

Regular meeting of the mayor and council was held July 21, 2014, 5:00 p.m. at city hall. Mayor Jennifer Brush presided. Council present: John Cary, Dave Draayer, Teri Cordill, Jerry Knouf, David Hardy. Also present: LaRhea Cole, Terry Gradig, Michelle Huddle, Vickie Oviatt, Josh Shellito, Cathy Shellito, Glennys Doane.

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

Jerry moved, seconded by Teri, to approve the minutes of the July 14, 2014 special meeting. Carried.

Glennys Doane, Storytelling Committee, said that a lot of time has passed since 1993 when the Storytelling group first discussed oral agreements regarding what services the city would provide. She asked if a written agreement would be helpful for future years. This year the city helped hang a banner, provided RV hook up and insurance, and had a city wide cleanup prior to the festival. The committee does not currently pay any memorial hall rent, but they send a donation.

Dave H. entered.

Glennys also spoke as representative of the Memorial Hall Committee. She said that the Rotary has asked them to meet concerning landscape at the memorial hall. She provided a printed illustration of the proposed entrance with landscaping suggestions. She also asked that the council consider outside furnace units.

Terry reported that Remus Plumbing has increased the bid for the furnaces at the memorial hall. Mayor Brush noted that Jordon File, Willow Springs, is now living in Downs, so we have two local bidders. Council asked that Terry check with the bidders regarding their warranties. Action was tabled.

Terry said that he has not had a chance to try out the Bobcat loader yet. The Salina dealer will bring a machine for Terry to try. Action was tabled.

Terry had checked on flags at Miller Hardware. They do not have access to the Welcome flags. The US flags are \$24.99/each. John asked if Terry had checked on line for prices. Jerry moved, seconded by Teri, to purchase 30 US flags from Miller Hardware at a total cost of \$749.70. Carried.

Terry reported that he had submitted a progress report on the industrial lagoons to Eric Staab of KDHE today. Terry would like to contact the Bureau concerning a potential sewer line installation. John moved to allow the city superintendent to make application to the Bureau of Reclamation to cross the dike with a potential sewer line in the industrial park. Jerry seconded the motion. Carried.

The city crew is working on the College intersection replacement.

Jerry inquired about a water leak across the street from his house. Terry said that he is waiting on parts to finish the repairs.

Michelle Huddle, CPA with Swindoll, Janzen, Hawk, & Loyd, was present and conducted a review of the 2013 audit of city financial statements. Following review, Dave D. moved, seconded by Dave H., to

approve the audit report presented by Swindoll, Janzen, Hawk, and Loyd for the year ended December 31, 2013. Carried.

Michelle presented a draft budget for 2015. Council reviewed and discussed leaving the mill levy the same as last year. Council discussed probable upcoming projects. Michelle will make adjustments and email changes for review. It was decided to approve the publication at the next regular meeting of August 4th and conduct the hearing on August 18, 2014 at 6:00 p.m.

Jerry moved, seconded by Teri, to approve building permits #14-14 and #14-15. Carried.

The 2015 law enforcement contract was tabled for further review.

Mayor Brush had visited with Frances Meyeres about voluntary grant writing for the city. John moved, seconded by Jerry, to approve Frances Meyeres to be the city volunteer grant writer. Carried. A letter of approval will be sent to Frances.

Jerry moved, seconded by Dave H., to accept Jennifer Whitman-Cooper's resignations effective July 21, 2014 from the Downs Planning Commission and the Board of Zoning Appeals. Carried.

Mayor Brush appointed Tonya Kuhn to the Downs Planning Commission to complete the unexpired three year term of Jennifer Whitman-Cooper, 2014-2015. Dave H. moved, seconded by Jerry, to approve the mayor's appointment of Tonya Kuhn to the planning commission for an unexpired term from 2014 to 2015. Carried.

John moved that the city council continue with the annexation process. Jerry seconded. Teri, Dave H., John, Jerry – Yes; Dave D. – No. Carried.

John reported that Jim Wolters would charge \$100.00 to auction off the farm ground parcels.

Mayor Brush had is following up with contact to Scoular Grain and Midway Co-op regarding street improvements.

Mayor Brush reported that next Monday, July 28 is planning commission meeting at 5:30 p.m.

Vouchers were reviewed and signed. Dave D. moved, seconded by John, to approve the vouchers as presented. Carried.

Dave D. moved, seconded by Jerry, to adjourn the meeting at 7:38 p.m. Carried. Meeting adjourned.

Jennifer Brush – Mayor

Vickie Oviatt – Clerk

