

The Hoyt City Council met in regular session on December 5, 2023.

Present were Mayor Robert Bell, council members Leonard Allen, Joe Romans, Larry Valdez and Becky McClane. Council member Justin Faulkner was absent. Also present were Dan, Joan and Kainoah Rickel, city accountant Matt Deutsch, city attorney Lee Hendricks and Chief of Police Dan Wentling.

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

Council was previously provided minutes from the November 7, 2023 council meeting. Council discussed one correction to the minutes. Leonard Allen made a motion to accept the minutes from the November 7, 2023 meeting with the correction made. Larry Valdez seconded, motion carried.

Dan Rickel appeared to discuss the conversations noted in the October meeting minutes regarding the Hubener property. City limit boundaries for other properties were also discussed.

Matt Deutsch, city accountant, provided a year end financial report. Council and accountant discussed the budget amounts for each fund and possible future expenses. Council discussed putting aside an amount each year to the sewer reserve fund (if possible) for the future expense of dredging the sewer ponds. Council discussed remaining ARPA funds and what projects could be used with those remaining funds and noted they would like to make the prepayment on the sewer loan in 2024. Council also discussed the possibility of using remaining ARPA funds toward switching to the digital read meters that has been discussed previously.

Leonard Allen made a motion to transfer up to \$72,000 from the sewer fund to the sewer reserve fund and empower the mayor to sign a Resolution setting out this transfer without further council discussion. Larry Valdez seconded, motion carried.

Leonard Allen made a motion to transfer up to \$33,000 from the general fund to the capital improvement fund and empower the mayor to sign a Resolution setting out this transfer without further council discussion. Joe Romans seconded, motion carried.

Council and accountant discussed the hydrants in town that needed replaced/repared and what funds could be used for those costs. Council also discussed possible expenses for replacing the lead/copper water lines if needed after such inventory was submitted to KDHE. City attorney mentioned he was going to a meeting on this topic and would report to the council at the next meeting.

City clerk asked for recommendations for an auditor as John Welch has retired.

Council discussed past permits. It was believed Sue Manuel at 402 Annetta was no longer asking for the variance relating to her fence that was discussed last month.

Lee Hendricks provided an update on the income survey done by Governmental Assistance Services. It was noted Hoyt qualified for certain grant fund money and Mr. Nordstrom with GAS will attend the January meeting to provide additional information. Leonard Allen stated he knows someone as an option for grant writing and could have her attend a meeting when we get to that point.

Leonard Allen discussed the draft event agreement that was previously sent to him by the city attorney. Allen will forward that to the city clerk to submit to the council for their review. The proposed demolition permit application was also discussed. There were no changes made to the latest draft permit. It was noted Paul Crawford would be the one signing the application as the zoning administrator. Joe Romans made a motion to approve the updated demolition permit application. Larry Valdez seconded, motion carried.

Mayor Bell noted the city could also check with KDOT on possible grants for street repair/replacement.

City Clerk discussed her conversation with Kenny Bryan regarding the sewer and water connection fees that were set out in the Fee Resolution. The Resolution was passed with the understanding the fees could be updated based on the conversation with Mr. Bryan. The sewer connection fee is \$2,500 and the water connection fee is \$1,500.

Leonard Allen stated he was notified a person is living in what used to be the Tap and Feed Shed. The building is not zoned residential. The city attorney and Chief of Police will look into this further.

Leonard Allen discussed providing Christmas bonuses to the employees. He is proposing \$100 for the part time employees and \$250 for the full time employees. Leonard Allen made a motion to provide \$100 bonuses to each part time employee and \$250 bonus to each full time employee. Joe Romans seconded, motion carried.

The city clerk noted the representative from Neptune had stopped by the office asking if the council would be interested in discussing the digital read meters again. Council asked if he could provide an updated estimate at the next meeting. It was noted he was not able to attend the January meeting but could attend the February meeting.

Mayor Bell stated he had attended the Miracle on Fourth Street event and thought it was a great turnout and great event.

Chief of Police Dan Wentling provided the monthly report. Wentling discussed the status on the updated hand held radios that will be needed. He is not sure yet if the car radios will need to be replaced as well. Council discussed possible grant money for the cost and resale market for the old equipment.

Becky McClane shared a grant possibility for exercise equipment in the park that a citizen had dropped off at the city office. It was believed the city's match amount for the grant would be a very large amount.

Leonard Allen stated he had been contacted about an apiary for bees in the park as a possible Eagle Scout project. He had told those interested to bring a project idea to the council for consideration. Mayor Bell stated he had been contacted by a student about street repair and funding questions. Joe Romans stated he had been contacted by the same student and had sent a detailed response via email to his questions.

Joe Romans stated he had drove around town and took pictures of street repairs needed. Those were sent to Kenny Bryan and Bryan stated he would get cold patch for a temporary fix for those areas.

Larry Valdez provided an update on sewer. There was relay that went out at the 8th street pump. A price of \$1,000 was quoted for a new relay but a used one was found and purchased for \$200 and it is working. Larry discussed getting some spare relays to have in stock if a better price can be found. Leonard Allen made a motion to allow up to \$1,200 to purchase new relays for the sewer pump. Larry Valdez seconded, motion carried.

There was nothing to report on water or the community building.

There is a plaque for council member Justin Faulkner for his time as a council member and that will be delivered to him in the near future.

Joe Romans made a motion to pay bills. Larry Valdez seconded, motion carried.

Leonard Allen made a motion to adjourn. Joe Romans seconded, motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Shawna Blackwood
City Clerk