

City Council Meeting December 7, 2022

The Wymore City Council Meeting met in open and public session on December 7th, 2022 in the council chambers. Mayor Pike called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. Present were councilpersons Neil Van Boening, Sue Sapp, Max Allen, and Curt Oblinger as well as City Attorney Andy Carothers. 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 Sue, to approve minutes of the last meeting. Motion carried 4-0.

Motion by Max, second by Sue to approve claims and payrolls, except checks #26158, #26200, & #26167. Motion carried 4-0.

Motion by Sue, second by Curt to approve checks #26158 and #26200. Motion carried 3-0, Max abstained.

Motion by Sue, second by Max to approve check #26167. Motion carried 3-0, Neil abstained.

Public Comment: Tim Sedlacek wanted to thank Mayor Pike for his last 8 years of service. Mayor Pike was beneficial in helping get new streets in town. Mayor Pike took the time to thank council and city attorney for their assistance, employees, and all the volunteers.

City Attorney Carothers administered the oath of office to Curt Oblinger and Neil Van Boening as they begin their new term as city council members and then to new Mayor, Collin Meints. All three accepted their new roles.

Mayor Meints presented a plaque of appreciation to Mayor Pike for his years of service.

Tim gave an update on dilapidated properties. Rental equipment arrived in town last week and he has managed to get 3 properties down in 3 days. Work will continue.

Motion by Max, second by Curt to nominate Sue Sapp as City Council President. Motion carried 4-0. Discussion was held on the provided list of appointed city officials, boards, and committees. At this time Mayor Meints would like to table the topic of committee appointments as there are some vacant spots on committees and he would like time to reach out to people who might be interested in filling those spots. Motion by Max, second by Curt to table the board and committee appointments until the next meeting.

When reviewing the provided list of City Officials and Fire Department and EMS officers it was noted that the EMS list had not been updated after their recent elections, nor had the fire department. We corrected the list of EMS officers based on the list that was approved at the Nov 16th, 2022 meeting and Fire Chief Mark Meints was able to verbally update his list of officers during the meeting. Council made those changes to their list, as well as changing the listed Auditors, from the City's previous firm to the new firm HBE. A question was raised regarding Mayor Meints also holding a position as an officer on the Fire Department, Andy will research if that is allowed and update us at the next meeting. Motion by Max, second by Sue to approve the appointments of city officials with the update of EMS department officers that was passed at the last meeting, changing the auditor position to HBE, and tabling approval of Fire Department officers until the next meeting. Motion carried 4-0.

Discussion was held on appointing a City Physician, Andy will reach out to some contacts and see what he can find out.

Motion by Max, second by Sue to open the public hearing on closing the CDBG 21-PW-016 Street Project. Motion carried 4-0. Tom Bliss, representing SENDD was present at the meeting. He reported that as of December 7th, 2022 Pavers had completed all work in town for the street project. City received \$435,000 from the Street Project Grant. Tom said he will have a copy of final financials for this grant, as well as the firetruck grant, by the next meeting. No questions or comments from the public. Motion by Max, second by Sue to close the public hearing on closing the CDBG 21-PW-016 Street Project. Motion carried 4-0.

Kelly Garcia was present. She has recently bought a 2nd property in town that she wants to fix up and repair. She asked the council to consider an exemption on paying the 2nd deposit required. Discussion was held and it was decided to table this topic until the next meeting after we can look into more specific details. Motion by Max, second by Sue to table this topic until the next meeting. Motion carried 4-0.

Ordinance #669, which sets employees salaries was presented at the last meeting. An employee needed to be added, with their new wage. That correction has been made. Motion by Sue, second by Max to suspend the required 3 readings of Ordinance #669. Motion carried 4-0.

Motion by Sue, second by Max to approve Ordinance #669. Motion carried 4-0.

Motion by Max, second by Sue to approve employee appreciation gifts of \$50 community cash for full time employees and \$25 community cash for part time employees. Motion carried 4-0.

Melissa spoke with Bobbie Hroch regarding the lease of the Legion baseball field. She was still waiting to hear back from some people. Motion by Max, second by Curt to remove item from agenda and put back on at a later date, when Bobbie requests it. Motion carried 4-0.

Motion by Max, second by Neil to approve Janet to attend the SEACA meeting in Gretna on December 8th, 2022 with mileage reimbursement. Motion carried 4-0.

Motion by Max, second by Curt to approve Janet to attend Clerk School, in Kearney, in March 2023 with payment for lodging, meals that aren't included, and mileage. Motion carried 4-0.

Chief Schachtschabel was present to discuss the damaged property claim originally discussed at the last meeting. Chief Schachtschabel turned in a claim to LARM and spoke with them on Dec 7th for an update. LARM told him they hadn't paid out yet, as they were waiting to hear back from the citizen who had property damaged, as they had some questions for him. Once LARM pays out on the claim, they will send us a bill as the amount paid out will not be more than our current deductible.

Lengthy discussion was held regarding the current brush pile. Everyone is in agreement that we cannot continue to allow dumping of brush, as the pile is far too large due to debris from the June storm. It was asked of Melissa to put out information regarding the brush pile being closed until a new location can be found. Council is considering options of locations where brush pile could be moved too that it could safely be burned again in the future. Motion by Sue, second by Curt to approve the bid from Hofeling Enterprises to chip current brush pile for \$65,000. Motion carried 4-0.

Tim requested council to give permission again to turn the street lights off downtown from 6-9PM Saturday Dec. 10th, the same night at Lori's Lights Food Drive and the Living Nativity. Motion by Max, second by Sue to approve turning off the street lights on December 10th, 2022 from 6PM-9PM, for Cruising Under the Christmas Lights. Motion carried 4-0.

At the last meeting Tony was approved to go to Grand Island for Wastewater Certification Testing. NDEE had now decided to add a one day training prior to the test. Motion by Max, second by Sue to extend the pre-approved training to add a second night at the hotel, meals, and mileage. Motion carried 4-0.

Tim provided council with information regarding a free water training in Ashland on Dec. 14th. It has been approved for 6 hours of CEUs. He requested approval for Rod, Dan, and himself to attend. Motion by Max, second by Neil, to approve Rod, Dan, and Tim to attend training in Ashland on Dec. 14th, including cost of meals. Motion carried 4-0.

Tim provided council members with an update of the purple wave auction. All payments have been made and all items, except for one has been picked up.

Tim's asbestos license expires soon and he is requesting approval to attend a recertification class in Lincoln on Thurs. Dec 8th. The fee for the class is \$175 and \$200 for license renewal. Motion by Max, second by Sue to approve Tim to attend the refresher class and to pay for the class and renewal fee. Motion carried 4-0.

Since the last meeting Tim has spoken with Mona regarding the sewer charge at Park Lodge. Beginning in January 2023 they will begin paying for the 8 sewer taps they have, rather than just the flat fee for one.

Motion by Sue, second by Max to adjourn the meeting at 9:10PM.

Collin Meints, Mayor

Melissa Wach, Deputy City Clerk