

City Council Meeting February 19,2025

The Wymore City Council met in an open and public session on February 19, 2025, in the Council Chambers. Mayor Collin Meints called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. Present were Council persons Max Allen, Sue Sapp, and Neil Van Boening. Curt Oblinger, and City Attorney Andy Carothers were absent. 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, seconded by Neil, to approve the minutes from the last meeting. Motion carried 3-0. Neil requested the approval of Fire Department Cadet Applicant Isaiah Dahlkoetter be placed back on the next agenda.

Motion by Max, seconded by Sue to approve the Treasurer's Report. Motion carried 3-0.

Motion by Max, seconded by Sue to approve Claims & Payroll to include check number 29418. Motion carried 3-0.

Dilapidated Buildings: Utility Superintendent Tim Sedlacek reported that Bockmann's would be in town next week to begin remediation on the building at 207 S 7th St. Max asked about the building to the south. Tim stated that the owner Adam Cook had agreed to sign the release so we can apply for the public funds.

Public Comment: Council Member Sue Sapp reported that Rod Warford fell and broke his hip and was having surgery that day. Police Officer Mark Meints announced the Dog Clinic has been scheduled for Wednesday March 19th from 3-5pm at the fire hall to access the internet. Dr Bryant from Beatrice Animal Hospital will be administering well checks and vaccinations.

Business: Kelly Garcia was in attendance to request the council consider recording the Council Meetings and improve transparency. There were many suggestions made, and the council members said they would look into recording the meetings. Max Allen stated he would speak to Austin Jackson (Head Librarian) about doing something through the News Letter. Sue Sapp was recording this evening's meeting for the Fairbury Journal News and said she would speak to Gordon about maybe making his recordings available. There was also the suggestion of going live on Facebook or YouTube and shutting off the comment feature. This will be placed on the next agenda.

Neil VanBoening presented a report on the recent Police Department Committee Meeting. There was extensive discussion about the purpose and vision of the Police Department Committee. There were six members present at their meeting who wish to continue being on the committee. There was discussion centered on continuing to have 9 members on the committee or reducing it. There does need to be an odd number on the committee. Kelley Garcia and Lisa Munsterman expressed interest in updates on where Police Department applicants were in the process of background checks and contacting candidates. Lisa asked if there was a process to follow when considering potential candidates. Mayor Meints stated they must follow the crime commission when hiring a police officer. Max asked for clarification. Mark Meints stated they must do a background check. Max asked if there was a link to the procedure that could be shared. There was discussion about how much coverage the city needs from the police department. Some felt expecting 24/7 coverage was not necessary. Others felt we should not have to rely on the Gage County Sheriff's Office for back-up. Max Allen stated that at a meeting in the community center several years ago the public indicated they do want a police department to feel safer. He also stated that we have a problematic vehicle that will be placed up for auction, but that does not mean we are closing the department. Many opinions were expressed, but no action was taken. Mayor Meints thanked everyone for their input.

Utility Superintendent Tim Sedlacek requested permission to have the floor drains in the shop repaired. He stated the concrete is all busted up around them and this would be the time to do it. Motion by Sue, seconded by Max to repair the floor drains in the shop, not to exceed \$10,000.00. Motion carried 3-0.

Tim Sedlacek stated he had contacted the administrator of the Morris Grant for the Community Center Doors. We had asked for \$40,000.00 to replace 4 doors in the community center. We received \$10,000. Tim asked her if we could hold the money until we have acquired more funds or scale back the project. He was told the

project as stated in the grant application needs to be done within the year in order to get the funds. Tim was given the go ahead to submit a new grant application to the Gage County Foundation.

Tim asked that discussion of the Sam Wymore Days celebration be moved to next agenda. He did announce the dates would be June 13-15th.

Neil VanBoening requested the discussion of Timeliness of Submitted Claims be move to the next agenda.

Tim Sedlacek would like to send the clean up of 320 S 9th St to City Attorney Andy Carothers for the next step in prosecuting the property owner. The Council consensus was that Tim did not need them to approve it.

Neil reminded the council that we have several projects on hold, including Codification of Ordinances, New code describing Emergency Medical Services and Fire Departments, arrangements for harassment education and updating the employee handbook. Tim volunteered to speak to Fred Wiebelhaus from LARM about harassment training, and Janet volunteered to find out if LARM or the League of Nebraska Municipalities have templates we can use for harassment clauses in our employee handbook.

Motion by Max, seconded by Sue to go into executive session at 8:28 pm, with Mark Meints present for personnel related issues with the Wymore Police Department, for the protection of the public interest and the prevention of needless injury to the reputation of an individual. Motion carried 3-0.

Council came out of executive session at 9:18 pm.

Tim Sedlacek has looked into getting a vehicle purchased and modified for use at work. He can purchase a vehicle, and have it modified for him to drive through Nebraska Vocational Rehab only if the vehicle is in his name. The city will pay Tim a \$35000.00 bonus to use his personal vehicle at work rather than purchasing a vehicle under the city's name and paying for it to be converted. Motion by Max, seconded by Sue to pay Tim Sedlacek a bonus in the amount of \$35,000.00 for the purchase of a vehicle to be converted with voc rehab funds through the State of Nebraska for Tim to use as his work vehicle." Motion carried 3-0.

Motion by Sue to adjourn the meeting at 9:41 pm.

Respectfully submitted

Collin Meints, Mayor

Janet Riensche, City Clerk