

City Council Meeting March 20,2024

The Wymore City Council met in open and public session on March 20, 2024, in the Council Chambers. Mayor Collin Meints called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM. Present were Council persons Max Allen, Sue Sapp, 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. 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, seconded by Max to approve minutes from the last meeting. Motion carried 4-0

Motion by Max, seconded by Curt to approve the Treasurer's Report. Motion carried 4-0

Motion by Max, seconded by Sue to approve claims and payroll except check # 28085. Motion carried 4-0

Motion by Max, seconded by Sue to approve check #28085. Motion carried 3-0 with Curt abstaining.

Dilapidated Building-The downtown property was discussed, still waiting to hear back from the grant, unsure when they will get it back. Harry Lovell trailer on 7th street, a letter has been sent, waiting to hear back. The house at 518 N 11th has sold, Andy will check to see if a deed had been filed on it yet. We need to get Chet McGrury to look at it, if 50 percent is destroyed, it will have to be rebuilt.

Public Comment- Tim wanted me to announce if anyone needs anything to give him a call. Melissa Wach said that if anyone has Tim's number give him a call just to chat. Mark Meints announced that the fire department received a grant for \$75,000 for bunker gear. Mark was asked if there was any update on the new truck, his response was that it was still a big pile of steel. The fire department still has to go down to Florida to approve the new truck.

Business:

Melissa Wach was in attendance to ask for permission to serve alcohol at the community center on May 10th. After some discussion Max made a motion, seconded by Sue, to approve serving of alcohol on Friday May 10th for Matt's graduation party from 12pm to 2am with no beer garden. Motion carried 4-0.

Attorney Andy Carothers did the third reading of Ordinance 676. Questions were asked by the public, what is the debt on the current electricity? Are we servicing the debt? We are losing money. If we can't collect the debt, then it is turned over to collections. If we don't increase the rates, we will continue to lose money. How much is the profit margin? We will not make money for next year. The cost of everything to maintain the electric system has increased, the time it takes to get the transformers has increased, we must pay what they cost to keep our system going. Who is going to be vigilant to make sure this doesn't happen again? We are doing the rate study to support the decision for the increase. Studies are done on water and sewer also to make sure we cover the cost of employees and cost of running the department, some people don't understand all the factors and equipment that go into making everything run. We need to have money to cover the cost if a disaster happens. If a customer is shut off due to nonpayment, the deposit usually covers the bad debt. Motion made by Sue, seconded by Max to approve Ordinance 676. Motion carried 4-0.

Max thanked Chief Martinez for posting the dog ordinance of Facebook, he had a few people calling him to voice their opinion on the ordinance. The ordinances are outdated and would like them reviewed and changes made to the ordinance. The last time it was changed was in 2010, when they removed the fees for the dog license. Chief Martinez will make changes to the ordinance and get those to Attorney Carothers to review.

The track interlocal agreement needs to be moved to the next meeting, Carothers hadn't heard from Angela Meyer.

Review of the boards and committees, they will approve the cemetery board at the next meeting. The track committee needs one more council person to join that committee. In the future we are going to start advertising the open committee positions to hopefully get more involvement from the community.

Neil asked if Chief Martinez has been busy. Yes, he has cleared 500 calls by himself. The Chief has been working with Beatrice to improve communications. He interviewed one candidate and has a couple more to interview. Neil asked if the council could get a report from dispatch with the total number of calls and for a breakdown of call information. The council agreed they would like to see that in their packet. Collin read, after the six-month probationary period, and Officer remains in good standing with the Wymore Police Department and the State of Nebraska, Officer's compensation shall increase to the rate of \$70,000 per year. The increase in compensation shall not be automatic and shall be approved by the City Council Motion made by Neil, seconded by Sue to approve the pay of Chief Martinez to \$70,000 per year. Motion carried 4-0.

Approving the new member to the Fire Department was tabled to the next meeting.

Motion made by Max, seconded by Sue to approve the 2023 Audit.

Motion to adjourn the meeting made by Sue at 8:38pm.

Collin Meints, Mayor

Krystal Rutti, Deputy Clerk