

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

Present were Mayor Robert Bell, council members Leonard Allen, Joe Romans, Justin Faulkner, Larry Valdez and Becky McClane. Also present were Debbie Dreasher, Angie Brown, Lisa Beam, Esther Cumpton, Amanda Matya, Sue Manuel, Tyler Johnson and Hunter Anderson with Berkshire Hathaway, city attorney Lee Hendricks and Chief of Police Dan Wentling.

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

Council was previously provided minutes from the October 3, 2023 council meeting. Joe Romans made a motion to approve the minutes from the October 3, 2023 council meeting. Justin Faulkner seconded, motion carried.

Amanda Matya at 303 E Fifth appeared to discuss her high water bill due to a water leak. Matya asked for any forgiveness and/or flexibility toward the water bill due to the leak. Council discussed waiving sewer charges above her average amount and providing additional time to pay the bill. Joe Romans made a motion to allow Matya four months to make payments on the bill. Justin Faulkner seconded, motion carried. Joe Romans made a motion to waive all but \$37.00 on the sewer portion for the current bill. Justin Faulkner seconded, motion carried.

Sue Manual at 402 Annetta asked the council to consider a variance which would allow her to move her new fence into the city easement (alley) to avoid a pre-existing tree. It was discussed if the request was approved; the fence would have to come down at the owner's expense, if the city ever needed to use the easement. Manual was asked to submit a variance application for the council to consider at next month's meeting.

Lisa Beam and Esther Cumpton with Pride of Hoyt appeared to discuss the Miracle on Fourth Street event. The event will be December 3 this year. They discussed the city giving permission to have the event and to shut down the street on this date (Fourth Street from Highland to Annetta) from 4-8 pm, using the city building during the event, putting out trash cans for food trash and allowing use of the community building that day for the Christmas craft show. Leonard Allen made a motion to approve all of these items for the Miracle on Fourth Street event on December 3rd. Justin Faulkner seconded, motion carried. Hendricks will prepare a Resolution for closure of the street for the event.

Debbie Dreasher appeared before the council to provide an update on the Hoyt Bandshell fund. Jackson County Community Foundation Day of Giving is November 12. The event will take place at the Holton Community Theater from 1-5 pm. The Hoyt Bandshell Fund will be listed as one of the participants.

Angie Brown appeared to discuss her opposition to allowing geese at 504 Highland.

Council and mayor and city attorney discussed at length the past issues with fowl and reasons why the code was passed prohibiting fowl in city limits. Leonard Allen made a motion to deny the variance proposal submitted by Deanna Elikor at 504 Highland to allow for geese at the property. Larry Valdez seconded, motion carried 3-2 with Leonard Allen, Joe Romans and Larry Valdez voting yes, and Becky McClane and Justin Faulkner voting no.

Tyler Johnson with Berkshire Hathaway discussed thoughts on extending the road from Chapel Oaks and the area west of Third Street. Council asked for more information before commenting on such project. Hunter Anderson with Berkshire Hathaway briefly discussed information the council would need before discussing the project further. It was noted the area owned by Hubners was previously platted by the property owners and never approved or filed with the city.

Joe Romans asked for an update on the income surveys submitted for grant purposes. Lee Hendricks will follow up with Governmental Assistance Services on the status.

Lee Hendricks provided a draft demolition permit for council to consider for next month's meeting.

City clerk presented the monthly financial report. Clerk discussed recoding some of the large sewer expenses noted in the financial report from the sewer fund to the general fund as recommended by the accountant. Larry Valdez made a motion to code the expenses mentioned in the report to the general fund from the sewer fund. Justin Faulkner seconded, motion carried.

City Clerk discussed Jackson County Recycling Center had reached out and would be willing to bring the trailer back to Hoyt and try again if the council approved. Council agreed to them bringing it back to the city building with the understanding they could remove it again if necessary.

Mayor Bell noted some of the new Christmas decorations had arrived and the remaining should be delivered soon.

Mayor Bell discussed a few street repairs that needed addressed, particularly on main street. Council discussed using cold patch as a temporary fix. Joe Romans will review the areas and discuss this with Kenny Bryan.

As a follow up on the new Christmas decorations, the clerk noted Pride of Hoyt had donated \$5,000 for new pole decorations. Six of the nine decorations ordered had been delivered with the remaining three to hopefully be delivered before the end of the month.

It was reported the insulation for the police garage had been completed and the mini split had been installed.

Chief of Police Dan Wentling gave the monthly police report. Wentling reported no issues from Halloween. Wentling reported with the recent change of frequency the police department will need to get new radios in the near future. It was noted the recently hired officer had been training with Officer Schafer.

Becky McClane provided an update on parks. McClane reported receiving a message from a company regarding resurfacing of the basketball court but had not been able to connect to discuss the project yet.

Joe Romans had nothing additional to report on streets.

It was reported the community building had been checked recently and there were no concerns.

To follow up on the hydrants needing replaced as noted by Jeremy Andrews last month, it was noted Kenny Bryan is working on getting these fixed/replaced.

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

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:02 p.m.

Shawna Blackwood
City Clerk