

Truman City Council Minutes
September 5, 2023

The regular meeting was duly held at the Municipal Building fire department meeting room on the 5th 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 Director Joshua Kitzerow.

Also present: Mike Kumm Public Power Energy Services, Joseph Kreiss Truman Tribune, Brook 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; Police department business. **Motion made by Kelley, seconded by Nickerson to approve the agenda with the addition. All ayes - motion carried.**

Approve Minutes of Regular Meeting

Motion made by Truax, seconded by Kelley to approve minutes of the August 28, 2023 Regular Meeting. All ayes - motion carried.

Public Comment

None.

Bid Opening

One bid was received for the property at 141 West Ciro. Terry Theobald bid \$117.00. **Motion made by Kelley, seconded by Nickerson to accept the bid from Terry Theobald for sale of the property for \$117.00. All ayes- motion carried.**

Utility Business

Utility Foreman Brent Brown and Mike Kumm with Public Power Energy Services reviewed details of the capacity sale. A request to end the current contract one month early due to market changes has been verbally approved. The new contract is for 10 years. **Motion made by Mosloski, seconded by Kelley to approve the sale contingent on the early contract release date. All ayes – motion carried.** L & S Electric submitted an estimate of \$9,300 to look at a transformer at the generation plant. **Motion made by Truax, seconded by Kelley to approve the work. All ayes – motion carried.** The current metering system is obsolete and options have been explored to replace it.

The most cost effective option is through Metering & Technology Solutions. The cost is \$4,464 to start with 24 electric meters. The system is compatible with our water meters. There is a one-time charge of \$6,900 for a collector and \$5,000 for installation and setup, both of which are billed after a 6 month trial period. Software maintenance and tech support cost \$500 per month. There is \$11,000 in the budget for the updates and the balance would be budgeted going forward. **Motion made by Kelley, seconded by Truax to approve purchasing the metering system as proposed. All ayes – motion carried.** An application for a tree grant will be submitted that focuses on ash and unsafe trees on public property. Bolton & Menk will perform a tree inventory, with the cost covered by the grant. The application deadline is September 18th. A second grant application will be completed for funds to pay for tree removal, replacement, and tree care. That deadline is October 2nd.

Deputy Clerk Carol Becker reviewed a task list for implementation of the Resnexus reservation system. Several policy decisions need to be made prior to the system going live. Further discussion will take place at an upcoming meeting.

Resolution 2023-27 to Accept August Donations

Motion made by Nickerson, seconded by Truax to adopt Resolution 2023-27 to accept donations received in August. All ayes – motion carried.

2024 Budget and Levy

Council reviewed an updated 2024 budget with \$11,512 added to replenish the new street reserve for funds used this year for street repair. The fire department budget will be adjusted to add \$3,000 for physicals. An addition to the street repair budget was discussed and will be considered further at the September 18th meeting.

Approval of Claims

Submitted claims totaled \$16,910.94. Checks #41300 - #41321. **Motion made by Kelley, seconded by Truax to approve payment of claims. All ayes - motion carried.**

Old Business

Ambulance Director Joshua Kitzerow was present to discuss outstanding ambulance accounts from the previous billing company and concerns about the performance of the new company. A schedule of all outstanding accounts from Expert Billing was prepared for council to consider writing off as bad debt. Concern centered around that some of the accounts should have been collectible at the time of service and that none had been sent to collections by the billing company. The city has since sent some of the bills to collections, but the rest have not been returned to the city to allow for additional collection efforts. The city attorney is working to get Expert Billing to fulfill their obligation to do so. Kitzerow will contact EMS-MC to discuss concerns regarding their performance and will invite them to attend a council meeting to discuss policies and procedures to ensure they are meeting the city's expectations. No action was taken to write off the uncollected accounts.

Councilors Kelley and Nickerson reviewed options for lots that may be available for the Habitat for Humanity house. More information will be brought to the next meeting.

A proposed plat and the survey of the Bau property were provided by Bolton & Menk for council review. Engineers are waiting for the remaining debris to be removed to mark lots on site. An approximate timeline for completion of that work will be obtained.

New Business

Councilor Kelley advised that Martin County has been storing police evidence for Truman and they plan to return it next week. None of that evidence needs to be retained and can be disposed of along with other property in the police building. **Motion made by Kelley, seconded by Nickerson to declare the evidence as surplus property. All ayes – motion carried.** All of the property will be listed for sale on an auction site. Anything not sold within 21 days will be disposed of.

The lock on the main door of the Community Building needs to be replaced. New keys will be made and council was asked to set a policy for who should be given a key. There is concern about the number of keys currently circulating, making it difficult to manage reservations and for security of the building. Those using the building for events will need to check one out and return it after each use. Keys may not be duplicated.

Motion made by Kelley, seconded by Mosloski to adjourn. All ayes – motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:02 p.m.

Melissa Sirovy, City Clerk