

Regular meeting of the mayor and council was held August 18, 2014, 5:00 p.m., at city hall. Mayor Jennifer Brush presided. Council members present: John Cary, Teri Cordill, Jerry Knouf, David Hardy, David Draayer. Others in attendance: Terry Gradig, Bruce Berkley, Vickie Oviatt, LaRhea Cole, Cathy Shellito, Sherry Knouf, Brett Doane, Edgar Reinert, Curt Miner, Alan Feist, Rose Reed, Marjorie Reinert, Brian Sharp, Frances Meyeres, Richard Boxum.

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

John moved, seconded by Jerry, to approve the minutes of the city council meeting held August 4, 2014. Carried.

Osborne County Sheriff Curt Miner was present at the request of the council. John noted that the law enforcement contract had remained the same since 2009, at \$82,500.00/annually. He asked Sheriff Miner how well he thought the department honored the contract. Sheriff Miner thought the city comes out well ahead with ample coverage and extra coverage during special events. Jerry noted that the city could not afford to have its own department with 24 hour coverage. Following discussion, John moved, seconded by Teri, to allow the mayor and clerk to sign the law enforcement contract with the sheriff's office for 2015. Carried. Jerry abstained.

Sherry Knouf and Brett Doane, Downs Arts Council, were present to ask the council to make a decision on the lighting and sound updates for the memorial hall. Council thought the updates were a good idea but cannot commit to the funds at this time.

Dave Hardy entered.

Rose Reed and Alan Feist were present to discuss the condition of the cemetery. Rose said that there were weeds around the stones, bindweed, and stickers. She presented pictures of the overgrowth around stones and gravesites. She said that the cemetery has always been well kept in the past. Terry said that the prisoners are scheduled to weed eat every three weeks. Council thanked Rose for bringing this to their attention.

A letter was received from Chelsea Remus, Breast Friends Foundation, requesting memorial hall fees be waived for a "fun night" in honor of JoSusan McCafferty. Jerry moved, seconded by Dave H., to waive memorial hall fees for Breast Friends Foundation for September 20, 2014 for a fun night. Carried.

City Attorney reported that he had not heard back from the surveying crew on the farm ground. He had spoken with the railroad representative about the former Railroad Inn ground maintenance. Terry noted that the city crew had planted grass there but had not removed fallen limbs.

Terry asked if council had looked at the cemetery trees. Jerry suggested they be trimmed.

Terry reported that the city crew had sprayed streets. The new Bobcat track machine arrived on Friday.

Terry presented a quote from Keezer Construction to widen Delaware Street. No action was taken at this time.

At 6:00 p.m., Mayor Brush opened the public hearing on the proposed 2015 budget. Questions, relating to the use of funds and the amount of tax, were received from Frances Meyeres and from Richard Boxum. There was lengthy discussion. Jerry said that the council is looking for ways to eliminate dilapidated houses; consequently, he was in favor of the rate staying the same as published. Another potential future project is the sewer lines. Dave D. and John had spent telephone time with Scot Loyd regarding ways to lower the rate. It was determined that the budgeted amount of the cash basis reserve for Debt Service was more than adequate and this could lower the mill levy by three mills without any effect on any other funds. With no further questions presented, Mayor Brush declared the hearing closed at 7:30 p.m.

Dave D. moved, seconded by Dave H., to approve the budget at 72.637 mills for 2015. Dave H., Dave D. – Yes; Jerry, John, Teri – No. Motion did not pass.

Jerry moved, seconded by John, to approve the published mill levy of 75.637. Dave H., Dave D. – No; Teri, John, Jerry – Yes. Motion carried.

The 2015 budget was duly approved, adopted and signed by the council.

City Clerk presented the end of the season written report from Alida Draayer, Pool Manager.

City Clerk reported that the next regular meeting will be held Tuesday, September 2, due to the holiday.

Dave H. reported that the clinic project, of recovering the exam tables, has been completed.

Vouchers were reviewed and signed.

Dave D. moved, seconded by Jerry to approve the vouchers/payroll as presented. Carried.

Jerry moved, seconded by Teri, to adjourn the meeting at 7:56 p.m. Motion Carried. Meeting adjourned.

Jennifer Brush, Mayor

Vickie Oviatt, Clerk

