

The Hoyt City Council met in regular session on May 7, 2024.

Present were Mayor Bob Bell, council members Leonard Allen, Joe Romans, Larry Valdez, Becky McClane and Debbie Dreasher. Also present were Tim Mitchell, Fire Chief Jeremy Andrews, Todd Anderson, Greg Drinovsky, Garrett Nordstrom, Bob Ehrhart, 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 April 2, 2024 council meeting for review. Joe Romans made a motion to accept the minutes from the April 2, 2024 council meeting. Leonard Allen seconded, motion carried.

Garrett Nordstrom with Governmental Assistance Services (GAS) provided an update on the proposed sidewalk project and presented a contract for grant writing services. Mr. Nordstrom explained the timeline and grant application process. If approved to continue, GAS would submit the grant application by the deadline of September 30. There will be a public hearing at the September meeting regarding the project. The bid process will not begin until the grant is awarded. Becky McClane discussed adding a bridge walkway before 8th and Highland, just north of Robinson Park. This was discussed before but it was believed the cost was too high to include for this project. Nordstrom discussed the possibility of adding this as an extra for the project. After discussion, Debbie Dreasher made a motion to accept the contract for grant writing services with Western Consultants in the amount of \$8,950. Joe Romans seconded, motion carried.

Todd Anderson with SMH Consultants discussed the scope of the project. Council discussed expanding it to include two blocks east of 4th and Central. Mr. Anderson also discussed adding the pedestrian walkways in the application as well as discussed earlier.

Greg Drinovsky with RWD #1 appeared before the council to discuss increases in the water rates. It was noted the contract states rates are to be reviewed every five years. The rates were deemed to be inadequate. It was reported the wholesale rate will increase from \$5.62 to \$6.73 beginning with the May 2024 bill. Council discussed increasing the water rates because of this increase. After discussion, Joe Romans made a motion to increase the water rates \$1.25 on all customers and empower the mayor to sign an ordinance with this increases as soon as the attorney has the ordinance prepared. Leonard Allen seconded, motion carried.

Tim Mitchell from Central Avenue came to discuss with the council the recent Ordinance passed regarding no parking on the west side of Central. Fire Chief Andrews discussed the reasons why he asked the council to pass the Ordinance. It was noted that street is the only one in town with continuous parking on both sides making it difficult for emergency vehicles to get through in case of emergency. As such, Chief Andrews asked the council to approve an Ordinance prohibiting parking on one of the street. Tim Mitchell asked for better communication from the City. It was noted by the city attorney, the council is legally obligated to make the meetings public (which was done) and publish said ordinances (which was also done). It was also noted the meetings are streamed via Facebook on the city facebook page. The minutes are also published in the city newspaper (*Holton Recorder*) and made available on the city website once approved.

Bob Ehrhart appeared to discuss multiple items. First, it was noted Kenny Bryan had passed the water operator exam and is now certified as a water operator. As such, Bob Ehrhart is receding his role as water operator. Ehrhart will continue as the certified sewer operator and will be available as the backup water operator.

Ehrhart also stated the safety fence that had been put up at 104 Highland due the house fire had been knocked down and as such they were going to remove it as it is needed for other projects.

Ehrhart also stated he had been concerned about the line of sight due to overgrown vegetation and trees at the curve at 4th and Eastern. Ehrhart asked if there was something to be done to clear out the area so there is a better line of sight for vehicles. Ehrhart noted he could assist with the project. Ehrhart stated he could put together a bid for the work. Council was asked to review the area. Property boundaries will also be reviewed to see who to contact about the work. Ehrhart, Kenny Bryan and property owners can review the area and come back to the next meeting with an estimated plan and removal costs.

Council and Ehrhart provided an update on replacing the hydrants.

Becky McClane stated she had visited the new restaurant Haymakers and everything was looking very nice. Romans reported there is a soft opening tomorrow May 8 and the grand opening will be Saturday May 11.

It was reported the trash contract with the new company had been amended and signed. It was noted the community building dumpster was supposed to be arriving by the end of the week.

Council reported on the cleanup event. It went well but it was noted the dumpsters were smaller than what Waste Management had provided in the past. LRS had offered to bring an additional dumpster if necessary. It was also noted they will need to be placed differently next year.

It was noted no issues had been reported with the recycling bin at the city building.

