ambulance budget.

The lock on the main door of the Community Building has been replaced and a number of people have requested to have a key to keep. Council received a list of those requests to decide if they want keys issued based on the reason from the request form. Staff was directed to issue a key to those approved.

Motion made by Kelley, seconded by Mosloski to adjourn. All ayes – motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Melissa Sirovy, City Clerk

