

REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING

FEBRUARY 8TH, 2021

Mayor Rock Anderson called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was stated by all present. The roll call was taken, and all members of the City Council were present. The minutes from the previous meeting were presented. Travis Wood made the motion to approve the minutes. Rob Lessen seconds the motion. The motion was approved. The Mayor presented the evenings agenda. Under Unfinished Business the following was added; Mary Lou Peace added an Executive Session, Dicky Cleland added Item D) Utility Poles and Mary Lou Peace added Item E) CDL Training. Under New Business Mary Lou Peace added Item D) Utility Bills; Item E) Permission; and Item F) Dodge Ram Truck. Travis Wood made the motion to approve the revised agenda. Dicky Cleland seconds the motion. The motion was approved. Appropriation Ordinance #1 was presented to the City Council for approval of payment. Rob Lessen made the motion to approve Appropriation Ordinance #1. Travis Wood seconds the motion. The motion was approved.

Mary Lou Peace made the motion to go into Executive Session on a Non-Elected Personnel matter with the Mayor, City Attorney and City Council members excluding Rob Lessen due to conflict for 5 minutes. Mayor Anderson stated that only Mr. Lessen can remove himself. Mary Lou requested a private conversation with the City Attorney. After a brief conversation. Tom Hayes stated that Rob Lessen would be included. Dick Cleland seconds the motion the motion was approved. 6:45 p.m.

Mary Lou Peace made the motion to go back into regular session at 6:52 p.m. Dick Cleland seconds the motion. The motion was approved. Mary Lou then made the motion to go back into Executive Session with the same group of people and the City Clerk for 5 minutes. Dick Cleland seconds the motion. 6:53 p.m.

Travis Wood made the motion to go back into Regular Session at 6:58 p.m. Ken Harryman seconds the motion. The motion was approved. No action was taken by the City Council.

EMPLOYEE HEALTH INSURANCE

Mary Lou Peace will forward information to Bette Lessen on email addresses.

RESET SPECIAL MEETING

Dick Cleland made the motion to hold a Special Meeting on Monday February 22nd at 6:30 p.m. to discuss the Public Works Director position and the Part-Time City Manager's position. Travis Wood seconds the motion. The motion was approved.

CERTIFIED WATER/WASTEWATER CONTRACTOR

Mayor Anderson stated that he had a conversation with Teresa a representative with the Department of Health and Environment about the City not having a qualified/certified water/wastewater operator on site. Rock stated that Kevin Goodwin has spoke with Gary Taylor who is certified water/wastewater operator, and he can be contracted to take care of the City's monthly samples. He charges \$500.00 a month plus a \$35.00 an hour travel fee plus mileage to take care of submitting Arma's samples to the State. Tom Hayes felt that there should be a contract between the City and Mr. Taylor. Dick Cleland made the motion to hire Mr. Taylor on a month to month or a 6 month contact subject to his terms. Travis Wood seconds the motion. The motion was approved.

UTILITY POLES

Dicky Cleland reported that he had contacted the Pole Company that is located on North Rouse about the cost of their poles. Dicky said that the Poles can be purchased there for 20.00 to 30.00 dollars less per pole this direction. Plus, the City would save on the \$400.00 expense of freight that we are charged. Rock Anderson stated that he had found the \$400.00 freight fee is split between Arma and the other communities include in the purchase, so the City does not pay a full \$400.00. Dicky stated that he did not know this information.

CDL TRAINING

Mary Lou Peace said that she had called CDL today and at that time no appointment has been made with them on the training with the video cameras. Chris Wilson Assistant Police Chief was present, and he told the City Council that he had a conversation with Mike McLeod today about this training. Mary Lou Peace requested the City Council to give her permission to be notified by the Police Department on the training. Tom Hayes said that all City Council members can be kept abreast of the training session.

NEW BUSINESS

LETTERS OF RESIGNATION

Mayor Anderson read aloud Police Chief Howard Camps letter of resignation, February 26th to be his last day of employment. Dicky Cleland made the motion to accept Howard Camp's letter of resignation. Mary Lou Peace seconds the motion. The motion was approved by the majority with Rob Lessen voting no.

