

Wymore City Council Meeting March 17, 2021

The Wymore City Council met in open and public session on March 17, 2021, in the Community Center. Mayor Pike called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM. Present were Councilpersons Neil VanBoening, Sue Sapp, Max Allen, Curt Oblinger, 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 the City Office.

Notice was given to the Mayor and Council and their acknowledgement of receipt is attached. All other proceedings shown were taken while the meeting was open to the public.

Motion by Max, second by Curt to approve the minutes of the March 3rd, 2021 meeting. Motion carried 4-0. Motion by Curt, second by Sue to approve claims and payrolls. Motion carried 4-0.

Public Comment: Gordon Michaelis was present and shared with the council that he and Mark Meints traveled to Ponca Hill earlier this week, to represent City of Wymore and Wymore Volunteer Fire Dept, as they paid respects to the Ponca Hill FF who died in the line of duty. Mayor Pike thanked them for attending and representing the city and fire department.

Tim updated council on the sidewalk in Arbor State Park. The guys had it dug out and set, ready for concrete last week, however with the change in weather and other delays due to a water line break and downed power lines, it did not get finished. Concrete will get poured as soon as things dry out.

Sue mentioned that there is tin that has come loose from the building above the door on the old Gambles building and with the strong winds she is concerned it will blow down, either hurting someone or doing damage. Andy stated he will send a letter to the owners first thing in the morning.

There was an update on dilapidated buildings. Andy is hopeful to have a court date set in the next couple of weeks to obtain inspection warrants on 4 properties in town. He has reached out to owners of 2 properties, one on North 10th and one on North 7th. He has had no response on the property on N 10th, and the realty company that owns the property at 112 N 7th has agreed to let our building inspector in to inspect the building. Andy is hopeful that those inspections will take place prior to the next meeting.

Tim says things continue to move along getting things set up with the lab so that he'll be able to send samples in to be tested for asbestos.

Tim shared with the board that since Sam Wymore Day's got canceled last year due to COVID no one had really stepped forward to get it planned for this year. Police Chief Shepardson and Tim, as well as Janet and Melissa have picked it up and are working to get an event planned. The dates of Sam Wymore Day's will Fri. June 11th and Sat. June 12th. Tim and Tony shared some of the events planned, including a block party, parade, and flea market. Denice Howell was in attendance, she has been in touch with Tony and is helping organize the flea market. Tim asked the city to approve some events, street use, and electricity use to help in the planning of events. Motion by Sue, second by Curt to approve street closures for Fri. Jun 11th from 4PM-930PM on 7th D St. to E St., and E St. between 7th and 8th; approve a free swim day at the Wymore Aquatic Center; approve use of the Community Center, free of charge, to host events, including a pancake feed, for Sam Wymore Days; and for use of electricity at no cost at some of the hook-ups in Arbor State Park, for vendor use only during the flea market. Motion carried 4-0.

Andy spoke with Chad Hernandez from Zoellner Ford in Beatrice regarding the ambulance bill that has been in question at the last couple of meetings. Tim had also spoken with someone at Ford regarding the bill as well. Tim said he was told they would discount the bill from \$3205 to \$2500. Andy says that would be a discount of the labor costs and feels the city should pay the remainder of the bill, as it is for parts that were used. Motion by Max, second by Neil to pay negotiated price of \$2500 to Zoellner Ford. Motion carried 4-0.

Tim spoke with Gilmore and Associates about the situation with the streetlights downtown. They sent him on to an electrician with Thibodeaux Electric. Tim spoke with him and he said Tim should probably plan on \$5000 per pole and light, but there wasn't much interest in taking on the project. Neil and Tim

met with Aaron from WCHE Electric and discussed the issues we are facing and possible solutions. Aaron will work on getting quotes from pole manufacturers, etc and will get quotes sent to Tim in the next couple of weeks. Diane Creek was in attendance and she asked the council to keep this issue as a priority. She works many late nights at her store downtown and she often has customers in after hours and it can be quite dark when they are leaving which poses some safety concerns because it's very dark on her corner. There doesn't seem to be many options for temporary lighting right now. Mayor Pike assured her that they know it is a problem and they want to get the project done, but they want to make sure they do it correctly. Neil shared that there are a lot of extra details that people might not think about and he feels it's a worthwhile project, but there are some hurdles.

