

City Council Meeting September 16, 2020

The Wymore City Council met in open and public session on September 16, 2020 in the Community Center. The meeting was called to order at 7:15 PM by Mayor Pike. Present were Councilpersons Curt Oblinger, Keith Ottersberg, Sue Sapp, and Max Allen, and City Attorney Andy Carothers. Notice of the meeting was given in advance by posting in three places: Wymore Post Office, Arbor State Pharmacy, and the City Office. Notice was given to the Mayor and Council and their acknowledgement of receipt is attached. All other proceedings shown were taken while the meeting was open to the public.

Motion by Sue, second by Max to approve minutes from the Sept 2nd meeting. Motion carried 4-0

Motion by Sue, second by Keith, to approve claims and payroll.

Public Comment:

Mark Meints shared that he recently represented the Wymore Police Department at the funeral of Officer Mario Herrera, Lincoln Police Officer, who was shot in the line of duty. He said he also had 2 members of the Wymore Fire Department that attended as well. The council thanked them for representing the city.

Andy gave an update on dilapidated properties. The estate which has ownership of the old Arbor State building has been negotiating with the bank on removal. If they can come to agreement, the bank would own that property after demolition.

Andy has sent letters to property owners requesting permission to inspect. These include the Gambles building, it's noted the hole in the side of the building has gotten larger; also includes a property on North 8th St. and another property on 7th that has partially collapsed.

Gary Redden was present and asked council about the dilapidated property at 15th and F. Council members and Andy are aware it is a concern.

Aaron McCrimmon was present to discuss a large utility bill he received. There was an error in the system and Mr. McCrimmon was not receiving a full utility bill each month. When the city notified him they offered him a payment plan. Mr. McCrimmon asked the city council to consider paying half of the bill, if he paid half in full. City Council, as well as the Mayor were not on board with that option. They told Mr. McCrimmon that the city would work with him to find an acceptable monthly payment to get the balance paid.

Motion made by Keith, second by Max to open public hearing for Ordinance #661. Motion carried 4-0. This ordinance outlines the ability of residents living in residentially zoned areas to have chickens. Attorney Carothers said the ordinance does include a provision about chickens that become a nuisance. At this time roosters are allowed, unless there are complaints. Max clarified that Commercial/Industrial Zoned areas are not included.

Motion by Max, second by Curt to suspend the needed 3 readings of Ordinance #661. Motion carried 4-0.

Motion by Keith, second by Curt, to approve Ordinance #661. Motion carried 4-0

At the last meeting council members had requested Attorney Carothers look into cat ordinances that other towns have adopted. There was much discussion with many community members present and a representative of the Beatrice Humane Society. Many community members and business owners present are concerned with the out of control population of cats in the downtown area. They are wanting a solution to the problems. Some community members shared a concern that if the population is decreased the city may see an increase in rodents. Many thoughts and ideas were shared, but there are no solid solutions at this time. It will be something that the council continues to address.

Attorney Carothers gave an update on the Cook Estate. Andy recently spoke with their family attorney and it sounds like the property is being transferred to a nephew. When that transfer is complete, Andy will follow up with the new property owner.

EMS Chief Shawna Schwartz presented Katelynn Lovell as a new member of EMS. Katelynn is an EMT and was approved by the EMS board. Motion by Keith, second by Max to approve Katelynn as a new member of the EMS Department. Motion carried 4-0.

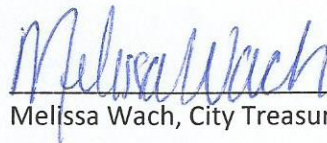
League of Nebraska Municipalities is offering it's annual conference virtually in October 2020. A request was made to council to approve the registration of the office staff for this conference. Motion by Max, second by Keith, to approve the registration for the annual conference. Motion carried 4-0.

EMS Chief Schwartz said that the EMS Department has not been given admin rights to the new locks at the Fire Department, which her and the Fire Chief had agreed to before the locks were installed. She said that since they don't have admin rights, they would be paying for only one lock. Mark says currently she has the numbers which control the locks, but will work on getting her admin rights in the next 2 weeks.

Motion by Keith to adjourn at 8:43PM



Milton Pike, Mayor



Melissa Wach, City Treasurer