

City Council Meeting January 5th, 2022

The Wymore City Council met in open and public session on January 5th, 2022, in the Council Chambers. Mayor Pike called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. Present were councilpersons Neil VanBoening, Curt Oblinger, Sue Sapp, and City Attorney Andy Carothers. Councilperson Max Allen was absent. Notice of the meeting was given 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 Curt, second by Sue to approve claims and payroll. Motion carried 3-0. Motion by Sue, second by Curt to approve the Treasurer's report. Motion carried 3-0. Motion by Sue, second by Curt to approve the minutes of the emergency meeting on Dec. 22, 2021. Motion carried 3-0.

Public Comment: Mark Meints was in attendance and shared with the council that the Rural Fire Board had applied for and were awarded a Thomas Foundation Grant for \$100,000 to go towards the purchase price of the new firetruck. This will help decrease the amount paid directly from the City and Rural Fire Board for the purchase. Roy Lauby was also in attendance and wanted to thank Mark for the work he had done in finding and pursuing grant options to cover the majority of the cost of the truck.

Andy gave an update on dilapidated buildings. He has completed the narrative for an application for a Thomas Foundation Grant. The grant if awarded would help cover the cost of some demolition projects the City will be taking on in the near future. There is some concern that the recently awarded grant to the Rural Fire Board may impact the likelihood the City will be awarded a grant.

Members of the Wymore Blue Springs Area Fund group were present to discuss the next and final phase of the McCandless Park project. They wanted to request City approval to apply for a Thomas Foundation Grant. Two designs were presented for the final phase and discussion was held on the companies, designs, and final cost. Much discussion was held, however no decision was needed at this time. Jared will meet with Mike Willet who is on the Thomas Foundation Board and then the WBSAFG will come back to another meeting in the future.

Chelsea Rakes, Holly Creek, and Sondra Kellogg were present. They had been contacted by Officer Willman in December regarding a box trailer that they had placed in the hotel parking lot. He gave them notice that they have 30 days to remove it as it is against Ordinance 644. Chelsea asked if they could put a fence around it or add a roof to it, Andy told them neither is an option. Chelsea said they are using it temporarily as they finish remodeling the hotel. Discussion was held on other options that may work. It will be addressed at the next council meeting.

Tim Sedlacek informed the council he had hired Tony Shepardson as the Sewer Plant Operator. His current wage is \$13.75/hourly. Tim outlined the expectation of him earning future certification and with each certification earned he is eligible for an increase of .25/hour.

Tim requested approval to attend the 2022 Snowball Conference, hosted by the League of NE Municipalities-Utilities Section and the NE Water Environment Association, in Kearney on Jan. 26th&27th. Tim needs 20 CEUs annually and attending this conference he can usually earn 12-16. He was asking for cost of room and meals to be covered and he will drive a city truck, so no cost for mileage. Motion by Neil, second by Sue, to give permission for Tim to attend the 2022 Snowball Conference in Kearney on Jan 26th&27th. Motion carried 3-0.

Roy Lauby was in attendance representing the group Spare Gage. This group is circulating a petition to Senator Myron Dorn, requesting more assistance from the state in the payment of the judgement on the 'Beatrice Six' case. The petition is asking for the state to use some of the unexpected extra sales tax revenue they received this year to help Gage County pay off this debt. Roy just wanted to share the petition with the elected officials in Wymore in case any of them were interested in signing.

Interim Police Chief Jordan Schachtschabel was in attendance to give an update on the Wymore Police Department. He is currently getting end of the year reports submitted to the state and has started going through the checklist of needed items for accreditation from the state. Officer Geoff Willman recently started his training at the NE Law Enforcement Training Center. Jordan has changed his shifts so that he is working 5 days a week, sheriff's office is taking calls when no one is on, Mark is still working part time as well. Everyone agrees that a discussion needs to happen soon to determine where things go from here. Andy suggests holding a special meeting and having Beatrice Police Chief Lang and Gage County Sheriff Gustafson also attend so they can discuss the implication of newly passed LB 51. Andy will reach out to them and a special meeting will be planned with council and open for the public to come and share concerns and thoughts on where things go from here. Since Jordan is Interim Chief council was asked to approve having a credit card added to the city account in Jordan's name. Motion by Sue, second by Curt to approve adding a credit card in Jordan's name to the City of Wymore account. Motion carried 3-0.

Angela Meyer and Tim were representing the park board at the meeting. They presented some plans to council for some updates they would like to make at the park house in Arbor State Park. The plan is to make repairs to the screened in area and other needed updates. Discussion was also held on advertising it more for rentals as well, as council feels not many know it can be rented for public use. Park board would also like to make some improvements to the Irwin Grove Campground on the North end of the park. The water hydrant will be repaired, they will consider putting in rock or concrete pads for campers. The last plan for the park would be to bring back ice skating to Arbor State Park. This is something that community members have asked about over the years and shown an interest in happening again. Council support all suggested changes.

The office received a letter from Bill Lange from National Land Realty stating he had a customer interested in purchasing some city owned property. It is the property where the city wells sit, therefore the city has no interest in selling now or in the future. Melissa will call and let Mr. Lange know.

DHHS had reached out to the city to see if they would like to participate in the Low Income Household Water Assistance Program. This is similar to the LIHEAP program that the city participates in. By participating and sharing bank information with DHHS, they can provide assistance to qualifying families and the money can be directly deposited to the city to cover the customers' bill. Motion by Neil, second by Sue to allow city staff to share financial institution info that is needed and to authorize Mayor Pike to sign said documents to participate in the LIHWAP program. Motion carried 3-0.

Motion by Sue, second by Curt to approve the EMS certification report, for the Volunteer Emergency Responders Incentive Act. Motion carried 3-0.

Motion by Sue, second by Curt to go into executive session, for the protection of the public interest and the prevention of needless injury to the reputation of an individual. Motion carried 3-0. Council went into executive session at 8:55 PM. They came out of executive session at 9:15 PM.
Motion to adjourn at 9:17 PM

Milton P'ike
Milton Pike, Mayor

Melissa Wach
Melissa Wach, Deputy City Clerk