Collin Meints was in attendance to let council members know they have formed a committee to start looking into the purchase of a new fire truck. There are 6 FD members, Rural Board will add 2 members, and they would like to know who Mayor Pike would like to add from council. The Mayor stated he will have Max and Neil join this committee as well. Collin stated that the committee is made up of younger members and they will have to do a lot of research and learning. Mark and Gordon will mentor them through the process. They've already met with one salesperson who is a former firefighter himself, and he was able to brief the committee on what to expect and the process they will go through. The truck that needs to be replaced is out of service, which leaves the fire department with only one engine. Mark said there are some possible options for a temporary truck to be leased or for the old truck to be rebuilt. The latter of the two isn't the best option for multiple reasons. Mark said a loan will need to be taken out for purchasing the new truck, which is what they did last time and one concern will be space, as new fire trucks are often taller and longer than older models.

Tim provided council with 2 quotes to replace equipment that was sold on the Purple Wave auction. He is looking to purchase a brush mower, pallet forks, and a snow bucket. He received a quote from Jenkins for these items for \$8,550 with a 12 week delivery time. His quote from Bobcat was \$8,575 and as of March 6th, 2021, the items were in stock and ready for immediate pickup or delivery. Both of these prices fell well below the \$9,875 made from the Purple Wave auction. Max stated since both quotes were under the amount made through the auction and are within \$25 of each other he doesn't have a preference which company Tim purchases from. Motion by Max, second by Neil, to approve purchase of a brush mower, pallet forks, and a snow bucket; for no more than \$8,575. Motion carried 4-0. Dates of city wide cleanup have been set. It will be held on Wed April 14th & Thurs April 15th at Arbor State Park, in the same location as last year. A flyer will be coming out soon with information on what will be accepted. The fire department is looking into setting something up during the same time frame that may help people get rid of old cars that no longer run or they don't want.

Jean Remmenga was in attendance to discuss a safety concern. She has seen multiple kids in her neighborhood who are riding four-wheelers and dirt bikes. She is concerned as they do not use helmets. Mike suggested that her complaints need to be sent to the police department via dispatch. Tony was in attendance and said he does not monitor posts on facebook, if a citizen has a concern they need to call dispatch and dispatch will notify him.

Neil brought forward an idea of providing welcome boxes to new residents moving into Wymore and Blue Springs. Neil wanted to seek the endorsement of council as the welcome boxes would be handed out to new customers when they come in to pay the deposit to turn on utilities. Neil will go around to local business to gather support and supplies for the boxes. The boxes will be assembled by volunteers and brought to the Wymore City Office when ready to be passed out. Motion by Neil, second by Sue for the city of Wymore to approve distribution of "welcome boxes" to new utility customers, at point of utility deposit payment. Motion carried 4-0.

Mark provided council with information on the Chiefs Symposium which will be held in Beatrice on Saturday March 27th. He's requesting approval for all members to attend. Rural board will be splitting the cost. Cost to the fire department for all members to attend will be \$450. Motion by Max, second by

Neil too approve attendance of all members of the fire department to attend the Chief's Symposium at the cost of \$450. Motion carried 4-0.

Andy gave us an update on the Skyline claim. He has been in touch with LARM and they have made it clear to him that they will not be making any more payments on the storm claims. Andy's recommendation to the council is that the city pay the remaining \$8,947 that LARM has sent, plus the \$17,947 that Skyline is billing us and have them sign a release. Andy will prepare all documents and get a final payment total to Melissa, in order for her to send check. Motion by Max, second by Curt, to approve Andy preparing documents for release of contract with Skyline and for final payment to be sent to them. Motion carried 4-0.

Motion by Max to adjourn at 8:03PM.

Milton Pike, Mayor

Melissa Wach, Deputy City Clerk