

Regular meeting of the mayor and council was held November 21, 2016, 5:00 p.m. at city hall. Mayor Jennifer Brush presided. Council members present: John Bisnette, Devin Renken, Tonya Kuhn, Teri Cordill, John Cary. Also in attendance: Terry Gradig, Evan Joy, Vickie Oviatt.

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

Tonya moved, seconded by Devin, to approve the minutes of the November 7, 2016 meeting. Carried.

Devin had spoken with Deputy Marcus Betzold. The sheriff's department is revising the list of abandoned vehicles to include those who have not complied. It is unknown if they have investigated the entire town or only partial. There are additional non-compliance vehicles not listed.

For code enforcement, Terry presented an updated list of unsafe structures. He recommended that the owner of the house at 810 Osborne be served notice. There had been reports of rats at this location. Council agreed to have the city attorney pursue the property at 810 Osborne with the same options as 220 First Street.

City Superintendent, Terry Gradig, reported that he had sent Eric Staab, Bureau of Water, an updated report on the industrial lagoons. Regarding potential water sources, Terry presented the nitrate lab results from eight locations surrounding Downs.

Terry reported that KDHE will remove the carbon from the GAC Building this week.

Terry reported that the city crew has been sweeping streets, and replacing water lines. He had checked the medical clinic for progress by Willow Springs. He will ask Willow Springs for a test showing the results of treatments.

City Clerk shared a thank you note from Xi Theta Epsilon and from the committee members of the Guy Penrod concert held at the memorial hall. The Guy Penrod concert committee donated surplus funds of \$284.60 toward the Memorial Hall Improvement Fund. Clerk thanked the council for allowing her to attend the KMAAG Training in McPherson.

Devin moved, seconded by John B., to approve permits #17-01 & #17-02. Carried.

Tonya moved, seconded by Teri, to approve electrical licenses #17-03 & #17-04. Carried.

John B. moved, seconded by Devin, to approve permit #17-05. Carried.

Tonya moved to approve a (2017) CMB license for Alta Convenience. Teri seconded the motion. Carried.

There was discussion pertaining to the proposed ordinance #977, regulating shipping containers, trailers, and semi-trailers for use as accessory buildings, storage, or living units. The proposed ordinance would allow their use in the Industrial or Highway Commercial Districts only, not in Residential Districts. Following discussion, John C. moved to pass Ordinance #977. Tonya seconded the motion. Teri, Tonya, John C. – Yes; Devin, John B. – No. Motion carried.

Jimmy Busby arrived to update the council on his past due water account. He will get paid and could pay the entire amount by Monday the 28th. Council agreed to give Jimmy until Tuesday

morning November 29th, or be disconnected. John C. had a question for Jimmy on another matter. John C. asked Jimmy about a notice that the fire department received regarding a fire pit at his house. Jimmy said that they had decided not to have the fire, but he was unaware of the no open burning code.

Teri discussed completing the tile at the pool, and moved to allow the superintendent to order the balance, of not more than \$800.00, to finish off the tile in the pool bathrooms. Tonya seconded the motion. Carried.

Council had tabled a decision on a donation request from Solomon Valley Transportation. Teri moved to donate \$300.00 to Solomon Valley Transportation. John B. seconded the motion. Carried.

John C. reported that he had not heard back from Vo-Tech concerning their assistance with the extension of Railroad Avenue to the east. John suggested, with all of the dust that could be an issue, postponing the construction until it could be surfaced with asphalt or concrete.

Mayor Brush reported on the invitation from NWKP&DC to attend the annual meeting in Hill City, December 6, at 6:00 p.m.

Mayor Brush reported that she and Tonya had attended the Osborne County Foundation meeting.

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

At 6:15 p.m., John C. moved to recess into executive session for 30 minutes to discuss non-elected personnel, with the mayor and council present. John B. seconded. Carried.

(remaining minutes taken by Jennifer Brush)

At 6:45 p.m., council returned to regular session. Tonya made a motion to give the city employees the same Christmas bonus as last year - \$350.00 to full time employees and \$200.00 to part time employees, in Downs scrip dollars. Teri Cordill seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

At 6:48, Tonya made a motion to adjourn. John B. seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned.

Jennifer Brush, Mayor

Vickie Oviatt, City Clerk

