

The Hoyt City Council met in regular session on February 6, 2024.

Present were Mayor Bob Bell, council members Leonard Allen, Joe Romans, Larry Valdez, Becky McClane and Debbie Dreasher. Also present were Travis Norris, Tony Juarez, Kady Pugh, Chris & Melissa Pugh, Bob Ehrhart, Nick Ehrhart, Joan Rickel, Jeremy Andrews, Matt Swenson 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 January 2, 2024 council meeting for review. Joe Romans made a motion to accept the minutes from the January 2, 2024 council meeting. Leonard Allen seconded, motion carried.

Kady Pugh discussed with the council his proposal for his Eagle Scout project. Kady would like to stain/repair cracked areas of the community building floor. Council discussed materials needed, project costs, fundraising and the timeline for completing the project. Council asked Mr. Pugh to provide more information on these questions and once provided can work toward getting the project approved.

Bob Ehrhart appeared before the council with multiple items. Ehrhart asked the council to pay for costs to attend the KRWA conference in Wichita to maintain the necessary continuing ed hours for his operator license. Ehrhart asked for \$810.00 to include the registration costs, mileage and lodging. It was noted Kenny Bryan is planning on taking the water operator exam at the conference as well. Joe Romans made a motion to approve spending \$810 for Bob Ehrhart to attend the KRWA conference in Wichita March 26-28, 2024. Larry Valdez seconded, motion carried.

Ehrhart presented a bid for costs to secure the area on Highland after a recent house fire. Ehrhart also presented costs for cleanup of the area if needed in the future. After discussion, council made a motion to approve Ehrhart Excavating putting up a fence only at 104 Highland Avenue to secure the area for safety reasons. Leonard Allen seconded, motion carried. Nothing further can be done until the investigation is complete.

Nick Ehrhart noted this was the first fire since the larger water line has been installed by the school and there were no water supply or pressure issues noted during the fire. N. Ehrhart presented a bid for replacing water hydrants in town. The hydrants were listed in priority order as provided by the fire chief. Larry Valdez made a motion to approve replacing the two hydrants at the top of the list. Motion died for lack for a second. Council members discussed the possibility of the expense coming from the Capital Improvement Fund. This can be checked with the accountant. Council will revisit later in the meeting.

Travis Norris with Schulte Supply gave a presentation on the digital meter reader system and provided an updated bid for the meters.

Garrett Nordstrom with Governmental Assistance Services appeared to discuss the results of the income survey. Mr. Nordstrom noted the city met the threshold and now is eligible to apply for community development block grants. Mr. Nordstrom discussed options for projects that are classified as quality of life type projects and the process once a project is decided. Nordstrom also discussed his fees to apply for the grant once a project is decided. Council discussed a possible sidewalk project. Mr. Nordstrom will touch base with some engineers to start the process. Mr. Nordstrom will plan on attending next month's meeting to provide an update after discussions with possible engineers.

Joan Rickel appeared to ask questions about the Hubener property that was previously discussed. As noted by council, a plat had been previously presented by Hubeners but the plat was never approved by the city. Rickel also asked the council's thoughts on adding additional businesses on Highway 214. Rickel owns property on the north side of 214 behind the Dollar General and car wash. It was noted the properties she owned are in the county. Council and Rickel discussed responsibility for installing utility services if new businesses were added.

Larry Valdez provided a status update on old business. He had discussed with Kenny Bryan the trees in the waterway in the wooded area by the city pond discussed previously and he is working on getting those removed. He also spoke with Bryan regarding painting the posts in front of the shelter house and placing cold patch to fix potholes where needed. It was noted the cold patch has already been placed. It was also reported the disc golf basket had been moved and the speed limit sign had been ordered to replace the missing one in the park. Council discussed the status on salt and sand. Joe Romans will get an update from Kenny Bryan.

Leonard Allen discussed the bid presented for the new radios for the police department due to the change in systems. Debbie Dreasher made a motion to approve purchasing the radios for the police department in the amount of \$15,707.50 using ARPA funds for the purchase. Joe Romans seconded, motion carried.

