

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

Present were Mayor Bob Bell, council members Leonard Allen, Larry Valdez, Becky McClane, Justin Faulkner and Joe Romans. Also present were city clerk Shawna Blackwood, Kenny Bryan, Keith Kelly, Bob Ehrhart, Nick Ehrhart, Cindy Hower, Wayne Berry, Lee Hendricks 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 February 7, 2023. Joe Romans made a motion to approve the minutes from the February 7, 2023 regular meeting. Becky McClane seconded, motion carried.

Cindy Hower with Kellerman's Insurance provided the annual insurance review. Hower discussed possibly needing to increase the coverage amount for the community building. The building needs to be reviewed to get an updated replacement cost. Also, it was noted that Jackson County will be providing coverage for the tornado sirens, but it was recommended to confirm this with Pat Korte before removing the coverage from the city's policy. Council discussed the different coverage options for Pride of Hoyt and whether or not to remove them as an additional insured from the policy. Hower will look into the costs and council will discuss this further at the next meeting. Hower presented some costs options if the deductible was increased, but council opted to stay with the lower deductible. Council advised Hower the city was looking at purchasing an additional mower. Council decided to renew the policy with the prices presented. Any further changes can be addressed at next meeting and those changes can be adjusted in the policy.

Keith Kelly appeared to discuss multiple matters. It was noted there are some changes being made to the county's revitalization program. Since the city signed the interlocal agreement relating to the current program, a new one would be presented with the county's proposed changes at the next meeting. Kelly also discussed the coverage on the tornado sirens and discussed the solar project that has been discussed at commissioner meetings and addressed in the local newspaper. Kelly asked for anyone with questions or concerns, to please contact him.

Kevin Taylor with the RV Recreation Board appeared to discuss the recent work done at the Hoyt ball fields and the recent sewer repair work done. Taylor asked if the council would consider providing any financial assistance for the cost of the sewer repair. Joe Romans made a motion to provide \$1,500 to the RV Rec Association. Justin Faulkner seconded, motion carried.

Mr. Taylor also discussed the idea of putting in a multi use sports building in the future at the park. Possible locations were discussed. Taylor will come to a future meeting when he has more definite plans and ideas for the location.

John Welch presented the 2022 audit report. After discussion, Joe Romans made a motion to approve the 2022 audit presented by John Welch for submittal to the State of Kansas. Larry Valdez seconded, motion carried.

Kenny Bryan appeared to discuss the sewer pump issue on Holt Circle. Currently, both pumps are down and Ehrhart Excavating has been pumping the sewer waste from the pit in that area. Kenny Bryan reported discussing with Lee Matthews renting a pump until a new one could be delivered, but was told none were available. Lee Matthews offered to hire an outside company to come and install an exterior pump that would need to be manually operated until a new pump arrives. This cost was \$2000 plus a daily rental fee. Lee Matthews also offered to provide a smaller pump that could possibly be delivered and installed within a week, but a cost for that pump was not yet available. Bob Ehrhart stepped in to discuss an alternate solution. Instead of the temporary exterior pump, Ehrhart Excavating could install a temporary large residential pump to pump the area until the permanent pump arrives. After discussion, Larry Valdez made a motion to approve up to \$5,000 for Ehrhart Excavating to install a temporary pump at Holt Circle. Joe Romans seconded, motion carried.

Joe Romans discussed with Kenny Bryan the status of an estimate from Bettis for street repair on 8<sup>th</sup> Street. No estimate has been provided at this time.

Bob Ehrhart discussed with the council the recent decision to end his position as water/wastewater operator at the end of March. He proposed extending the position for 6 months to give Kenny Bryan time to get certified as the operator and work with him on training. Ehrhart asked for reimbursement for his training as had been done in the past. Leonard Allen made a motion to extend Bob Ehrhart's role as operator for six months and to provide compensation of \$200/month for his time and to reimburse his expenses for training during this time. Joe Romans seconded, motion carried.

The city clerk discussed the approval for the estimate from Lee Matthews that would likely be submitted tomorrow for the second pump for Holt Circle. After discussion, Leonard Allen made a motion to empower the mayor to approve or disapprove the estimate for the second pump after reviewing the details with Kenny Bryan and Bob Ehrhart. Joe Romans seconded, motion carried.

The city clerk discussed with the council the amount of dumpsters to have at the spring cleanup day. Council agreed to have four dumpsters available for the day. The cleanup day is scheduled for April 22, 2023 from 8 am-3 pm. Jackson County Hazardous Waste Trailer will also be there that morning from 8 am-11 am.

Larry Valdez discussed the recycling dumpster behind the city building needing to be dumped more often.

Lee Hendricks asked if there were any further questions relating to the response from Pride of Hoyt to his letter. There was no further discussion.

There was no further update relating to GAS doing the income survey for grant purposes.

Leonard Allen discussed other cities reaching out to Hoyt's police officers offering higher wages for an officer position in their town. It was reported those offers have been turned down at this time. Leonard Allen made a motion offering retention bonuses to all law enforcement officers for their loyalty and service. The bonuses would include \$400 to Officer Andrews, \$500 to Officer Rubanick, \$1,500 to Officer Schafer and \$2,000 to Chief Wentling, for a total amount of \$4,400. Joe Romans seconded, motion carried.

The police report was submitted by the city clerk.

City Clerk asked if the council would be willing to make a donation to the Royal Valley Post Prom Event. Larry Valdez made a motion to donate \$500 to the event. Justin Faulkner seconded, motion carried.

Joe Romans provided an update on streets. Mayor Bell asked about looking at 4<sup>th</sup> and Highland.

Justin Faulkner provided an update on water.

Larry Valdez asked about the payment status on the two accounts previously discussed with the water leaks. Those payments are being made.

Becky McClane discussed offering the mulch to city residents that is not going to be used at the spring cleanup date. Becky McClane made a motion to offer city residents the unused mulch (2 bag limit) to city residents at the spring cleanup date on April 22. Larry Valdez seconded, motion carried.

Joe Romans made a motion to pay bills. Justin Faulkner seconded, motion carried.

It was noted the changes to insurance will be discussed at next meeting.

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:58 p.m.

Shawna Blackwood  
City Clerk