

The Hoyt City Council met in regular session on March 5, 2024.

Present were Mayor Bob Bell, council members Leonard Allen, Joe Romans, Larry Valdez, Becky McClane and Debbie Dreasher. Also present were Chris Snyder with LRS, Pete Ritchey with LRS, John Blessing with Waste Management, Garrett Nordstrom with Governmental Assistance Services, Todd Anderson with SMH Consultants, city attorney Lee Hendricks 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 February 6, 2024 council meeting for review. Joe Romans made a motion to accept the minutes from the February 6, 2024 council meeting. Becky McClane seconded, motion carried.

Todd Anderson with SMH Consultants appeared to discuss his bid for preliminary engineering costs for the proposed sidewalk grant project. Council member Joe Romans updated council on the scope of the project based on his visit with Mr. Anderson and Kenny Bryan. Garrett Nordstrom with Governmental Assistance Services noted the city would need to match 25% of the cost of the project and the deadline to submit the application had been pushed back to September. Joe Romans made a motion to accept the bid as submitted by Todd Anderson with SMH Consultants for preliminary engineering work for the community block grant application in the amount of \$5,600. Leonard Allen seconded, motion carried.

John Blessing with Waste Management appeared to discuss the bid submitted by Waste Management to continue with residential trash service for the City of Hoyt. Mr. Blessing answered questions regarding the bid submitted. Term length of the contract was discussed. The pick up date would stay on Monday if the council continued with Waste Management.

Chris Snyder with LRS appeared to discuss the bid submitted by LRS. Mr. Snyder discussed the text alert system that LRS offers for its customers. Mr. Snyder answered questions regarding the bid submitted. The pick up date would change to Thursday if the council accepted the bid from LRS.

Council discussed the transition process if the LRS bid was accepted.

After discussing the two options, Larry Valdez made a motion to accept the bid from LRS for trash services for three years effective May 1, 2024. Joe Romans seconded, motion carried. Hendricks discussed with council increasing the trash rate due to the increase in the billed costs. Council agreed to increase the rate to \$18.50/month per customer. An additional tote will cost \$7.00/month per customer. City attorney will have an ordinance to vote on with this rate increase at next month's meeting.

Council discussed when to have the spring cleanup event. As the new trash contract begins in May, council discussed having it in early May. Spring cleanup will tentatively be May 4, 2024 from 8am – 2pm with 4 four dumpsters and the HHW trailer from Jackson County.

Debbie Dreasher discussed the work done by Ehrhart Excavating at 104 Highland. Dreasher wants to see an invoice for the work done putting up the fence. Council discussed the status of cleanup for the property. City attorney can send a letter to the property owner regarding same.

Joe Romans revisited the discussion regarding hydrant repairs that were discussed last month. City had approved replacing one of the hydrants last month and discussed approaching the Fire Board to ask if they could help with the costs of replacing the other three. Valdez stated the Fire Board had agreed to pay for costs of replacing one every other year. It was recommended to get copy of minutes reflecting this agreement.

Joe Romans discussed the email from the accountant regarding the water meter purchase. Accountant did not believe the new meter purchase would be an allowable expense of the Capital Improvement Fund. Council discussed other funds to use for the purchase. Joe Romans made a motion to rescind the motion made last month to purchase the digital meters (100) from Schulte Supply in the amount of \$43,421 from the Capital Improvement Fund. Larry Valdez seconded, motion carried. Larry Valdez made a motion to purchase the digital water meters from Schulte Supply (100) in the amount of \$43,421 from the General Fund. Joe Romans seconded, motion carried.

Larry Valdez provided an update on cutting holes for the digital meter lids. Valdez discussed using a drill press instead of a plasma cutter and had the clerk order a drill bit to use for this purpose. He also stated he had a plasma cutter that could be borrowed if need be. Joe Romans discussed his conversation regarding mowing help for Kenny Bryan when he is occupied working on this project. Joe Romans made a motion to hire Farrell Holthaus at \$20/hr to assist Kenny Bryan with mowing in the park for two months. Leonard Allen seconded. No vote on the motion. After discussion, Joe Romans amended his motion to hire Farrell Holthaus at \$20/hr for mowing during the summer as needed. Larry Valdez seconded, motion carried.

Joe Romans discussed the email received from Pat Korte regarding the hazard mitigation plan. Joe Romans will meet with Pat Korte to discuss what is needed to get Hoyt's part of the process completed.

Leonard Allen discussed pay raises for the two full time employees. Allen proposed an 8% cost of living increase and a 4% merit increase. Allen also proposed \$1/hr increase for the animal control officer. Debbie Dreasher stated she had reached out to BCBS to get a quote for health insurance for city employees. The BCBS representative would be contacting the city office the next day to get information regarding employees to put together a quote. Hendricks and council discussed using what remaining ARPA funds were available toward the water meter purchase to free up amounts coming from the general fund. After further discussion, Leonard Allen made a motion to provide an 8% cost of living adjustment and a 4% merit increase to the full time employees and \$1/hr increase to the animal control officer effective next pay period. Joe Romans seconded, motion increased.

Mayor Bell and council revisited the discussion from last month regarding no parking on one side of Central Avenue from Fifth to Seventh Street. Hendricks stated an ordinance would be necessary to put this regulation in place. Council discussed what side to make no parking. Hendricks will have an ordinance setting out the regulation at next month's meeting.

Larry Valdez discussed a request by the fire chief to trim some of the low hanging branches around town to avoid hitting and scraping against the large trucks. Council discussed the possibility of identifying the areas needed and putting it out for bid. Valdez will check with Jeremy Andrews to put together a list of the areas needing trimmed.

Chief of Police Dan Wentling provided the monthly police report. Wentling provided an update on the police cars. Wentling discussed the possibility of needing to replace the cars at some point in the near future. Wentling noted he would like to do what they have done in the past and purchase from the Kansas Highway Patrol to get a better price. Wentling can start looking to see what is available. Joe Romans asked about the hiring of another part time officer. Wentling stated he has yet to fill the position as he is having difficulty finding someone available to work the day hours.

Becky McClane had nothing to report on parks. Debbie Dreasher noted she could reach out to the high school Ag teacher to see if those students would be interested in helping in the park.

Joe Romans discussed costs of the sidewalk project and whether or not to expand the scope of the project. Dreasher noted the accountant would likely be coming in June to discuss the budget for next year. Hendricks recommended moving forward with the original scope of the sidewalk project at this time.

Dreasher noted the cleanup progress being done at the property at 301 Central Avenue.

Larry Valdez had nothing to report on sewer. He did state Kenny Bryan would likely need to replace his electric digital meter.

Debbie Dreasher noted the water tower is being painted as part of the maintenance agreement and should be done within the next week.

It was noted there had been no further contact from the scout regarding his proposed Eagle Scout project concerning the community building floor.

It was noted Kenny Bryan will be taking the water operator certification in Wichita at the end of the month.

Larry Valdez stated he checked the community building and noted no issues. Valdez discussed an alternate Eagle Scout project could be redoing the memorial tree sign at the city park.

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

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Shawna Blackwood
City Clerk