

City Council Meeting June 2, 2021

The Wymore City Council met in open and public session on June 2, 2021, in the Community Center. Mayor Pike called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. Present were Councilpersons Curt Oblinger, Neil VanBoening, Max Allen, Sue Sapp, and City Attorney Andy Carothers. Notice of the meeting was given in advance by posting in three places: Wymore Post Office, Arbor State Pharmacy, and 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 Curt to approve the minutes of the May 19th, 2021 meeting. Motion carried 4-0. Motion by Max, second by Neil to accept claims and payroll, except for checks #23942 and #23917.

Motion carried 4-0. Motion by Sue, second by Curt to approve checks #23942 and #23917. Motion carried 3-0 with Max abstaining. Motion by Curt, second by Max to accept the Treasurer's Report. Motion carried 4-0

Public Comment: Mark Meints addressed the council, saying he had heard some community members didn't think the flags had been put up at the cemetery for Memorial Day, like in the past. He wanted to let council know the FD had put out over 300 flags at the graves of veterans and past fire department members, like they have always done.

Andy gave an update on dilapidated buildings. A house on S 15th that was purchased for back taxes has never been visited or used by the owner. When Andy reached out to get permission to inspect it the owner was receptive to this and met with Tim to look at the property. After seeing the property the owner was willing to let the city acquire it, Andy will start working on the paperwork for this to happen. Demo and cleanup of the property will be a city expense. There are 2 other properties that are about ready to come down. One of them will need asbestos abatement, but the roof will have to come off the top first, due to safety concerns. A property downtown, although having some work happening on it, will still need an inspection. The city has lined up a track machine to use in demo of these properties and current timeline looks like that could happen in October.

Chief Shepardson introduced Anthony Chizano to the Mayor and Council. He is a retired, Nebraska certified officer who has applied to work part time. Chizano has been in law enforcement for 17 years and has retired to spend more time with his 3 children at home but would like to pick up some part time hours. Tony said that the Wymore PD has 5 part time positions available, 3 of which are currently filled, so bringing on a new officer will not impact his other part time staff or his budget. Motion by Max, second by Sue to approve the hiring of Officer Chizano as a new part time officer. Motion carried 4-0.

Diane Creek was in attendance to ask permission to allow alcohol at her upcoming event at the community center on June 19th. Diane will not be providing alcohol but is allowing her guest to bring in their own with council permission. Diane said she and John will monitor to make sure no minors have access to alcohol. Motion by Max, second by Sue to approve Diane and John Creek to allow alcohol at their celebration at the community center on June 19th, 2021 from 6 pm-12 am. Motion carried 4-0.

Andy wrote a new lease for the City of Wymore and Southern Youth Sports (SYS), allowing SYS to use the ball diamond at the Arbor State Park, along with the grandstand, for the 'legion aged' baseball program. It is a one-year lease and can be re-evaluated next year. There is a grammatical error in the lease, that Andy will fix. Motion by Max, second by Sue to approve, with corrections, the lease with Southern Youth Sports. Motion carried 4-0.

Tony presented the idea to the board that the Sam Wymore Days committee might be considering a small firework show to take place immediately after the free movie on Sat. June 12th at Arbor State Park. He said it's a last minute idea, and the committee isn't even sure if it will come together, but he would like council approval ahead of time. Motion by Max, second by Neil, to allow a short fireworks show on June 12th, after the movie, for Sam Wymore Days, with the restriction that only a Sam Wymore Days committee member can conduct the show. Motion carried 4-0.

Tony told the council for his guys to complete range/shooting training, they have to use the range that belongs to Beatrice PD, which is 6 miles West of Beatrice. Because of this, Tony doesn't feel the guys have enough time at the range, and when they do have training, it is an entire day process, even for a short training time. Tim and Tony recently found a small area that is city owned, a portion of which lies outside of city limits, but is still city property, and could fit the WPD needs for a range. There is some land on the east side of the sewer plant, between the plant and river that faces N/NW that could be utilized as a range. The range itself would be 50 feet wide by 100 yards long. A berm would be built on the North side, approximately 6' tall, 50' wide, 25-30' thick. It would be encased with railroad ties and filled in with dirt, sand, etc. This would make range training easier for the WPD, which will also help when the range training time increases after LB51 goes into effect. Andy, Tony and council members agreed that it would NOT be open to the public. Tony would like it to be managed and operated by the Wymore PD. Tony will reach out to LARM for some insurance clarification and it will be put on a later agenda.

