

City Council Meeting January 2, 2025

The Wymore City Council met in open and public session on January 2, 2025, 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, seconded by Curt to approve the minutes from the last meeting. Motion carried 4-0.

Motion by Max, seconded by Sue to approve claims and payroll except check numbers 29229, 29253, 29234 and 29237. Motion carried 4-0.

Motion by Sue, seconded by Curt to approve check numbers 29229 & 29253. Motion carried 3-0 with Max abstaining.

Motion by Max, seconded by Sue to approve check number 29234. Motion carried 3-0 with Neil abstaining.

Motion by Max, seconded by Sue to approve check number 29237. Motion carried 3-0 with Curt abstaining.

Dilapidated Buildings: City Attorney Andy Carothers reported that Bockman will be in sometime this month to do the asbestos remediation of the building at 217 S 7<sup>th</sup> St. He has notified Marlene Nickell that once they start, she will not be allowed back in the building. He will also have a demolition contract for Tiemann ready for the next council meeting. Andy also stated he is working on contracts for the properties to the north and south of the building as they are in disrepair. Part of the agreement with Percival and Cook will be a statement that neither the City of Wymore or Tiemann will be held responsible for any damages due to the demolition of the Nickell building. He is hoping to apply for another Downtown Revitalization Grant for the next deadline of February. Utility Superintendent Tim Sedlacek stated there are more bricks out of the Cook building weekly.

Public Comment: Jaqueline Baker was in attendance to inquire about progress on vacating 18<sup>th</sup> Street and F Streets. Attorney Carothers said he is waiting for the deed to be filed by John Schell Sr. After that the property will be in Joh Eric Schell's name. The ordinance is ready to go as soon as that happens. Andy also gave an update on the progress of finding documents pertaining to the Cemetery Board. Janet Riensche, City Clerk has been looking through the files at the City Office and he also has a request into the County Clerk.

Business:

Motion by Sue, seconded by Max to approve the Plans, Specs and Bidding Schedule for the Community Development Block Grant 23-PWI-012 Street Project. Motion Carried 4-0.

Motion by Sue, seconded by Curt to authorize Mayor Meints to approve and sign paperwork for the Community Development Block Grant 2024 Public Works Grants.

Council Member Max Allen brought forward concerns about the outdated ordinances pertaining to the Fire and EMS departments. The two departments were split several years ago but the ordinances were never updated. Mayor Meints agreed that it was time to update the ordinances.

Attorney Andy Carothers will take a look at the Code Book and create a new article for the EMS.

There are many ordinances that need to be updated, but this is a good place to start. Neil thanked

Max for all his work on this matter.

Mayor Meints reported that Part time Officer Mark Meints was not able to make the meeting but was seeking Council's input about locating a place to set up a Police Department Office where he can set up the PD computer and fax so he can answer emails and receive faxes. It was the consensus of the Council to look into renting a job trailer. Tim Sedlacek was asked to check with the insurance company about renting a job trailer for the PD.

Neil Van Boening requested an update on the issue with Dispatch using I Am Responding. Attorney Carothers stated he had been out most of the Christmas Vacation but would be setting up a meeting between Max Allen and Karla at dispatch.

Motion by Neil, seconded by Sue to approve the EMS LB886 Annual Certification for the Volunteer Emergency Responders Incentive Act. Motion carried 3-0 with Max abstaining.

EMS Chief Shawna Argo requested permission to send 6-8 members of EMS to the annual conference March 6<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> 2025 in Kearney and provide meals, registration, mileage and lodging.

Motion by Sue, seconded by Curt to approve 6-8 members of EMS to go to the conference in Kearney March 6-9<sup>th</sup> and provide meals, registration, mileage and lodging. Motion carried 3-0 with Max abstaining.

EMS Chief Shawna Argo reported a member, Clark McMurray has taken a job out of town. She stated he may want to go on some calls when he is in town. Attorney Carothers advised her to keep him on the roster until such time as he resigns so he will be covered by workman's comp insurance. Utility Superintendent Tim Sedlacek, Mayor Meints and Max Allen interviewed potential candidates for Lineman, and Water Operator. They suggested hiring Wes Eaten from Barns Ks for lineman starting immediately and Branson Husa as water operator beginning sometime in March. It was the consensus of the Council to go ahead and hire these two.

Motion by Max, seconded by Sue to go into Executive session for the protection of the public interest and to prevent the needless injury to the reputation of an individual at 7:59 pm. Motion carried 4-0.

The Council came out of Executive Session at 8:40 pm.

Sue made a motion to adjourn at 8:40 pm.

Respectfully Submitted

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Collin Meints, Mayor

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Janet Riensche, City Clerk