

City Council Meeting December 4, 2024

The Wymore City Council met in open and public session on December 4, 2024, in the Council Chambers. Mayor Collin Meints called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. Present were Council persons Sue Sapp, Max Allen, Curt Oblinger, and Neil Van Boening. City Attorney Andy Carothers was also in attendance. Notice of the meeting was given in advance by posting in three places: Wymore Post Office, Arbor State Pharmacy, and the City Office. It was also posted in the Fairbury Journal News. 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, to approve the minutes from the last meeting. Neil questioned a quote from Mark Meints which he had sent an email correcting. Max rescinded his motion. Motion by Max seconded by Sue to approve the minutes from the last meeting with the correction (Fire Chief Mark Meints explained the years requirements for Fire Department Officers, 2 years for an officer, 3 years for Chief, truck foreman just elected, and secretary/treasurer don't need to be on the department.) Motion carried 4-0.

Motion by Max seconded by Sue to approve claims and payroll except check numbers 29134, 29156, 29139 & 29142. Neil asked why we were paying \$90.00 for 3 Police Department Law Books when we have no Police Department. It was explained that this was an automatic shipment. Max suggested we need to pay the invoice this year but let the company know prior to next year's shipment if we don't have the department back up. Motion carried 4-0.

Motion by Sue, seconded by Curt to approve check numbers 29134 & 29156. Motion carried 3-0 with Max abstaining.

Motion by Max, seconded by Curt to approve check number 29139. Motion carried 3-0 with Neil abstaining.

Motion by Max, seconded by Sue to approve check 29142. Motion carried 3-0 with Curt abstaining.

Dilapidated Buildings: Tim Sedlacek stated Ron Thompson did the asbestos inspection on the building at 217 S 7th St. He would like a guarantee they will not be held responsible for anything broken or missing from the building. Tim also stated Tiemann's would like the same kind of guarantee that they will not be held responsible for any damage to the buildings to the north and south of the building due to their conditions. Andy will get these ready. Tim reported progress on the property at 518 N 11th St.

Public Comment: Neil reported good news from the Police Department Advisory Committee, that the letters sent out had generated some interest in the Chief of Police position. One has expressed interest in coming to look at the town. Mayor Meints expressed gratitude to all the surrounding fire departments who assisted with the fire this morning.

Business:

Attorney Andy Carothers administered the oath of office to council persons Susan Sapp and Max Allen.

Rachel Kreilemeir and Samantha Thomson were present to present information about NGAGE. After her presentation Rachel took questions.

Motion by Max seconded by Neil to appoint JEO as City Engineers. Motion carried 4-0.

Motion by Max, seconded by Neil to appoint Evan Wickersham PE (JEO) License number S:1139 Class A and Professional Engineers License NE E-10669 as City Street Superintendent. Motion

carried 4-0.

Appointments of City Officials, Boards and Committees was held. Pam Gerdes, Lawrence Mallam, Samantha Thomson, and Joellyn Wittmus were all present from the Cemetery Board. Pam stated that the board was an association and therefore not under the Cities Authority. City Attorney Andrew Carothers stated that the board was under the City due to the property being owned by the City of Wymore and using City funds. Pam presented two state statutes under which total control of the cemetery goes to the association. Attorney Carothers stated he had been to the County Clerk's office, and they have no record of an election which would have needed to take place after the property was transferred to the City. They did have the Articles of Incorporation for the Cemetery Association. After much discussion Andy stated he would investigate it further. He also asked City Clerk Janet Riensche to find what is on file at the City Office. Joellyn Wittmus asked if the City just needed a copy of the Cemeteries budget. Council Person Max Allen stated we need invoices for expenditures. We just need to have it go through the proper channels. The City is not trying to take over control of the cemetery.

Council person Neil VanBoening asked about a vacancy on the Housing Authority which was not filled last year. Mayor Meints stated we have not gotten any recommendations from that board. Motion by Max, seconded by Neil to approve the appointments of city officials, boards and committees (attached). Motion carried 4-0.

Motion by Max, seconded by Neil to appoint Sue Sapp Council President. Motion carried 4-0.

Motion by Neil, seconded by Sue to transfer all rent from the Community Center and Park House into the Community Center Special Money Market Account. Motion carried 4-0.

Fire Chief Mark Meints stated Greg Stofer from North Central Emergency Vehicles would waive the fees from invoice # 1010202401 but needed the City Council to authorize it. Motion by Max, seconded by Sue, to request a waiver of North Central Emergency Vehicles invoice 1010202401 from Greg Stofer. Motion carried 4-0.

