

City Council Meeting December 21, 2022

The Wymore City Council met in open and public session on December 21, 2022 in the council chambers. Mayor Meints called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. Present were councilpersons Max Allen, Neil Van Boening, and Curt Oblinger. Councilperson Sue Sapp was absent and City Attorney Andy Carothers joined via telephone, due to bad weather. Notice of the meeting was given by posting in three places: Wymore Post Office, The Arbor State Pharmacy, and the City Office. Notice was given to the Mayor and Council and their acknowledgement of receipt is attached. All proceedings shown were taken while the meeting was open to the public.

Motion by Max, second by Curt to approve minutes from the last meeting. Motion carried 3-0. During approval of claims and payroll Curt asked about the towing bill for one of the police vehicles Mark Meints informed council of the issues he was made aware of by the dealership. Motion by Max, second by Curt to approve claims/payroll. Motion carried 3-0.

Neil asked if the city is required to pass a resolution in order for Collin to be signing checks. City Treasurer Melissa Wach and Mayor Meints both stated the bank required paperwork to be filled out and signed and that had all been completed. Andy stated as long as the bank has what they need, there are no other steps the city needs to take.

Public Comment: Gordon Michaelis shared that he heard many positive comments about the City's Christmas Lights during the cruise under the lights event held on the 10th. He thanked Tim and the rest of the city crew for their hard work in maintaining the lights and putting them up.

Tim and Andy provided an update on dilapidated properties. Tim said he was able to get all but two houses down that were on the list to be demolished. The two remaining are owned by a bank that has not responded to Tim's requests. Andy and Collin have discussed the Gambles building downtown as no repairs or changes have been made as the building owner stated they would do a couple months ago. It will be added to the agenda for the next meeting.

Mark and Bobbie Hroch and Keith Maguire were in attendance to discuss the legion baseball program. A couple of years ago the Legion was unable to continue sponsoring the team, so they were sanctioned under Southern Youth Sports. However, the team and Legion would like to realign for future years. The city currently has a lease with SYS for use of the baseball field in Arbor State Park. In order for that lease to be changed and with the Legion instead, SYS would need to request the termination of the lease. Andy said he will reach out to Angela Meyer or Dan Johnson to see if SYS is wanting to terminate lease, that would be first step. Topic will be added to agenda for next meeting.

Motion by Max, second by Curt to allow Collin to sign the grant fund requests from CDBG. Motion carried 3-0.

Council was provided the final financial report for the firetruck grant. It was noted that the City will need to send back some of the funds received for administration, as extra funds for administration was sent and not needed. Motion by Max, second by Curt to approve Collin to sign the final financial report on the CDBG Grant 21 PW 023 and for the City to send back the extra funds in the amount of \$8395.75. Motion carried 3-0.

Tim brought up concern to council regarding abandoning utility services. He asked council to consider an ordinance that would allow a decision to be made, if there is a water leak from the main to a property that is uninhabitable or abandoned, that the service can be abandoned, rather than repaired. When no revenue is being made it doesn't make sense to cover big expenditures and lengthy time on repairs to service lines not being utilized. Andy and Tim will discuss further and bring something to council for consideration at a later date.

At the last meeting the question was raised if Collin could hold position of Mayor and Assistant Chief at the Fire Dept. Andy reached out to the League of Nebraska Municipalities and confirmed since it's a volunteer position with the FD he can hold both. Collin updated the list of Fire Department Officers. Motion by Max, second by Curt to approve the provided list of Fire Department Officers, with the following changes; second assistant chief, Trevor Kujath; Assistant Truck Foreman Matt Mittan; Truck Foreman Gordon Michaelis; and Safety Training Officer Zach Brozekofski. Motion carried 3-0.

Council discussed the remaining boards and committees. Many of them still have some vacancies and Collin is still reaching out to community members to fill the vacancies. Motion by Max, second by Curt to table board and committee appointments until the next council meeting. Motion carried 4-0.

Brief discussion was held again on homeowners of multiple properties having to pay deposits on each property. Kelly Garcia was not present at meeting. Ordinance 612 was reviewed and council all believes it's important to follow ordinance as it is written, stating for each new account a deposit must be paid. Regarding Ms. Garcia's request to wave the second deposit, Motion by Max, second by Neil to follow Ordinance 612 as it is written, a second deposit will be needed at the new property. Motion carried 3-0.

Tim had reached out to Mona Shively regarding Park Lodge being charged for each sewer tap beginning with the January 2023 billing cycle. Mona told Tim after speaking with her board, there was an agreement many years ago they would only be charged for one tap. Council decided to uphold their decision from the last meeting. Beginning in January 2023 Park Lodge will be billed for the multiple sewer taps they have, unless they can provide a signed written agreement stating otherwise.

In previous years the City Office and City Shop would close at noon on Christmas Eve. Tim asked council to consider approving closing the City Office and Shop at noon on Friday Dec. 23rd this year since Christmas Eve falls on a Saturday. This would allow city employees to gather at noon for a potluck meal to celebrate the holiday. Motion by Max, second by Curt to close city offices and the city shop at noon on Friday Dec. 23, 2022 for employee potluck and to allow for consumption of alcohol at a private event held at the city shop from noon until 5 PM on Friday Dec. 23rd, 2022. Motion carried 3-0.

Motion by Max, second by Curt, to table discussion and possible action on EMS LB 886 regarding income tax incentive for EMS volunteers until the January 4th, 2023 meeting. Motion carried 3-0.

Motion by Max to adjourn at 7:56 PM.

Collin Meints, Mayor

Melissa Wach, Deputy City Clerk