

The Hoyt City Council met in regular session on April 2, 2024.

Present were Mayor Bob Bell, council members Leonard Allen, Joe Romans, Becky McClane and Debbie Dreasher. Council member Larry Vadez was absent. Also present were Jessica Hoffman, Tim Mitchell Stacy Smith, Chris Smith, Steve Porubsky, Shauna Porubsky, Cynthia and Mike Jewell, Keith Kelly, Kenny Bryan, city attorney Lee Hendricks and Chief of Police Dan Wentling.

Mayor Bob Bell called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Council was previously provided minutes from the March 5, 2024 council meeting for review. Joe Romans made a motion to accept the minutes from the March 5, 2024 council meeting. Becky McClane seconded, motion carried.

Shawna & Steve Porubsky and Stacey Smith, owners of Haymaker's Bar and Grill appeared to introduce themselves to the council. They bought the former Tap & Feed Shed restaurant in Hoyt. They answered questions and discussed the tentative opening date and discussed some possible future events.

Kristy Wilson with Kellerman's Insurance appeared to provide the annual insurance review. Wilson discussed adding a forgery and alteration coverage to the policy at an additional \$9/year. Debbie Dreasher made a motion to approve the policy as presented and add the forgery and alteration coverage to the policy. Joe Romans seconded, motion carried. Wilson noted any additional changes to the policy could be made at any time.

Tim Mitchell and Jessica Hoffman discussed using some of the park area for soccer practice. At this time, it would be only during the spring season. Mitchell stated he had discussed this with the RV Rec Association and Kenny Bryan as well. After discussion, Debbie Dreasher made a motion to approve the proposal to utilize the north end of the park area south of the baseball field for soccer practice for at least the spring with the possibility of it using for fall if that can be coordinated with all parties. Joe Romans seconded, motion carried.

Jessica Hoffman presented the council with a proposal to have a flag flown at the city park. There is a location that was previously used for this purpose. Hoffman had also discussed this with Kenny Bryan. Bryan is working on getting a secure light for the area. After discussion, Joe Romans made a motion to approve having a flag in the city park in the area previously used for such purpose. Debbie Dreasher seconded, motion carried.

Cynthia Jewell discussed with the council having a flea market on her property every Wednesday afternoon starting in May. Council and city attorney discussed the necessary fees and permits. Hendricks would like to review further to make sure it is done the same as previous events. Joe

Romans made a motion to approve the business permit to have the flea market on private property on Wednesday afternoons beginning in May pending review from the attorney. Leonard Allen seconded, motion carried.

Keith Kelly, Jackson County Commissioner appeared to provide a county update. Kelly discussed the HEAL grant available through the Department of Commerce for rehabilitating older businesses. More information is available on the Kansas Department of Commerce website. Kelly also discussed the upgraded police radios necessary due to upcoming changes to the system. Commissioner Kelly noted the County is purchasing 70 radios, three of which are going to the City of Hoyt. It was noted the police department would need one additional radio and portables.

Kelly informed the council of a public meeting that will be July 17 from 3-7pm at the Jackson County Courthouse to involve all department heads and the commissions for budget discussions. This is an opportunity for people to come and ask questions relating to the county budget.

Kelly provided an update regarding a dispute with the federal government regarding lost revenue off of property in the county, some of which lies inside the boundaries of the reservation. He wanted to confirm the dispute is not with the tribe but rather with the federal government for reimbursement from the lost revenue.

Kelly provided an opportunity to ask any questions regarding the solar process.

Mayor Bell had questions regarding the tornado sirens. Joe Romans and Keith Kelly provided an update on the sirens. It was noted the city purchases the sirens but the county is responsible for the maintenance of the sirens. The sirens have been tested again and both are now working.

There was discussion regarding the progress done on the county roads.

Kenny Bryan asked the council on behalf of the cub scouts if they could have a campout at the park on April 20th. The scouts are assisting Kenny Bryan that day with the garden and putting gravel down in the play area at the park. Council had no issues with the scouts camping overnight by the pond on April 20th.

Bryan noted the annual sewer line cleaning will begin April 15th. Bryan would like to have the lift stations cleaned as well. This would be an additional cost of approximately \$1,500. Debbie Dreasher made a motion to have Bryan contact Mayer to add the lift station cleaning when they come on April 15th at an approximate cost of \$1,500. Joe Romans seconded, motion carried.

Bryan relayed a request by Paul Davis to hay the area around the sewer ponds. Bryan had told Davis he would need to have a liability policy in place before the council would consider the request. It was noted Davis had purchased a liability policy. After discussion, council agreed to allow Paul Davis to bale the area around the sewer ponds with the understanding he must have the bales removed before July 3 and provide proof of liability insurance. Davis will be able to keep all bales from the area.