Mark Meints requested permission to place the 2017 Police Department SUV on Purple Wave as it has had electrical problems since we bought it. Utility Superintendent Tim Sedlacek will also have some equipment soon to place on the auction site. Attorney Carothers will need to prepare a resolution.

Council members requested a status report on the Wymore EMS Department. Attorney Carothers stated he could not go into a lot of detail as the investigation was still on going but should be wrapping up soon. Those members who were on suspension have been reinstated and the department should be back up and running. Concerns were expressed by Council President Sue Sapp and Council Person Max Allen, EMS members Lou Carr, Shawna Argo and community member Lisa Munstermann about the way information regarding the shut down of the department was handled. They felt the City of Wymore should have put out a notice to the public and the Council should have been made aware prior to the shutdown. When asked who made the decision Mayor Meints stated the decision was his. EMS Chief Shawna Argo stated there were other members available to take calls during the suspensions. One member (Lou Carr) did not know about the suspension of services until arriving on a call. Carothers stated they followed what had been done in this community in the past. Sue suggested a special meeting be called in the future to make council members aware of what is going on.

The EMS contract with Medical Director Jason Kruger was discussed. Max Allen had concerns about the previously presented contract being different from the original signed by EMS. He requested

some parts be changed back to the original language to prevent just any volunteer from operating under the contract. Neil asked who typed up the contract. Shawna (EMS Chief) stated the medical director's office does. Motion by Max, seconded by Sue to approve the contract between the City of Wymore, Wymore EMS and Dr Jason Kruger as the 2025 Wymore EMS Medical Director. Motion carried 4-0.

Utility Superintendent Tim Sedlacek presented two quotes for a backhoe, a John Deere 310 and a 320. He stated the 310 would need to be ordered, would not arrive until August and would be at the new years pricing. The 320 was on the lot and would be delivered in approximately 3 weeks at this year's pricing, making it less expensive than the 310. This is a Source Well vendor. Tim also stated that due to not receiving the Thomas Grant for the Community Center Parking lot the \$40,000.00 in ARPA funds designated at the council meeting on November 6th for the parking lot would need to be re-designated. Sue Sapp made a motion of a partial rescission of the motion made on November 6, 2024, made by council member Sapp and seconded by Oblinger to allocate \$40,000.00 of ARPA funds to the Community Center Parking Lot due to the failure to receive the Thomas Foundation grant. Seconded by Curt. Motion carried 4-0.

Motion by Sue, seconded by Neil, to allocate another \$40,000.00 of ARPA funds to the purchase of a backhoe. Motion carried 4-0.

Motion by Max, seconded by Sue to approve quote #31902779, Sourcewell Contract #011723-JDC, for a John Deere 320 backhoe in the amount of \$142,000.00 without trade in, with \$4140.00 warranty. Motion carried 4-0.

Motion by Sue, seconded by Neil to approve the employee compensations requested changes (attached) with the revision of the employer match to Ameritas "up to 8%" of employee wages. Motion carried 4-0. (vacation increase to 3 weeks after 5 years, 4 weeks after 10 years, increase the limit on comp time to 32 hours, and increase the employer match for Ameritas to 8%).

Motion by Max, seconded by Neil to allow the Lights department to turn off the downtown street lights for a cruise night under the Christmas Lights on December 14th and also turn off the street lights on Christmas Eve from 6-10 PM. Motion carried 4-0.

Motion by Max, seconded by Neil to move the January 1st meeting to Thursday January 2nd 2025 at 7pm. Motion carried 4-0.

Motion by Max, seconded by Sue to continue with the staff appreciation in community cash certificates. Motion carried 4-0.

The City employees requested permission to have alcohol at the Community Center on December 21st. Motion by Max, seconded by Sue to allow the City employees to have alcohol at the Community Center on December 21st. Motion carried 4-0.

Discussion about vehicles for the Utility Department was moved to the next agenda.

Max asked the Council to consider looking into locations, funding, and designs for a separate EMS building, to accommodate 2 ambulances and office space. This was discussed as far back as 2020. Motion by Neil, seconded by Sue for the City of Wymore to move forward on the building of a facility for the EMS and look into funding and options capable of handling 2 ambulances. Motion carried 4-0.

The Council discussed issues with EMS using 'I Am Responding' through dispatch. Andy will contact Karla and see what is going on with that situation.

Motion by Sue to adjourn at 9:57 pm.

Respectfully Submitted

Collin Meints, Mayor

Janet Riensche, City Clerk