

City Council Meeting December 1, 2021

The Wymore City Council met in open and public session on December 1, 2021 in the council chambers. Council president Sue Sapp called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. Present were councilpersons Curt Oblinger, Neil VanBoening, Sue Sapp, and City Attorney Andy Carothers. Mayor Mike Pike and councilperson Max Allen were absent from the meeting. Notice of the meeting was given by posting in three places: Wymore Post Office, Wymore 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 Curt, second by Neil to approve minutes from the Nov. 11, 2021 meeting. Motion carried 3-0.
Motion by Curt, second by Neil to approve claims and payrolls. Motion carried 3-0.
Motion by Curt, second by Neil to approve the treasurer's report. Motion carried 3-0.

Public Comment: Melissa Wach shared that EMS had received a grant from the Provider Relief Fund. These are grant monies departments could apply for to help offset extra costs they have experienced due to COVID. Lori Novotny was present and asked who is in charge for Sam Wymore Day's 2022. No official plans have started, Tim says he's hopeful those who volunteered last year will be willing to do so again.

Dilapidated buildings update: Andy didn't have much new to report. He said we are nearing the time that the City will be able to move forward with filing a complaint on the condemned building on S. 7th St. There was discussion on future demolitions and how that would be funded.

Chief of Police Tony Shepardson turned in his letter of resignation, stating his last day will be Dec. 10, 2021. Sheriff Gustafson was in attendance. Andy had a telephone conversation with Chief Lang of Beatrice PD and Sheriff Gustafson regarding the lack of agreement between the city and the sheriffs office. Chief Lang would like an agreement in place soon as to how calls should be dispatched. Lengthy discussion was held on what the future might look like for the Wymore Police Department, especially considering the newly passed LB51. Part time officer Gregg Grummert also turned in his resignation letter, effective Dec. 31, 2021. Motion by Curt, second by Neil to accept Chief Shepardson's resignation. Motion carried 3-0. Motion by Curt, second by Neil to accept Officer Grummert's resignation.

Ben Yockel was present. He had met with P&Z prior to the meeting to present them with his request to vacate 15th street South of A and the alley to the west of his property. Larry Anderson was present representing the P&Z committee and they recommend to council to approve Ordinance 665, vacating 15th St., south of A St., and the alley to the west of Ben's house. Motion by Sue, second by Curt to suspend the required 3 readings of Ordinance 665. Motion carried 3-0. Motion by Curt, second by Sue to approve Ordinance 665. Motion carried 3-0.

CRA also met prior the council meeting to discuss the need and proposals for a new substandard and blight study. Lori Novotny and Collin Meints were in attendance to present the 2 proposals to the council. CRA recommended council to approve the proposal from Hanna:Keelan. Motion by Curt, second by Sue to approve the CRA proposal for hiring Hanna:Keelan to complete the new substandard and blight study, for a cost of \$7500. Motion carried 3-0.

Motion by Neil, second by Sue to approve boards and committees for next year, as presented with the exception correcting the name of the new medical director. Motion carried 3-0.

Brief discussion was held on employee Christmas. Motion by Sue, second by Curt, to approve purchase of gift cards from local businesses for full and part time paid employees. Motion carried 3-0. Motion by Curt, second by Neil to approve use of the community center on Dec. 17th and serving of alcohol for the employee Christmas party. Motion carried 3-0.

EMS billing tabled until next meeting.

Application for one new fire department member and one new cadet were presented to council. Motion by Neil, second by Curt to go into executive session, at 8:20, for the protection of the public interest and the prevention of needless injury to the reputation of an individual. Motion carried 3-0. Council out of executive session at 8:35. No action taken on the application of new fire department member. Motion by Neil, second by Curt to approve application of new fire department cadet Angela Whittaker. Motion carried 3-0.

EMS Chief Shawna Schwartz was present to request approval for six EMS members to attend conference in Kearney Jan 14th-16th. They are requesting cost of registration, unprovided meals, room costs, and mileage. Shawna said she had spoken with Chief Daake about the need for Beatrice to respond to calls.

Motion by Neil, second by Sue, to approve 6 EMS members to attend training Jan. 14th-16th in Kearney with payment for expenses requested in Shawna's email. Motion carried 3-0.

Motion by Neil, second by Sue to approve Resolution 2021-9 The Year-End Certification of City Street Superintendent. Motion 3-0.

Council was provided two proposals from Gworks for redistricting. After council approves one proposal, Andy will get ordinance ready for next council meeting. Motion by Sue, second by Neil to approve proposal #2 from Gworks. Motion carried 3-0.

Tim Sedlacek was in attendance to request approval to attend Utilities Conference in January. Tabled until next meeting.

Janet requested approval to attend the next SEACA meeting in Omaha on Dec. 16th. Motion by Sue, second by Neil to approve Janet's attendance and Melissa's if office coverage is available. Motion carried 3-0.

Tim shared with council that the annual inspection was done on the bucket truck. They ran into an issue with the cables. Current employees were under the assumption that these repairs had been made a few years ago but after looking back at records it appears repairs have been put off longer than recommended. Tim is currently getting quotes for repairs and will present those at the next council meeting.

Tim shared a picture of a brand new Merry Christmas sign that he has the opportunity to purchase at a discounted price. He also shared with council that he would like to be able to turn off the streetlights on one designated evening, in conjunction with other activities happening in the area, for a short time like they had done last year. This allows the community to better enjoy the Christmas lights. Everyone agreed that was a good idea and was well received last time. Motion by Neil, second by Sue to purchase the Script Red Garland merry Christmas sign. Motion carried 3-0.

Meeting adjourned at 9:07 PM.

Milton Pike, Mayor

Melissa Wach, Deputy City Clerk