Tony provided a copy of Ordinance 5-516 to council members. He has had many people in the community ask about changing Section 'C' #5, requiring helmets. Tony's proposed change would still require passengers under 18 to wear a helmet. There were some comments from those who have driven ATVs, about helmets limiting peripheral vision, and that the rule was put in place as extra precaution when the city originally adopted the ordinance. Andy will draft a revision to the ordinance by the next meeting.

LB 51 was recently passed. This law will have multiple impacts on the WPD. Some of these will include increased training hours; including what trainings topics should be taken; increased range training hours, limited responsibilities for reserve officers (WPD currently has one), limited responsibilities for newly hired officers who are not Nebraska certified; the newly hired WPD officer will begin his training at the academy prior to the start date of LB 51. Andy and Tony agree it will be important to keep an eye on what comes out of the Crime Commission as far as what will be expected and allowed.

At the last meeting there was discussion on the split of utility bills between Wymore Fire and Wymore EMS. They decided to keep the current split until the next budget year.

Melissa Wach and Janet Riensche have discussed starting a City of Wymore facebook page, in order to have better communication with the community. They were asking for council's approval to do so. The purpose of the page will be to communicate announcements, share city improvements, or other city news. Brief discussion on the benefits of having a social media presence for the city and everyone in agreement and gave Melissa the go ahead to start a page.

There are two water workshops coming up. Tim would like to send Rod to a training on June 8th and Rod and Dan to a training on August 17th. This would allow both guys to finish up their continuing education hours needed for the year. Cost of each training is \$55/person. It is in Beatrice and meals are provided, so there are no other costs for the guys to attend. Motion by Max, second by Sue, to approve Rod and

Dan to attend the 2021 Backflow Workshop on August 17th at a cost of \$55 per person and to approve Rod attending the 2021 Nebraska Water Operator's Training Workshop on June 8th at a cost of \$55. Motion carried 4-0.

Two bids came in for the 2021 Street Project that will be done with the CDBG grant. Keith Gilmore, Street Superintendent sent a letter recommending that the City award the bid to Pavers who had the lower bid at \$481,254.15. Motion by Max, second by Neil to move forward with bid from Pavers, as recommended by Gilmore and Associates, to complete the planned street projects for the 2021 CDBG grant. Motion carried 4-0.

Mark Meints was present and brought a couple things to council's attention. Truck #61 has a cracked box, which has been discussed in the 2 previous council meetings. Mark spoke with someone at the fire department's insurance agency today. They have requested nothing be done with the truck at this time, it has been removed from service, while they try to find the company that was insuring the manufacturer at the time of production. It appears this is a manufacturing error therefore it should not be city's expense to repair it. Council and Andy agree that it is best to leave the truck out of service and let the insurance company to do some searching for now.

Mark asked council to consider having the 6 bay doors raised at the fire department from 10' to approximately 10'6"-10'9". Mark spoke with Blue Valley Door who said it can be done and gave a quote including raising doors, new doors, new door openers, and labor for \$45,000. This will be necessary if the dept is considering purchasing a new truck, as trucks now are average height of 11'. Max says this could be a catch 22; if they custom spec a truck, the doors might not need to be raised, that money could go towards truck purchase, however if they find a truck for sale that's ready to go, the door project may need to get done in a hurry. At this time it was decided not to take any action.

Truck 31, the old pumper was discussed as well. Mark stated it currently won't pump water, the seals leak, and there is an electrical issue causing the lights and siren not to work. Don Schuller, a rural fire board member, suggested a gentleman at Liberty Repair who might be able to look at it and determine the problem. The gentleman said he was willing to see if he could find the problem and offer a quote to repair. All of council agreed this was a good idea, no motion needed.

Mark gave an update on funding that could be used for a new truck. The dept is still eligible for a USDA grant and LB 664 has passed which will increase the amount of MFO the department could receive and Mark said there are a couple other options for grants he can apply for.

Shawna Schwartz was in attendance, EMS had budgeted for a new AED and it is time to purchase one. The new AED, battery and pads, will last up to 4 years. Motion by Max, second by Neil to move forward with the purchase of a new AED. Motion carried 4-0.

Shawna also stated that EMS is applying for a BCH foundation grant. If awarded the grant they would be purchasing training equipment, including life size dolls, to make their trainings more realistic. Motion by Sue, second by Max to adjourn at 927.

Milton Pike, Mayor

Melissa Wach, Deputy City Clerk