Lee Hendricks provided an update on the copper lead data that has to be submitted to KDHE in October. An engineering firm was provided (at no cost) to help with collecting and entering the data in the spreadsheet needed to submit to KDHE. An engineer with said firm had meet with

Kenny Bryan, Bob Ehrhart and Shawna Blackwood previously. Maps and the questionnaires received from city residents had been shared with the engineering firm. It was reported the firm had compiled that information and roughly 10-15 addresses needed follow ups before the October deadline.

City clerk reported Sue Manuel at 402 Annetta would be coming to the June meeting for her variance request to extend her fence to go around an existing tree.

City clerk reported council has until the end of year to spend the remaining ARPA funds. The county funds remaining are allocated to use toward park expenditures. Council needs to determine how best to spend the remaining state funds. Council discussed different options.

Jeremy Andrews asked for the council to close Annetta Avenue from Fourth to Fifth Street on June 1st for the Hoyt Fire Department's open house. Andrews also asked the council to consider making a contribution for the annual firework show on July 3.

Leonard Allen made a motion to enter executive session for ten minutes for attorney client privilege involving possible litigation to include the city clerk and chief of police. Joe Romans seconded, motion carried.

Council exited executive session.

Joe Romans made a motion to instruct the city attorney not to mediate and to move forward as he thinks best regarding the pending complaint. Debbie Dreasher seconded, motion carried.

Council member Joe Romans left the meeting.

Chief of Police Dan Wentling provided the monthly police report. Wentling provided an update on the radios. Council had previously approved a cost of \$15,707.50 for the upgraded radios to come from the ARPA fund. It was noted the county was providing the City with three of the radios. Wentling had received a quote of \$8,513.61 for the remaining ones needed, two mobiles and one portable radio. The actual costs coming from the ARPA funds will be \$8,513.61.

Council member Dreasher discussed speeding concerns. City still has had no luck hiring an officer to work days. The city clerk had stated she held off on advertising in the Topeka Capital because the cost was much higher than the council had approved. Clerk provided different options for publication. Debbie Dreasher made a motion to approve advertising in the TCJ at the option that cost \$349. Leonard Allen seconded, motion carried.

Leonard Allen made a motion to donate \$2,500 to the Hoyt Fire Department for the firework show on July 3, 2024. Debbie Dreasher seconded, motion carried. The expense will come from the General Fund.

Mayor Bell asked for motions for annual appointments. Debbie Dreasher made a motion to appoint Lee Hendricks as the city attorney. Larry Valdez seconded, motion carried.

Debbie Dreasher made a motion to appoint Denison State Bank as the designated bank. Leonard Allen seconded, motion carried.

Debbie Dreasher made a motion to approve the *Holton Recorder* as the official city newspaper. Leonard Allen seconded, motion carried.

Debbie Dreasher made a motion to appoint Dennis Reiling as the city municipal judge. Leonard Allen seconded, motion carried.

Leonard Allen made a motion to appoint Shawna Blackwood as the city clerk. Larry Valdez seconded, motion carried.

Leonard Allen made a motion to appoint Dan Wentling as Chief of Police. Larry Valdez seconded, motion carried.

Leonard Allen made a motion to appoint Debbie Dreasher as President of the Council. Larry Valdez seconded, motion carried. As Council President, Debbie Dreasher will be added as authorized signer on accounts and Leonard Allen will be removed.

Becky McClane made a motion to appoint Debbie Dreasher as head of Parks. Larry Valdez seconded, motion carried.

Leonard Allen made a motion to appoint Becky McClane as head of Water. Larry Valdez seconded, motion carried.

Debbie Dreasher made a motion to appoint Joe Romans as head of Streets. Leonard Allen seconded, motion carried.

Debbie Dreasher made a motion to appoint Larry Valdez as head of Sewer. Leonard Allen seconded, motion carried.

Debbie Dreasher made a motion to appoint Leonard Allen as head of Police. Larry Valdez seconded, motion carried.

All council members will oversee the community building.

Mayor Bell noted the city wide garage sales are coming up at the end of the month. They will be held May 31 – June 2, 2024.

It was reported Cynthia Jewell was good to move forward with her flea market on her property discussed last month. The event will be held on Wednesday afternoons.

Council discussed the street closure requested earlier by Jeremy Andrews. Leonard Allen made a motion to approve a Resolution closing Annetta Avenue from Fourth Street to Fifth Street on June 1, 2024 with the hours to be updated once those are received from Chief Andrews. Larry Valdez seconded, motion carried.

Leonard Allen made a motion to pay bills. Debbie Dreasher seconded, motion carried.

Leonard Allen made a motion to adjourn. Debbie Dreasher seconded, motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:33 p.m.

Shawna Blackwood
City Clerk