Leonard Allen discussed the bid presented by Schulte Supply for digital read meters. Council discussed purchasing 100 meters now, 100 in 2025 and 100 in 2026. Allen figured a cost for this year with purchasing the software and the 100 meters at \$43,321.00. Council discussed using capital improvement funds for this purchase. The clerk will double check with the accountant this purchase can be used from that fund. Leonard Allen made a motion to approve purchasing 100 meters from Schulte Supply this year including the startup costs and equipment at a cost of \$43,421. Joe Romans seconded, motion carried.

Council discussed the bid presented by Ehrhart Excavating for replacing hydrants in town discussed earlier. Council discussed asking the fire board if they would be willing to share in costs of the replacing the hydrants. Leonard Allen will discuss this option with the fire board at their next meeting. Leonard Allen made a motion to approve the bid for replacing fire hydrant #1 listed in the bid from Ehrhart Excavating in the amount of \$6,500. Joe Romans seconded, motion carried.

Council discussed the sidewalk project and location discussed earlier with Garrett Nordstrom. Council will look at replacing/repairing sidewalks from 1<sup>st</sup> and Highland to the city park and the sidewalks from 4<sup>th</sup> and Highland east two blocks in front of the businesses on both sides of the street.

Joe Romans noted salary reviews will be done at the next meeting.

Leonard Allen relayed his conversation with the fire chief relating to the no parking on Highland from First to Second Street. There were no issues getting emergency vehicles to that location because of the no parking requirements previously put in place. It was noted no parking on at least one of side of the street on Central north of Fifth Street needs to also be implemented so that emergency vehicles can get through if needed. Council also discussed needing to do this on Annetta. Council will review the areas mentioned and make recommendations at the next meeting. Police and fire personnel can also review the area and make recommendations.

City clerk discussed a request to use the 4H building to go along with using the community building for an event. The person asking is renting the community building on March 23, 2024 and asked if the 4H building could be used as well to set up outdoor games and seating. Council was in agreement with this request.

Clerk discussed waiving the community building fee for a banquet for the Hoyt Fire Department held on January 6, 2024. Joe Romans made a motion to waive the community building fee for the Fire Department for the event on January 6, 2024. Debbie Dreasher seconded, motion carried.

On behalf of Royal Valley High School After Prom committee, Shawna Blackwood asked the council for a donation for this year's after prom event. Debbie Dreasher made a motion to approve a \$500 donation for the 2024 RVHS after prom event. Joe Romans seconded, motion carried.

Mayor Bell reminded council of the breakfast coming up put on by the Hoyt Fire Department on February 17. Mayor Bell also provided a summary of the latest mayor meeting he attended. Mayor noted he has been approached by different people about the possibility of a skateboard park or water park. It was noted again to have people bring their proposals for such projects to the council meetings for consideration.

Chief of Police Dan Wentling provided the monthly police report. Wentling noted they are still looking for a part time officer. The advertisement for the officer will be running again in the *Holton Recorder*. This will also be posted on the city Facebook page.

There was nothing to report on parks and nothing additional to report on streets.

Larry Valdez discussed an article he had recently read regarding grants for small cities for streets. Valdez will share this with Joe Romans once found. Larry Valdez had nothing to report on sewer. Debbie Dreasher had nothing additional to report on water.

Debbie Dreasher provided an update on the Hoyt bandshell fund through the Jackson County Community Foundation. The committee members would like to work with Pride of Hoyt to get the word out regarding the fund and the project.

Larry Valdez noted he had recently inspected the community building and appliances and noted no issues. He also stated Kenny Bryan has been working on the emergency shelter in the building. Council revisited the discussion relating to the Eagle Scout project discussed earlier concerning the community building floor.

Joe Romans made a motion to pay bills. Debbie Dreasher seconded, motion carried.

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

Meeting adjourned at 9:36 p.m.

Shawna Blackwood  
City Clerk