

The Hoyt City Council met in regular session on January 3, 2023.

Present were Mayor Bob Bell, council members Leonard Allen, Justin Faulkner, Larry Valdez, Becky McClane and Joe Romans. Also present were city clerk Shawna Blackwood, Bob 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 December 6, 2022. Corrections to the minutes were discussed. Leonard Allen made a motion to approve the minutes from the December 6, 2022 regular meeting with the corrections discussed. Joe Romans seconded, motion carried.

It was reported Garrett Nordstrom with Governmental Assistance Services will attend the February 7 meeting.

Bob Ehrhart appeared to discuss multiple matters. Council approved Phase 1 of the waterline project presented last month. Ehrhart discussed the proposed maintenance agreement. After discussion, Joe Romans made a motion to approve the maintenance agreement presented for Ehrhart Excavating. Council member Leonard Allen wanted to wait until the city attorney is present before approving the contract. Council agreed and Romans withdrew his motion.

Ehrhart discussed the contract agreement for the water and wastewater operator previously presented. The different options were discussed. Council will also hold on making a decision on this contract until the city attorney is present.

Ehrhart provided an update on the lagoon fence. The specific requirements were discussed. Leonard Allen made a motion to move ahead with getting the lagoon fence repaired and approved Kenny Bryan making the decision whether the posts needed replaced. Joe Romans seconded, motion carried.

Ehrhart discussed the recent sewer line repair done by 106 W Eight Street. Ehrhart reported a temporary fix was done but asked for approval to make the necessary permanent repair. Joe Romans made a motion to approve Ehrhart fixing the line for an estimated cost of \$2,500. Justin Faulkner seconded, motion carried.

Allen asked if Ehrhart could provide a list of the operator duties and an estimate of hours for standard operator work (e.g. meeting with maintenance person once a month).

Ehrhart discussed doing more review and planning for the issue brought up previously for the alley behind Central Ave.

City clerk discussed the high water bill at 506 Hwy 214 that has been discussed previously. Instructions from council were to shut the water off while the resident is gone. Once he has returned home, he will need to get the leak fixed and then come to the council with a payment plan. The clerk tried calling the resident to appear by phone but he was not available.

Larry Valdez asked for waiver of sewer charges above his average use on his latest water bill due to a leaky hydrant. Joe Romans made a motion to approve the request by Valdez for waiver of sewer charges above his average use on this month's water bill. Justin Faulkner seconded, motion carried.

Joe Romans discussed a possible candidate for cleaning the community building in the role previously discussed. The city clerk had met with the candidate and she was interested. After discussion on a fee, Leonard Allen made a motion to offer a position to the candidate at a fee of \$50 per cleaning. Larry Valdez seconded, motion carried.

Mayor Bell discussed attending the Miracle on Fourth Street Christmas event. Mayor Bell had no other items to report.

City clerk presented Ordinance 355 with increased water rates that were discussed at December's meeting.

The city clerk reported a great return so far on the lead and copper questionnaires that were sent with December's water bills.

Leonard Allen made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 355 increasing water rates. Joe Romans seconded, motion carried.

The city clerk presented the monthly financial report from the accountant.

City clerk on behalf of the Hoyt Fire Department asked for waiver of the rental fee for the community building for their annual banquet to be held on January 21, 2023. Leonard Allen made a motion to waive the fee for this rental on January 21 for the Hoyt Fire Department. Justin Faulkner seconded, motion carried. Council asked if the Fire Department would donate money toward the cleaning fee.

Joe Romans asked if there had been a response to the letter sent to Pride of Hoyt recently by the city attorney. The clerk reported there had been a response and the attorney would share that at next month's meeting.

Chief of Police Dan Wentling gave the monthly police report. Wentling noted Officer Andrews would be purchasing more ammunition soon for the department.

There was nothing to report on parks or streets.

Larry Valdez reported there is a pump down on Holt Circle. Lee Matthews is coming January 9 to repair the pump. Valdez also reported one of the brush piles has been burned by the lagoons, but two still remain.

No issues were reported at the community building. Allen reported Kenny Bryan has started working on the emergency shelter area.

The city clerk will look into requirements for increasing the credit card limit.

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

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:18 p.m.

Shawna Blackwood
City Clerk