

Regular meeting of the mayor and council was held January 2, 2018, 5:00 p.m., at city hall. Mayor Jennifer Brush presided. Council members present: John Cary, Devin Renken, and Teri Cordill. Members absent: Tonya Kuhn and John Bisnette. Others in attendance: Bruce Berkley, Terry Gradig, Ron Duran, Vickie Oviatt, Evan Joy, Jane VanDonge, LaRhea Cole.

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

Teri moved, seconded by Devin, to approve the minutes of the December 18, 2017 regular meeting and the December 28, 2017 special meeting. Carried.

Marcus Betzold, Deputy, presented the law enforcement report of activities for the period of December 1, 2017 – January 1, 2018.

Bruce presented the gas service franchise ordinance.

Ron Duran, Animal Control, gave the animal control report of activities.

City Superintendent, Terry Gradig, reported on the backfilling and decommissioning at the industrial lagoons. He had visited with Doug Goetz, Wilson & Co., concerning land application. John C. discussed unnecessary labor and a lot of money being spent overfilling, in his estimation at a great expense to the city. John noted that Terry did not listen to his suggestions, but instead said that he was making it easier for Dale Goheen to farm.

City Clerk reported that the next regular meeting will be on Tuesday, January 16th, due to the holiday.

City Clerk recognized Teri Cordill for her past four years plus that she has served as council member; John Cary for his past eight years plus as council member; and Jennifer Brush, Mayor, for her twelve years on the council and the past four and a half years as mayor of the city. On behalf of the citizens of the City of Downs, a big thank you was extended to these officials for their leadership and public service.

John moved, seconded by Teri, to designate the State Bank of Downs as depository for the City of Downs for 2018. Carried.

Devin moved, seconded Teri, to approve licenses #18-29; #18-30; and #18-31. Carried.

An ordinance granting to Kansas Gas Service a natural gas franchise was presented. John moved to pass Ordinance #985, and allow the mayor and clerk to sign. Devin seconded. Carried.

John moved to approve special use permit #18-03. Teri seconded. Carried. Devin abstained.

Devin reminded that it's a new year and special use permits are due for 2018.

Mayor Brush and Teri will finalize the grant for the pool deck and Terry will finalize the grant for closing the circle, at the memorial park. Mayor Brush offered to continue to assist with the city website and face book account if council wished.

Vouchers and payroll were approved and signed. Devin moved, seconded by Teri, to approve the vouchers and payroll as presented. Carried.

At 5:30 p.m., John moved to recess into executive session to discuss matters pertaining to non-elected personnel with the topics of employee review, wages, insurance, and job performance, with the mayor, council, and council elect Jane VanDonge and Evan Joy present. Teri seconded. Carried.

(Remaining minutes taken by Jennifer Brush)

6:00pm Council resumed regular session.

John Cary made a motion to go back into executive session for 30 minutes to discuss matters pertaining to non-elected personnel with the topics of employee review, wages, insurance, and job performance, with the mayor, council, and council elect Jane VanDonge and Evan Joy present. Teri Cordill seconded. Motion passed.

6:30 Council resumed regular session.

John Cary and Teri Cordill gave their employee evaluations to Devin to share with the new, full council in executive session at the next meeting.

6:32 Teri made a motion to adjourn. John Cary seconded. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned.

Jennifer Brush, Mayor

Vickie Oviatt, Clerk