

City Council Meeting March 1, 2023

The Wymore City council met in open and public session on Wednesday March 1, 2023 in council chambers. Mayor Meints called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. Present were councilpersons Max Allen, Curt Oblinger, Sue Sapp, and Neil Van Boening, as well as City Attorney Andy Carothers. Notice of the meeting was given by posting in three places, the 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 Sue, second by Max, to approve the minutes of the last meeting. Motion carried 4-0.

Motion by Max, second by Curt to approve claims and payroll, except checks #26537 & #26546. Motion carried 4-0.

Motion by Sue, second by Curt to approve check #26537. Motion carried 3-0, with Max abstaining.

Motion by Sue, second by Curt to approve check #26546. Motion carried 3-0, with Neil abstaining.

No public comment at this time.

Motion by Max, second by Sue to approve Ordinance #670 to create a Law Enforcement Advisory Committee. Andy read the Ordinance for the 3rd and final time. Motion carried 4-0.

Andy has received all updated information needed for the fees list. No action taken on ordinance #672, it will be put on the agenda for the next meeting.

The Wymore American Legion has provided the necessary certificates of insurance, listing the City of Wymore as an additional name of insured, so council can move forward considering the lease for the baseball field at Arbor State Park. The lease is the same as the previously approved lease the city held with SYS. It will be a 5 year lease with a cost of \$5. Motion by Sue, second by Max to approve the lease with the Wymore American Legion for use of the baseball field in Arbor State Park. Motion carried 4-0.

Mayor Meints and Tim met at a site that was being considered for a temporary location for the brush pile. Both agree that site will take a lot of time and work to prep before it could be used. Much discussion was held on possible solutions. It was suggested that Melissa and Janet make a post on the City's Facebook page, asking the residents for help in locating a possible property that might work.

Tim updated council on his plans for hiring summer help. He would like to hire two part time staff; one for mowing and one for other tasks that need to be accomplished through the summer. All has been budgeted for and he will begin advertising after the next park board meeting.

The Sam Wymore Days committee would like council approval for use of Arbor State Park for the vendor fair, electricity at the park, use of the park house, if it is not already rented, the community center if it is not already rented, as well as street closures for the block party Friday night and the parade on Saturday morning the weekend of June 9th-11th. Motion by Max, second by Sue to approve use of the Arbor State Park, the electricity at the park, and the Park House, if not previously rented; as well as use of the Community Center, if not previously rented; for Sam Wymore Days activities Fri June 9th-11th; approve street closures on Fri June 9th from 5 PM-9 PM on 7th Street, from D St to E St and E St from 6th to 8th, for the block party; and approve street closure of 7th Street from M St to D St on Saturday morning for the parade. Motion carried 4-0.

Andy shared with the public that the City is now down to one full time police officer. Officer Willmann has submitted his resignation letter. Mayor Meints, City Attorney Carothers, Interim Chief Schachtschabel and Officer Mark Meints met with Gage County Sheriff Gustafson and County Attorney Roger Harris on Tuesday Feb. 28th regarding Wymore PD taking calls. After that meeting a letter was sent to dispatch stating effective March 1st, 2023 the Wymore Police Department would cease law enforcement activities due to an insufficient number of police officers. Jorden Schachtschabel is stepping down as Interim Chief, but is staying with the Police Department for the time being and Mark has stated he would be willing to take on Interim Chief as needed. During the lengthy discussion that followed, multiple council members voiced their desire for a continued police presence in town. The Gage County Sheriff's office is currently understaffed as well, so contracting with them is not a current option. Mayor Meints stated the approval of Ordinance #670 will allow for the creation of the law enforcement advisory committee and their goal is to research and discuss possible solutions for law enforcement in Wymore moving forward.

Officer Willmann has turned in his resignation letter and two week notice, as he has accepted a job at another department. Council members stated they are sad to see Officer Willmann go as he was good at his job and an asset to the community. Members of council and the public thanked him for his service. Motion by Max, second by Neil to accept Geoff Willmann's resignation from the Wymore Police Department, effective March 9th, 2023 as stated in his letter. Motion carried 4-0. Valley Police Department where Officer Willmann will be continuing his career reached out to the City and requested to purchase Officer Willmann's bullet proof vest from the City. Each vest is specifically ordered and made based on the officer's body size and measurements, meaning that there would be no use to the City if they chose to keep Officer Willmann's vest. Motion by Max, second by Sue to approve selling Officer Willmann's bullet proof vest to Valley Police Department for \$500/ Motion carried 4-0.

Executive Session-Police was taken off the agenda.

Motion by Max, second by Sue to go into executive session-litigation, for the protection of the public interest and the prevention of needless injury to the reputation of an individual, at 8:22 PM. Motion carried 4-0. Mayor Meints excused himself from the executive session. Council came out of executive session at 8:45 PM.

Mayor Meints put forth a nomination of Mark Meints as Interim Police Chief. Motion by Sue, second by Curt to approve Mark Meints as Interim Police Chief. Motion carried 4-0.

Motion by Max, second by Neil to approve Jorden's return to the Lieutenant position, at his request, and adjust his wage to his approved wage prior to the Nov. 2, 2022 council meeting. Motion carried 4-0.

Motion by Sue to adjourn at 9:01 PM.

Collin Meints, Mayor

Melissa Wach, Deputy City Clerk