

City Council Meeting February 7, 2024

The Wymore City Council met in open and public session on February 7, 2024, in the Council Chambers. Mayor Collin Meints called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. Present were Council persons Max Allen, Sue Sapp, 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. 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, seconded by Max to approve the minutes of the last meeting. Motion carried 4-0.

Motion by Sue, seconded by Curt to approve claims and payroll except checks # 27901, 27906, 27910, 27936 & 27937. Motion carried 4-0.

Motion by Sue, seconded by Neil to approve checks # 27901, 27936, & 27937. Motion carried 3-0 with Max abstaining.

Motion by Sue, seconded by Max to approve check # 27906. Motion carried 3-0 with Neil abstaining.

Motion by Sue, seconded by Max to approve check # 27910. Motion carried 3-0 with Curt abstaining.

Dilapidated Buildings: Andy reported on the Down Town Revitalization Grant program he is applying for to help demolish the Gambles building has a requirement to submit a down town revitalization plan. Andy has been speaking with Steve McNulty and is checking into the possibility of using the existing TIF revitalization plan. Andy also needs to get confirmation the building is not on the National Historical Societies Registry. Tim has received 2 bids, Tiemann's of Beatrice and Lottman's from Diller have both submitted a bid. According to Andy we do not have to submit the bids but need to include all possible costs with the application. He plans to ask for 75000.00 The City will have to match 15% of the costs. Andy plans to have the application ready for the next meeting. Collin asked about acquiring ownership of the property. For the grant Andy stated we just need to show that they have been served notice that the building has been condemned. Max would like to see the City retain ownership, so the property is kept up. Andy will send out that letter tomorrow. Tim stated Cliff McConnell would like his property demolished and will pay the fees incurred. Andy asked if Wehrbein had deposited the agreed upon 3500.00 for demolition of his property. Andy will contact the owner to get that taken care of.

Tim asked if the Fire Department had set a date to burn the Wehrbein house. Collin said they would be discussing it at the meeting tomorrow. It should be in the next 3 weeks.

Public Comment: There was no public comment.

Business:

John Krajewski from JK Energy Consulting, LLC was in attendance to go over the Electric Rate Study his company recently performed for the city. He went over some of the things they checked and what he found. He suggested a restructuring of our electrical rates and increasing our rates in 2 steps, once in 2024 and once in 2025. John highlighted some reasons for the increase. He also prepared an Ordinance to put the increases into effect. Ordinance 676 "An Ordinance to amend provisions pertaining to electric rates paid by consumers of electric service from the electric distribution system; to increase rates paid by consumers of electric service from the electric distribution system; to provide for the repeal of conflicting ordinances and sections; to provide for an effective date." This Ordinance will have the first of 3 readings at the meeting on February 21st.

The Zito Franchise contract was discussed. We do not have a current contract with Zito. The Fire Department and City office used to have free cable/internet. Collin stated he would like to have free cable/internet at the Fire Department, Community Center, Police Department and City Offices. We currently get free internet at the City Office, City Shop and PD, from Diode but the internet at the Fire Department is not currently working. Andy stated that for other Cities he represents Zito has been very good to work with. They have been using City Ordinances rather than contracts. He would like to get a sample Ordinance to them soon. Andy stated Zito is currently offering 1% franchise fee which he thinks is a little low. Tim would like to have a clause in the ordinance that Zito will transfer services with in 30

days when a pole is changed out. Andy will have a draft ordinance ready for the next meeting. Neil VanBoening requested permission to attend the League Of Nebraska Municipalities Mid-Winter Conference in Lincoln and reimburse Neil the registration fees with lunch meeting included. Motion by Max seconded by Curt to allow Neil to attend the League Of Nebraska Municipalities Mid-Winter Conference in Lincoln and reimburse him the registration fees with the lunch meetings included. Motion carried 3-0 with Neil abstaining.

Janet Riensche presented an updated quote from Power Manager including modules for inventory and accounts receivable. However, Janet feels we do not need the extra modules. Sue stated we need to upgrade. Bobby Martinez (Chief of Police) stated the cloud is the way to go. Max asked the council to discuss the next item that is related, before making a decision. He asked if Neptune 360 would be compatible with Power Manager. Tim stated it would. The meter reading software Insight, we now use, from the same company as Neptune 360 has not been supported for a year. Power Manager will also work with our current card readers from Nebraska Interactive. Motion by Max, seconded by Neil to approve the purchase of Power Manager accounting software at the original quote of \$18,501.00 and divide it between all departments, with the \$500.00 second user license if needed. Motion carried 4-0. Motion by Sue, seconded by Neil to add the Neptune 360 software. If needed it will also include the tablet and transfer file. To transfer it to the Power Manager software. Motion carried 4-0. Tim is hoping the transfer will be part of the Power Manager onboarding. Motion carried 4-0.

Bryan Davidson was in attendance to present a proposed compensation package from the Police Department Advisory Committee for hiring new officers. The PDAC recommendation was for a wage of 23.00 an hour non certification 26.00 an hour after certification. Bryan also had a survey he had received from Nebraska Law Enforcement Training Center website. Ordinance 675 to set wages for the year was discussed. It was the consensus of the council that this was a good wage. Andy stated no motion was needed as negotiations will happen at the time of an offer of employment. There was discussion about how the EMS Medical Director is paid. It was the practice when Janet started to pay him as an employee. Andy explained that he is an independent contractor because the City does not control how he does his job. Janet will change Dr. Kruger to an independent contractor, and he will be paid in the future as a vendor.

Wymore EMS would like add another person to go to the EMS conference in Kearney. Max stated Amanda Jarchow was inadvertently left off the original request. Motion by Sue, seconded by Curt to approve adding an additional attendee to the EMS Conference. Motion carried 3-0 with Max abstaining.

Tim Sedlacek asked for permission to use the Community Center, Parks, and Park house for Sam Wymore Days June 7-9th. On behalf of the Sam Wymore Days Committee. He also requested the Council approve adding event insurance to the City Policy and pay for Fireworks for the event. Max asked if we could send out letters. Tim stated we send out letters to businesses in the area requesting donations each year. Max would like to see a letter sent out to citizens of Wymore. Motion by Max, seconded by Curt that we move forward with Sam Wymore Days June 7th-9th this year with the consideration of fireworks, use of the parks, use of the Community Center and Park house and Event Insurance and that Tim is going to ask Lila about the Community Center and Park House availability. Motion carried 4-0.

Tim stated we put a notice in the Fairbury Journal requesting quotes from engineering firms to help with the Community Development Block Grant. We received one quote from JEO. Tom Bliss from Southeast Area Development District is checking with the State to see if we need to

do anything else, or if we can go ahead and approve them. This will be moved to the next agenda.

Motion by Sue to adjourn at 9:00 pm. Seconded by Max.

Respectfully Submitted

Collin Meint, Mayor

Janet Riensche, City Clerk