

The Hoyt City Council met in regular session on February 7, 2023.

Present were Mayor Bob Bell, council members Leonard Allen, Larry Valdez, Becky McClane and Joe Romans. Council member Justin Faulkner was absent. Also present were city clerk Shawna Blackwood, Kenny Bryan, Heath Simpson, Nick Ehrhart and Chief of Police Dan Wentling.

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

Council was previously provided minutes from the regular meeting held on January 3, 2023. Leonard Allen made a motion to approve the minutes from the January 3, 2023 regular meeting. Becky McClane seconded, motion carried.

Heath Simpson appeared in front of the council to discuss his recent high water bill due to a major water leak. Council agreed to waive all the sewer charges over \$35.00 due to the water leak. Leonard Allen made a motion to waive all but \$35.00 of the sewer charges from Simpson's January 2023 bill. Joe Romans seconded, motion carried. Leonard Allen made a motion to provide Simpson three months to get caught up on the water charges from the January bill. Becky McClane seconded, motion carried.

Joe Romans noted newly hired employee Bailey Ogden had received the key for the community building and will now begin cleaning the building.

Council discussed with Mayor Bell the grant process. Council was presented the contract provided from Garrett Nordstrom with Governmental Assistance Services. Larry Valdez made a motion to approve the contract for services between Western Consultants and Hoyt with \$7,250 due upon signing. Joe Romans seconded, motion carried.

Kenny Bryan appeared to discuss multiple matters. Bryan provided an update on the fence around the sewer ponds. He estimates around 3 rolls of fencing will be needed and up to 10 posts may need to be replaced. These will be purchased from Tarwater Farm & Home. Bryan also provided an update on the work on the community building. The storage unit area has been completed. Bryan discussed the plan for the water bottles required as part of our emergency plan. Council agreed to continue doing what he has done in the past. Bryan will purchase 1,000 water bottles to store for emergency purposes and distribute after one year (if not used) at the Pride of Hoyt parade. Bryan and council discussed requiring the city maintenance employee to become a certified waste and water operator. Joe Romans made a motion to have Kenny Bryan begin the process of becoming certified as the city's water and wastewater operator. Larry Valdez seconded, motion carried.

Kenny Bryan discussed the plan for the parks. Bryan discussed getting red rock to use for landscaping instead of purchasing mulch every year. Bryan provided an update on the Welcome Sign at 1st and Hwy 214.

Kenny Bryan reported the pump at Holt Circle went down approximately a month ago and Lee Matthews had to take it to their shop for repairs. Lee Matthews reported major work was needed and recommended purchasing a new pump instead as the cost of a new pump was cheaper than repairing the old pump. The cost of repairing the pump was \$14,000 and replacing the pump was approximately \$12,000. Joe Romans made a motion to retroactively approve purchase of the pump in the amount of \$12,098.31. Leonard Allen seconded, motion carried. Larry Valdez and Bryan discussed the condition of sewer ponds. Joe Romans and Bryan discussed the next street project. Bryan will work on getting a bid for 8th street repairs. Allen reported there was approximately \$32,600 in the Special Highway Fund at the end of January. Bryan asked council to look at upgrading the mower next year. Council discussed trading in the old mower versus keeping two on hand.

In new business, Joe Romans reported there will be an active shooter drill at RVHS on February 25, 2023.

City Clerk presented the monthly financial report from the accountant.

It was noted there have been no issues or concerns reported with the new trash pickup day.

It was reported there has been a good return on the lead and copper questionnaires. It was noted the \$50 credit for those that have returned and signed the form when will be applied to the April statement. Hendricks reported the city will use that information to complete the spreadsheet from KDHE.

City clerk provided an updated on the new utility software. It should be up and ready to go live in the next few months.

City clerk discussed the high water bill for Mike Brookshire that has been discussed previously. The resident was asking for a waiver on sewer charges above his average during the months the bill was high due to water leaks. After receiving figures from the clerk for this amount, Joe Romans made a motion to waive \$166.52 in sewer charges from Brookshire's bill due to water leaks. Leonard Allen seconded, motion carried. Allen asked the resident to come to a meeting if he needed a payment plan for the high water charges during this time.

Mayor Bell provided a monthly update.

Larry Valdez reported no cleaning fee was charged to the Fire Department for their annual banquet since the cleaning employee had not started yet.

Chief of Police Dan Wentling gave the monthly police report. Wentling noted Officer Andrews had recently purchased ammunition for the department. Wentling and Hendricks reported they had done a review of properties and there were only a few nuisances noted. It was noted residents that have a current UTV permit will need to provide insurance, fill out a new permit and pay the permit fee to renew. Those that have not yet registered will need to bring the UTV for inspection, provide proof of insurance, fill out the permit application and pay the permit fee.

There was nothing additional to report on sewer or parks.

Council discussed dates for the annual spring cleanup date. Council would like to schedule April 22 if possible, with April 15th as a seconded choice. The city clerk will follow up with Waste Management on dates and prices.

Leonard Allen made a motion to enter executive session for 10 minutes for attorney client privilege for contract negotiations. Joe Romans seconded, motion carried.

Out of executive session, Leonard Allen made a motion to approve the maintenance agreement presented by Ehrhart Excavating. Joe Romans seconded, motion carried.

Council discussed the operator contract. Leonard Allen made a motion to offer Bob Ehrhart his fee offered in the operator contract through the end of March 2023 but not to move forward after that date. Joe Romans seconded, motion carried.

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

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:14 p.m.

Shawna Blackwood
City Clerk