

City Council Meeting July 21, 2021

The Wymore City Council met in open and public session on July 21, 2021 in the Council Chambers. Mayor Pike called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. Present were councilpersons Neil VanBoening, Sue Sapp, Max Allen, Curt Oblinger, and City Attorney Andy Carothers. 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 Sue, second by Max to approve the minutes of the July 7th, 2021 meeting. Motion carried 4-0. Motion by Sue, second by Max to approve claims and payroll. Motion carried 4-0.

Public Comment: Melissa Wach reminded everyone that there would be a public budget meeting held in council chambers on Wed. July 28th, 2021 at 7:00 PM.

Crystal Bartels was in attendance to request permission to serve alcohol and use the beer garden at the community center for a wedding reception on Aug. 7th, 2021. Motion by Max, second by Curt to approve Crystal Bartels request for permission to serve alcohol at the Community Center from 6:30 PM Aug 7th, 2021 until 2AM on Aug. 8th, 2021. Motion carried 4-0.

Librarian Austin Jackson was in attendance to request approval to attend the CASTL meeting in Crete on July 30th. He said the only cost associated with this meeting would be mileage reimbursement. He stated this gives him the opportunity to meet with and network with other librarians from Southeast NE. Mayor Pike asked Austin how things were going at the library. Austin stated he is making some small changes and things are going well. Motion by Max, second by Sue to approve Austin's attendance at the CASTL meeting in Crete on July 30th, 2021 and be reimbursed for mileage. Motion carried 4-0.

Motion by Sue, second by Max to open public hearing to discuss a grant application for a new firetruck. Motion carried 4-0. This public hearing was to discuss applying for a Public Works grant through SENDD. If awarded this grant the City would receive \$400,000 to put towards the purchase of a new firetruck. Mark stated to Council the plan is still the same, as far as the cost of the new truck to be split between the City and the Rural Fire Board 50/50. Discussion followed about whether or not there would be a cap on what could be spent. Mark is anticipating the cost of a new truck to be \$550,000-\$600,000. The truck will be custom built so no changes to the building will be needed to accommodate height. After much discussion Mayor Pike and council members were in agreement that the City should move forward with the grant application process. Motion by Max, second by Sue to go out of public hearing. Motion carried 4-0. Motion by Sue, second by Max, to pass Resolution 2021-4, authorizing chief elected official to sign an application for CDBG funds. Motion carried 4-0.

City Attorney Carothers as well as Janet and Melissa have reached out to a couple different accounting firms regarding them taking on the City as a new customer to handle the annual budget and audit. At this time the firms spoken to are understaffed and unable to take on new clients, however, we were told to reach out again in 2022. In the meantime, the annual city audit still has not been turned into the state and it is time to start preparing the annual budget. Andy will reach out to Wayne at Schultz and Associates and request a meeting with himself and Mayor Pike. It was decided to sign the letter of intent for Schultz and Associates, so they can begin our budget process. Motion by Max, second by Neil, to approve the signing of the letter of intent from Schultz and Associates. Motion carried 4-0

Chief Shepardson was unable to attend meeting and asked that the Wymore PD Range Request be removed from the agenda.

Tim Sedlacek shared information with the council about Zito Media's franchise fees. We have not had a signed contract with them for 2 years, therefore they are currently not paying franchise fees. We are unsure how many customers they currently have in the area and the current percentage of franchise fees we are receiving from other companies. We will get current information to Andy on the number of customers and other franchise fees we are receiving. He and Tim will work on this and come back to council with suggestions on how we should move forward.

Melissa reported that the City will be receiving State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds, also known as ARPA funds, which are to be used to aid cities in recovery efforts after COVID. The City received \$118,227.81 in funds in July and will receive a matching payment next year sometime. The federal government has outlined numerous guidelines for cities to follow when determining the best use of funds, and the city has until the end of 2024 to have a plan for a project in place.

The City received a request for council approval of a new regional manager at Casey's. Krystal Carter was presented for approval. Andy suggested the Wymore PD do a background check and we table approval until the next meeting.

Motion by Max, second by Sue to approve Ordinance 664. City Attorney Carothers read for the 3rd and final time Ordinance 664. Motion carried 4-0.

Chief Shepardson was unable to attend meeting, but asked Officer Schachtschabel and part time officer Mark Meints to present information on the purchasing of a 2017 used patrol vehicle. The 2008 Crown Vic (blue car) is unreliable and unsafe and is no longer being driven. The white patrol car has been needing multiple repairs that are beginning to add up. Chief Shepardson found a 2017 used patrol vehicle that is federal surplus and for sale in Lincoln. The asking price is \$17,500, which he has in his budget. Since the car is already outfitted as a patrol car very little needs to be done for it to go into service. Chief Shepardson and Councilperson Oblinger test drove the vehicle. Council agreed that since he has the funds available in his budget, he should try to negotiate a price and purchase the patrol car.

Discussion was held on what should be charged for someone to rent the new concessions building at McCandless. The building will not be available for rent during baseball season. There will be more discussion, in the near future, about who will maintain the rental calendar and be responsible for getting paperwork signed. The park board has suggested a \$75 rental fee, which is the same amount as renting the park house. Andy will draw up a rental contract and present it to council at a future meeting.

Tim gave the city council an update on the downtown street light project. He had met with Keith Gilmore recently to go over the project and get some cost ideas for the project. Tim shared with council the initial numbers Gilmore has put together. No decisions are being made at this time. Time would like some guidance from council on if they want to do the project in parts or all at once.

Andy gave a brief update on dilapidated buildings. One building has been condemned and the notice of that should be served to the residents of that building soon. Mayor Pike suggested the City look into a possible purchase of a trackhoe which could help with building demolition in the future. Would be easier

to plan projects if the equipment is owned and right here in town. Andy suggested looking at a possible grant application for equipment and demolition costs.

Melissa updated the city council that the new computer equipment has been installed in the office and point of sale systems arrived as well. By mid-August Janet and Melissa are hopeful the equipment will be live allowing for utility deposits and miscellaneous invoices to be paid with credit & debit cards.

Motion by Sue to adjourn at 9:00 PM.

Milton Pike, Mayor

Melissa Wach, Deputy City Clerk