

City Council Meeting August 18th, 2021

The Wymore City Council met in open and public session on August 18th, 2021, in the Council Chambers. Mayor Pike called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. Present were councilpersons Neil VanBoening, Max Allen, Curt Oblinger, Sue Sapp 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 acknowledgment of receipt is attached. All proceedings shown were taken while the meeting was open to the public.

Motion by Curt, second by Sue to approve minutes of the August 4th, 2021 meeting. Motion carried 4-0.
Motion by Sue, second by Curt to approve claims and payroll. Motion carried 4-0.

Public Comment: Mark Meints told council that truck #32 is currently out of service. It had been taken to Lincoln for air leak repairs. It was determined it needed to go to E1 in Minnesota for repairs. While there it will have a full inspection and will be completely serviced.

Tony Shepardson shared with council that new officer Geoffrey Willman passed his physical test for the academy. Unfortunately, Tony and Geoff were notified today that he will be starting the academy on January 2, 2022 instead of August 29th. This is due to limits on class size at the academy. Tony has already started working on the extension needed to keep Geoff compliant with LB 51.

City Attorney Carothers gave an update on dilapidated buildings. He has been communicating with Brent Schlake who will be leasing a track machine to the city this fall for demolition. Sue asked about a building that had a recent inspection done. The building has been condemned and Andy said that will be posted soon. Tony said he is keeping an eye on some of the properties downtown and will be contacting lot owners about clean up of weeds, mowing, etc.

Motion by Max, second by Sue to open public hearing for the acquisition of the property at 301 S 15th. Motion carried 4-0. Prior discussion with the owner made it clear he is not willing to spend anything else on the property. That leaves the city with a couple of options. City can demo the building, without acquiring the property, however, that means current owner will then have an empty lot he could sell if he chooses. City could acquire the property by paying back taxes, approximately \$880 and \$1 to current owner, and then demo the building and maintain ownership of the empty lot. Mayor Pike and councilpersons Curt and Max all expressed that they feel it would be better for the city to own it after demo. Andy said that if City would like to handle it this way, he can send a quitclaim deed to the current owner and city can cover cost of back taxes.

Motion by Max, second by Sue to come out of public hearing. Motion carried 4-0.

Motion by Sue, second by Curt, for the city to acquire property at 301 S. 15th by paying back taxes and the current owner \$1, as agreed upon. Motion carried 4-0.

Discussion was held on the EMS budget. Mayor Pike and the council looked at the line items and what was budgeted for each. Based on previous years expenses, discussion was held on decreasing a handful of line items. Even with the decrease it is expected there is still enough budgeted to cover next year's expenses. There was a small decrease in the amount budgeted for EMS patient billing and ALS tiered billing. Max pointed out these two line items have the most variability, since we are unable to predict how many calls will be ran annually and how many of those will need assistance from Beatrice Fire. Mayor Pike and council understood there could be some variance in those line items. There was also discussion that at the end of the fiscal year Recruitment and Retention funds will not be dispersed to \$0,

like in the past. One option may be for these funds, if EMS is operating at a positive balance, to be transferred to the EMS Special account.

EMS Billing was also discussed. It has come to the attention of EMS members, council members, and the Mayor that there are issues with the current billing company being used. It was recently learned that the current company has not billed out many calls that Beatrice assisted on, nor do they send detailed information of what was billed or paid for. There has been a decrease in EMS revenue since switching to this company. EMS Chief Shawna Schwartz has been looking at other options for billing service. She has met with individuals in Beatrice and is meeting with another company next week.

Motion by Sue, second by Max to keep the levy the same as last year. Motion carried 4-0.

As requested by Max a list was provided of all employees, volunteers, and board members for the city of Wymore. Max would like to implement a plan for the city to show appreciation of it's volunteers and board members. No action was taken at this time.

Motion by Neil to approve resolution 2021-4: signing of the municipal annual certification of program compliance 2021. Motion carried 4-0.

Mark gave an update on rescue truck 61. He spoke with CEO of Danko who offered suggestions what Danko could possibly do to repair truck but is unwilling to put anything in writing. Discussion was held on possible uses within other city departments for the truck, item was tabled until the 9/1/2021 meeting.

Motion by Max, second by Curt, to approve resolution 2021-5. Motion carried 4-0. This Resolution declared; a 1983 Ford Pumper Fire Truck, a 2008 Ford Crown Victoria Police Cruiser, and miscellaneous used streetlights; to be surplus property which will be sold via the Purple Wave No Reserve Auction website. It was clarified that the any amount made on the 1983 pumper truck, will go towards the purchase of a new fire truck.

Council held brief discussion on putting the ARPA funds received by the City into a separate account, in order to easily and effectively track funds for the required reporting. Motion by Max, second by Sue, to approve putting the ARPA funds into a 24 month CD through Mainstreet Bank. Motion carried 4-0.

Motion by Max, second by Curt to approve resolution 2021-6. Motion carried 4-0. Passing this resolution allows the track project to apply for the LWCF Grant.

Motion by Max to adjourn at 9:02 PM.

Milton Pike, Mayor

Melissa Wach, Deputy City Clerk