Kenny Bryan provided an update on the Eagle Scout project previously presented by Kaden Pugh.

Joe Romans discussed with Kenny Bryan the discussion earlier regarding the soccer goals at city park for soccer practice. Bryan had no issues with having the goals at the park. Romans discussed the flag that was approved for the city park. Bryan would like to install the light at the shelter house (that would light the flag) in a different manner to hopefully deter additional damage to the light. It was noted it has been broken numerous times in the past. Joe Romans made a motion to authorize Kenny Bryan to spend \$500 on installing the light in the different manner he presented at the shelter house. Leonard Allen seconded, motion carried.

Romans informed Bryan the flea market on the property owned by Cynthia Jewell was tentatively approved.

Leonard Allen discussed with Bryan the status of his water operator certification. Bryan stated he had taken the test in Wichita and should be getting the results soon. Allen and the council discussed the timeline for keeping Bob Ehrhart on as the water and sewer operator if Bryan was the operator in training. Allen will recheck with KDHE the requirements relating to the water and sewer operator.

Becky McClane provided an update on the status of the cleanup from the fire at 102 Highland. The property owner is waiting on a report from the Fire Department. It was noted the property owner is working on cleaning up at the property when possible and does plan to rebuild on the property. It was noted the area has been fenced and taped off.

Debbie Dreasher asked about the status of the invoice from Ehrhart Excavating for the fence at the same property. It was noted he would not charge for the fence as long as it was returned.

Joe Romans discussed with council the conversation he had with Todd Anderson from SMH Consultants regarding possibly expanding the sidewalk project. To avoid having to do the survey process over again, the consensus was it made more sense to expand the project now, if possible. Romans will discuss again with Mr. Anderson and get his thoughts on the best areas to expand the project. Anderson will be invited to attend the next council meeting with his recommendations.

Council discussed the concerns with speeders on Highland. This led to discussions regarding the part time police officer opening. Romans suggested advertising in the Topeka Capitol to reach a larger audience.

Joe Romans provided an update on the hazard mitigation checklist needed from the county to update the plan. Romans had recently met with Pat Korte and was able to check off the necessary items. It was also noted the city emergency plan needs to be reviewed and updated. Romans can do that as well and will present any changes to the council.

As noted previously, both tornado sirens do work now. There was an issue with the sending unit which has been resolved.

Mayor Bell reported he was told at the last mayor meeting that the LRS trucks are lighter than the Waste Management trucks which will hopefully provide some relief to the streets 😊

In old business, the council discussed the proposed contract that had been sent from LRS for trash service. Hendricks had a few recommended changes that were discussed. Council was in agreement with the changes and Hendricks will send the updated contract for approval.

Council was presented with ordinances regarding the no parking changes from Fifth and Central to Seventh and Central and on East Seventh from the intersection of Seventh and Central to Seventh and Annetta. There was also an ordinance to increase the trash rates.

Joe Romans made a motion to pass Ordinances 359, 360 and 361. Leonard Allen seconded, motion carried.

There was discussion relating to the capital improvement fund. Based on the email from the accountant, it was believed the automated water meters would be an allowable expense under the fund.

City clerk noted the city had paid for 100 public users through the new water billing software. There are currently 96 users. If the city would like to add additional users, the cost would be \$336 annually for 50 additional users. Leonard Allen made a motion to approve an additional 50 users at a cost of \$336 once the 100 user threshold is met. Joe Romans seconded, motion carried.

Joe Romans had a picture of a possible veteran's memorial to have at the park. He can do some research on costs and present more information at a future meeting.

Mayor Bell provided an update on the last mayor meeting he attended in Holton.

Chief of Police Dan Wentling provided the monthly police report. As noted earlier the County was supplying three of the soon to be required radios, so there would not be the \$15,000 expense that was approved previously. The department will still need to get an extra radio and two portables, but the Chief does not have those costs at this time. Wentling noted he had looked at police vehicles there were available from the Kansas Highway Patrol. He will continue to look and research availability and costs for new police vehicles. Joe Romans recommended running the police officer ad in the Topeka Capitol Journal. Leonard Allen made a motion to approve up to \$150 for advertising in the Topeka Capitol Journal for the part time police officer position. Joe Romans seconded, motion carried.

Becky McClane asked if she could change the parks department with Debbie Dreasher for water. This can be done at the May meeting when appointments are done.

Debbie Dreasher asked about the cleaning schedule for the community building. It was noted Baily Ogden cleans the building after each event.

Becky McClane made a motion to pay bills. Joe Romans seconded, motion carried.

Joe Romans offered to teach a stop the bleed class at the community building if at least 10 people were interested. Those interested can contact the city clerk to be added to the list.

Joe Romans made a motion to adjourn. Becky McClane seconded, motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Shawna Blackwood
City Clerk