

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

Present were council members Leonard Allen, Joe Romans, Larry Valdez, Becky McClane and Debbie Dreasher. Mayor Bob Bell was absent. Also present were DeAnna Eliker, Gary Meints, Angie Brown, city attorney Lee Hendricks and Chief of Police Dan Wentling.

President of the council Leonard Allen called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

The city clerk held the swearing in ceremonies for council members Debbie Dreasher, Leonard Allen and Joe Romans.

Council was previously provided minutes from the December 5, 2023 council meeting for review. Joe Romans made a motion to accept the minutes from the December 5, 2023 meeting. Larry Valdez seconded, motion carried.

DeAnna Eliker appeared to discuss multiple matters. Leonard Allen noted the geese matter could not be discussed at the council meeting because it was an active court case. Eliker asked for clarification on *ex parte* communication. City attorney discussed the difference between *ex parte* communication and open meeting violations. Eliker discussed concern that no one was notified of a tabled discussion at the October council meeting that would be discussed at the next council meeting. Hendricks explained the council has no duty to notify of such tabled discussions. Eliker noted she had canvassed a portion of the town and shared some of the comments she collected. She also noted she had asked a portion of the town their thoughts on petitioning the council to change the current no fowl policy previously passed by the city council. City attorney noted again that the geese matter cannot be discussed in the council meeting as it is currently an active court case. Eliker also discussed misrepresentations made by city council relating to her absence at a prior council. Eliker shared her numbers of those she canvassed in favor for having fowl in city limits.

Joe Romans asked when the representative from Governmental Assistance Services would be attending to discuss the income survey results. It was reported he was supposed to attend tonight's meeting but did not show. The city clerk will touch base tomorrow on when he will be able to attend a meeting.

Leonard Allen discussed the special event permit application that had been previously provided to council for review. Joe Romans made a motion to approve the special event permit application with the noted amendments. Larry Valdez seconded, motion carried.

Kenny Bryan appeared before the council to provide an update on the emergency shelter at the community building. County ARPA funds are being used to complete this project. Of the funds allotted, Bryan believes approximately \$18,000 will remain to use on remaining park projects. Bryan shared ideas on things needing to be addressed in the park. Specifically, needing to put down fall protection under the swings in the park or replacing the roof of the 4H building. After discussion, Joe Romans made a motion to authorize Kenny Bryan to provide the necessary fall protection for the playground equipment at the park and finish the community building project using the county ARPA funds. Remaining park projects discussed will be reviewed after completion of these projects. Larry Valdez seconded, motion carried.

Larry Valdez and Kenny Bryan provided an update on the relays that been ordered for the panels at the sewer pump stations. Bryan discussed additional relays he needs for the stations. Larry Valdez made a motion to increase the approved amount for the necessary relays to \$2,000. Joe Romans seconded, motion carried.

City attorney Lee Hendricks had nothing additional to discuss.

The city clerk presented the monthly financial report.

Chief of Police Dan Wentling provided the monthly police report. Wentling reported the radio issue update is currently on hold. Wentling provided a status update on hiring a new part time officer. The few potential prospects have not worked out and they are still looking to fill the position. Council and Wentling discussed advertising for the position. Leonard Allen made a motion to approve up to \$250 for the advertisement regarding the part time officer position. Joe Romans seconded, motion carried.

Becky McClane provided the monthly park report. McClane noted there is a sign missing in the park that needs replaced and asked about painting the poles in front of the shelter house. She also discussed needing to remove some of the leaning trees in the wooded area by the pond and a disc golf basket that needs replaced. Larry Valdez will discuss these items with Kenny Bryan.

Joe Romans provided an updated on streets. Photos of areas that may need repaired have been sent to Kenny Bryan. It was noted Bryan has purchased cold patch.

Larry Valdez had nothing additional to report for sewer. Valdez asked for an update on the hydrants the fire chief had reported needed replaced. Leonard Allen noted the last he heard the fire chief was waiting on a bid from Ehrhart to replace the hydrants. Allen had relayed he could reach out to other companies for repair if he did not receive a bid from Ehrhart.

Leonard Allen made a motion to enter executive session for five minutes for attorney client privilege and contract negotiations to include the city attorney and city clerk. Joe Romans seconded, motion carried.

Council exited executive session.

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

Debbie Dreasher made a motion to approve the estimate from the Computer Doctors for monthly maintenance and firewall protection. Larry Valdez seconded, motion carried.

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:59 p.m.

Shawna Blackwood
City Clerk