

City Council Meeting September 20, 2023

The Wymore City Council met in open and public session on September 20, 2023, in the Council Chambers. Mayor Collin Meints called the meeting to order at 7:08 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 Max, second by Sue to approve the minutes from the September 6th meeting. Motion carried 4-0.

Motion by Max, second by Sue to approve claims and payroll except checks 27464 & 27482. Motion carried 4-0.

Motion by Curt, second by Neil to approve check 27464. Motion carried 3-0 with Max abstaining.

Motion by Max, second by Neil to approve check 27482. Motion carried 3-0 with Curt abstaining.

Motion by Curt, second by Sue to approve the Treasurer's report. Motion carried 4-0.

Public Comment: Mark Meints stated the department discovered a line of duty death that happened in 1939 a few years ago. It was finally recognized last weekend with his name being added to a plaque in the Fire Fighter's Museum in Kearney, NE. He also stated they have not been able to find any relatives to this point.

Tim reported they are still working on getting the streetlights working. He is hopeful they will be completed by the end of the week. Then they can begin reworking the Christmas lights. Tiemann's will be down to mark the parking on the sides of 7th St.

Business:

Motion by Max, second by Sue to approve the 2023-24 fiscal year Budget. Motion carried 4-0.

Motion by Sue, second by Curt to approve Resolution 2023-06 Final Tax Request for fiscal year 2023-24.

Andy read the Resolution, during which time Tony Jerina discovered there was a missing figure. Sue withdrew her motion, second by Curt. Motion carried 4-0. Max made a motion to approve Resolution 2023-06, as amended second by Curt. Andy read the amended resolution. Motion carried 4-0.

Motion to approve increasing the tax authority by 1% by Sue, second by Max. Motion carried 4-0.

Motion by Max to approve Janet's registration for the League of Nebraska Municipalities Annual Conference for the recordings only. Seconded by Sue. Motion carried 4-0.

Discussion was held on the Chief of Police Contract: Andy presented information on the statutes regarding exempt and non-exempt employees regarding overtime. After much discussion Collin stated he would like to have 2 council members Max and Curt meet with Chief Martinez to get his input and come up with a compensation package that is agreeable to both Chief Martinez and the City Council. Collin will also be there. Collin will set up a time. Motion by Max to table the issue until the meeting after the two council members and Mayor can meet with Chief Martinez. Seconded by Sue. Motion carried 4-0.

Janet Riensche stated she had reached out to some accounting firms a second time. Those who responded declined bidding the job as the city's auditors due to not having the capacity to take the job on. The Lengemann & Associates Proposal for the annual city audit. The proposed cost would be 12,500.00. Max would like Janet to call the firm to inquire if they will also be willing to do our annual budget. Motion by Max to accept the proposal from Lengemann & Associates for the annual audit for 12,500.00. Seconded by Neil. Motion carried 4-0.

Tim Sedlacek presented a proposed contract with Sapp Brothers for fuel. Motion by Max to accept the 2023-24 proposal from Sapp Bros of 3.249 per gallon of gasohol and 3.43 for dye diesel. Seconded by Neil. Motion carried 4-0.

Mark Meints stated the Fire Department has some items to add to Resolution 2023-07 "Sale of Surplus Property on Purple Wave. Max made a motion to amend Resolution 2023-07 to include the item from the Fire Department. Sue seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

Motion by Max seconded by Sue to approve the amended Resolution 2023-07 'Sale of Surplus Property on Purple Wave. Motion carried 4-0.

Tim Sedlacek presented bids for replacing the bathrooms by the baseball field at Arbor State Park. The quote of \$138,735.00 from CXT who did the south bathrooms was higher, but the buildings would match. Jared McKeever and Janic Cohorst were in attendance to report on the amount the Wymore Blue Springs Area Fund raised through Big Give Gage was \$31175.00. Those funds plus \$10,000.00 from Beatrice Kiwanis Club for a total of \$41175.00 are designated for the bathrooms. Tim stated the city has \$70,000.00 budgeted for the project. Max stated he would like to see us pursue a grant for the project. Janice stated the WBSAF group will have a meeting on Monday evening and can discuss giving more to the project. Max would like to pursue a Thomas Foundation Grant. Jared had some insight on writing a successful grant, he will work with Tim on writing the Thomas Foundation grant application. Motion by Max, seconded by Sue to pursue replacing the bathrooms at Arbor State Park, with \$10,000.00 from Beatrice Kiwanis and a three-way split of \$42,911.66 each, from the City, Wymore Blue Springs Area Fund, and a Thomas Foundation Grant. Motion carried 4-0.

Tim Sedlacek requested cell phone reimbursement for employee's who use their personal phones for city business. Tim stated one employee currently receives \$250.00 per year. He would like to include other employees and raise the reimbursement to 80% of what the City would pay for a City furnished smart phone. Currently, the City pays for five active phones and a hotspot. Motion by Max, seconded by Sue to reimburse on-call employees using personal cell phones for work related usage at \$450.00 a year paid October 1st for the previous year. Motion carried 4-0.

Fire Chief Mark Meints requested a transfer of \$16,238.00 from the Fire Budget to the Fire B&E, money market account. City Treasurer Melissa Wach provided financial reports for the Council to consider. Motion by Sue, seconded by Curt to approve a transfer of \$16238.16 from the Fire Budget in the General Fund to the Fire B&E Money Market account. Motion carried 4-0.

Tim Sedlacek requested clarity on Ordinance 656 about who was responsible for trimming trees that hang over the street. The school has called in a couple of complaints about limbs hitting the top of the bus. Tim wanted to know who is responsible for keeping trees that hang out over the street trimmed. City Attorney Andy Carothers stated, according to state law it is not the Cities responsibility. Mark Meints suggested the Ordinance be placed on social media as a reminder. The consensus from the Council was this should be treated the same as any other abatement issue.

Tim Sedlacek presented a proposal from JK Energy Consulting LLC to do a rate study on the Cities electricity rates, for \$5500.00. If the study needs redone within 3 years of the additional study the fee will be \$3000.00 for the new study. Motion by Max, seconded by Sue to approve JK Energy Consulting LLC do an electric rate study for \$5500.00. Motion carried 4-0.

Fire Chief Mark Meints requested approval to send 5 members of Wymore Fire to Nebraska State Volunteer Firefighters Association Conference in South Sioux City October 19-21, 2023 for training. Motion by Max, seconded by Sue to send five members of the Wymore Fire Department to Nebraska

State Volunteer Firefighters Association Conference in South Sioux City, October 19-21, and pay conference fees, lodging, mileage, and up to \$35.00 per day for meals.

Mayor Meints presented the Council with a resignation letter he and EMS Chief Shawna Argo received from Dr. Noah Bernhardson. Dr Bernhardson is resigning as EMS Medical Director. He cited his workload in Lincoln and Lancaster county and will continue for 90 days, until December 17th, 2023. Motion by Max, seconded by Sue to regretfully accept the resignation of Dr. Noah Bernhardson as Medical Director for EMS effective December 17, 2023, and thank him for his service. Motion carried 4-0. Motion by Sue to adjourn the meeting at 9:41 pm.

Respectfully Submitted

Collin Meints, Mayor

Janet Riensche, City Clerk