

Regular meeting of the mayor and council was held August 21, 2017, 5:00 p.m. at city hall. Mayor Jennifer Brush presided. Council members present: John Bisnette, John Cary, Tonya Kuhn, Devin Renken, Teri Cordill. Others in attendance: Terry Gradig, Bruce Berkley, Josh Hofflinger, Kent Sullivan, Vickie Oviatt, LaRhea Cole, Ron Duran, Jane VanDonge, Evan Joy, Barry Madden.

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

Teri moved, seconded by Tonya, to approve the minutes of August 7, 2017. Carried.

Barry Madden, Prairie Land Electric, was present to renew the electric franchise which expires in September. Prairie Land would like to renew for a 20-year period due to cost involved. The current 10-year franchise collects a 4% fee from Downs customers. He reviewed the fees approved by other cities in the area. Action was tabled.

Terry, Code Enforcement, reported that he had talked to the former residents of 1309 Morgan concerning mowing and cleanup. Bruce discussed the possible tax foreclosure. Terry also reported that the deadline for trash clean up at 607 Division is up, if not removed by Tuesday, the crew will clean up.

Council gave the city attorney approval to notify, by letter or phone call, the local business using golf carts without a permit.

Ron Duran reported on animal control activity. He responded to a call for a fox at the nursing home, but it was gone when he arrived. There were a few impounds and a written complaint of six dogs at a multi-family household on west Osborne Street. Ron said that the council has allowed harboring more than two dogs if registered at different addresses, noting the four hunting dogs in a pen on Division. John C. replied that the council has given special permission in certain instances, on a case by case basis, but this does not change the law for others. He asked Ron to advise those with more dogs that the law states only two dogs per household per residence. Ron should document and advise the council and sheriff of any threats. Mayor Brush discussed a photo documented instance of a dog at large this past week end. Bruce advised that the person, who took the picture, should fill out a written complaint. Teri requested a welfare check of the dogs living at 821 Osborne.

City Superintendent reported that the pool deck has been torn out to the point of approval. He asked if the council wished to continue tearing out another couple sections to the east fence. Council agreed to the additional concrete expense in lieu of the \$6,000.00 contractual labor funded by the grant

Terry reported on water line replacement at the city office; water leaks to repair on Railroad and Ross; and a fire hydrant to replace. Mayor Brush had requested the city crew be present and suggested they keep a list for everyone to see of jobs to be completed, with open communication so if someone is absent. John C. asked that Kent be trained at the water plant as well.

John C. reported on the recent donations to the fire department. City auditor had suggested these donations be received to the general fund and then transferred to the desired equipment reserve. John C. moved, seconded by Tonya, to transfer the \$2500.00 Monsanto donation; the

\$1500.00 Midway Co-op donation; and the \$1500.00 Land O'Lakes donation from the general fund to the Fire Equipment Reserve fund. Carried. Devin and John C. abstained.

City Attorney, Bruce Berkley, had reviewed the Quit Claim Deed from Union Pacific for the well ground. Tonya moved, seconded by John B., to accept the Quit Claim Deed from Union Pacific and approve the mayor to sign. Carried.

John B. moved to create a Water/Sewer Reserve Account. Teri seconded the motion. John B., John C., Teri, Tonya – Yes; Devin – No. Motion carried.

Council reviewed prior donations to the Solomon Valley Transportation. Following discussion, Tonya moved, seconded by Teri, to pledge \$300.00 to Solomon Valley Transportation toward SVT's 2018 budget. Carried.

Tonya moved, seconded by John B., to approve building permit #17-16. Carried.

Bruce discussed the unsafe structures. Progress was made at the 910 Osborne location. The trailers are removed and the lot cleaned up. Council agreed for Bruce to begin the abatement process on the Hadley Street properties that are visible from Hwy 24.

Bruce discussed the nuisance vehicles. Cases in violation were reviewed. There will be a follow up to see if the owners have complied before citations are issued. Devin questioned what is the probable cause to access property if the tag cannot be viewed from the street or alley. John C. suggested this would be question for law enforcement.

John B. asked if the late fee was lowered when the billing went monthly. Council agreed there were no changes made to the late fee.

Mayor Brush presented an invitation, from Doug Goetz, to attend a dinner provided by Wilson & Co., on Sunday evening, September 17<sup>th</sup>.

It was noted that the next regular meeting will be on Tuesday, September 5<sup>th</sup>, due to the Labor Day holiday.

Voucners and payroll were reviewed and signed. Tonya moved, seconded by Devin, to approve the vouchers and payroll as presented. Carried.

At 7:00 p.m., Tonya moved to adjourn the meeting. Devin seconded the motion. Carried. Meeting adjourned.

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Jennifer Brush, Mayor

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Vickie Oviatt, Clerk

