

Regular meeting of the mayor and council was held December 2, 2019, at 5:30 p.m., at city hall. Mayor John Bisnette presided. Council members present: Jane VanDonge, Evan Joy, Charlie Stevens, Devin Renken, Council member Tonya Kuhn was absent. Others present: Bruce Berkley, LaRhea Cole, Cynthia Shanley, Kent Sullivan, Harry Colburn, Richard Judd and Kathy McCart.

Mayor John Bisnette called the meeting to order and led in the flag salute.

Evan moved, seconded by Charlie, to approve the regular meeting minutes of November 18, 2019. Carried.

Officer Jerry Knouf reported the Osborne County Sheriff's office has been quiet this month.

Code Enforcement Officer indicated no report.

City Attorney reported a Planning and Zoning Meeting was held. The committee will need additional comments regarding zoning request by Sheila Curtis. The updated Employee Handbook is in final review; there are additional changes to be considered. The League is in process of further consideration of Charter Ordinance #16

Animal Control Officer, Richard Judd reported little action regarding animals. Officer Judd spoke with Downs Veterinary regarding euthanizing animals. Downs Vet no longer provides service. Judd contacted Salina about euthanizing services and will update Council as he learns additional information.

City Superintendent reported crew have been busy preparing snow removal equipment for winter. The north building doors are now replaced however tarps are still in place temporarily. Crew continues to install digital meters. KDHE forwarded a letter regarding lagoon issues. Sullivan indicated flow will be adjusted accordingly, noting rain had impacted flow this year. Ditch work is on-going to facilitate drainage. Superintendent spoke with Anderson's regarding better water drainage to south. Crew will haul in dirt to decrease slope toward residence. A call was placed to the agency/company performing gas line work for Scoular. Sullivan will track and assure street damage will be repaired by said agency. Christmas tree lights broken and damaged by wind are repaired. Park lights are adjusted to stop "blinking". Tree dump debris removal is now much easier due to the new skid loader. Superintendent brought up the possibility to purchase a blade for skid loader, perhaps next year. The City's Ford tractor is basically worn out and parts for repair are difficult to obtain. Discussion surrounding grapple hooks for equipment was held. Mayor directed Sullivan to research a price quote for hooks.

Fire Department brought up topic of unused budget funds with thoughts to transfer funds into Fire Equipment Reserve Fund. Berkley will liaison with Council Member Kuhn who has researched disposition of funds and donations to the Fire Department.

Mayor inquired about recycle trailer status. It was reported Osborne County Commissioners approved the end of recycle program effective January 1, 2020. Discussion ensued among council members if Downs should continue program within the city.

Evan moved, seconded by Jane to cease the recycle operations within Downs due to costs. Carried.

Devin moved, seconded by Jane, to approve City License Applications 20-02 through 20-09. Carried.

No further reports from Council Members.

Superintendent Sullivan responded to council questions about crew overtime. Sullivan has spoken with all crew members to avoid all overtime hours. Council requested he stay on-top of overtime hours. Superintendent received a renewal proposal from HACH for annual nitrate calibration services.

Devin moved, seconded by Charlie, to approve payment of vouchers and payroll. Carried.

General discussion took place regarding the upcoming property tax sale.

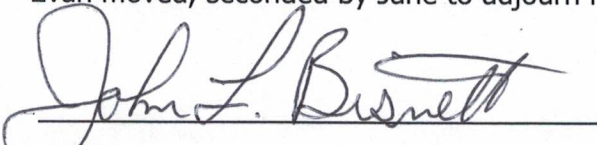
At 6:30, Evan moved, seconded by Jane, to go into Executive Session for 15 minutes with Mayor, City Council, City Attorney and Deputy Clerk, to further discuss foreclosure properties in Downs. Carried.

At 6:45 regular session resumed.

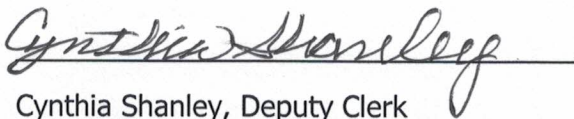
At 6:46, Jane moved, seconded by Charlie to go into Executive Session for 15 minutes with Mayor, City Council, City Attorney and Deputy Clerk, to continue property foreclosure discussions. Carried.

At 7:01 regular session resumed.

Evan moved, seconded by Jane to adjourn regular session.



John Bisnette, Mayor



Cynthia Shanley, Deputy Clerk