Mayor Anderson then read aloud Police Officer Craig Ruddick's letter of resignation with his last workday to be February 3rd, 2021. Dicky Cleland made the motion to accept Craig's letter of resignation. Ken Harryman seconds the motion. The motion was approved.

Travis Wood made the motion to amend the evenings agenda to include the topic of hiring a new Police Officer. Dicky Cleland seconds the motion. The motion was approved.

Rock Anderson stated his opinion of both employees handing over their letters of resignation and asked both Council Members Mary Lou Peace and Dicky Cleland to resign this evening their position on the City Council. Neither Mary Lou nor Dicky complied with the Mayor's request.

ASSISTANT POLICE CHIEF CHRIS WILSON

Assistant Chief Wilson was present to speak to the City Council on hiring a qualified/certified gentleman for Craig Ruddick's open position. Cory Strong is State certified and would require only 2 weeks of training also Chris wanted the City Council to know that the department has lost 2 part-time officers and hiring Mr. Strong would help the department. Chris also said that he should be started out at \$16.00 an hour. Mary Lou Peace made the motion to hire Cory Strong at \$16.00 an hour. Travis Wood seconds the motion. The motion was approved.

2ND MEETING DATE

Council determined earlier in the meeting that they would meet on the 15th at 6:30 p.m. even though this is a National Holiday.

UTILITY BILLS

Mary Lou Peace questioned how the utility bills for February will be handled since City Hall was closed for over 2 weeks due to COVID? City Clerk Bette Lessen reported that she and Vanessa Kent are sending out February bills later this week and it has been posted on both face book pages that the City has plus informing any resident that call about the late reason for mailing the February this month. Also, residents have been informed that there will not be any penalties this month.

PERMISSION

Mary Lou Peace asked the City Council for permission to do research on installing smart meters for our water service. City Council discussed this issue and ended with the understanding that research by the members could be done.

Mary Lou stated that Kevin Goodwin should get an updated list on all City Equipment. Bette Lessen reported that the City Liability Insurance has all equipment and vehicles listed.

DODGE RAM TRUCK

Mary Lou Peace brought up the decals on the Dodge Ram and suggested that they be replaced to match the other truck. Chris Wilson spoke up and stated that the department would like to investigate a new vehicle replacing the Tahoe and moving the Dodge to the SRO Officer. Chris will get in contact with Tommy Scotten on the decals.

POLICE OFFICER POSITION

Chris Wilson asked the City Council to allow him to advertise for an open Officer position for the department. With Howard leaving the 26th it would be helpful to have a new officer to fill the open spot. Currently Rick Fox the SRO Officer is not taking care of the school but working the 3rd shift. Travis Wood made the motion to allow Chris to advertise for this position. Rob Lessen seconds the motion. The motion was approved.

POLICE CHIEF REPORT

Howard Camp had his monthly report in each Council members packet for their review. Chris Wilson also reported that there will be a computer class on the 19th for the new laptops that will be installed in the vehicles.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Rock Anderson asked the Council members to try and be kinder and fairer to the City Employees.

Mary Lou Peace stated: "I would like an opportunity to personally talk with them (employees) and let them tell me their problems, their gripes against me, maybe that can help."

COMMUNICATIONS

No communications presented.

PURCHASE REQUEST

Dicky Cleland made the motion to allow the purchase of the electric poles as well as the requested items on the requisition form. Travis Wood seconds the motion. The motion was approved.

Mary Lou Peace made the motion to approve the work by Water Tank Inspectors for \$2,999.99. Dicky Cleland seconds the motion. The motion was approved.

Rob Lessen reported that Jason Dickman who was with PEC has resigned his position and that Ben Mabry who is in Wichita will be taking of Jason's projects.

Rob Lessen made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:03 p.m. Ken Harryman seconds the motion. The motion was approved.

Bette Lessen, City Clerk