

The Hoyt City Council met in regular session on June 4, 2024.

Present were Mayor Bob Bell, council members Leonard Allen, Joe Romans, Larry Valdez, Becky McClane and Debbie Dreasher. Also present were Dwayne Hug, Chance Hug, Sue Manuel, Chris Frederick, Cynthia Jewell and city attorney Lee Hendricks.

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

Council was previously provided minutes from the May 7, 2024 council meeting for review. Leonard Allen made a motion to accept the minutes from the May 7, 2024 council meeting. Joe Romans seconded, motion carried.

Cynthia Jewell appeared to discuss the TNR (Trap-Neuter-Return) Program. This is a program to address the overpopulation problem of cats, especially outside cats. Cynthia is a volunteer for the program started by Heart of Jackson Humane Society. The members discussed wanting to offer the program to the City of Hoyt. Jewell discussed needing donations and volunteers to help with trapping and transporting the cats. Jewell would like to discuss the program with the animal control officer. Debbie Dreasher made a motion to make a donation of \$500 to the TNR Program. Leonard Allen seconded, motion carried.

Dwayne and Chance Hug appeared to discuss the large tractor pull event on August 2, 2024. The event will be held at the city park to begin at 7 pm. A crowd of approximately 1,300 is expected. Trash containers, clean up and portable toilets for the events were discussed. Leonard Allen noted the same exception for beer would not be allowed this year. A beer garden at the event was discussed. Dwayne and Chance will come back next month to discuss the toilets, cleanup, trash and beer garden.

Lee Hendricks opened the hearing on the variance request filed by Sue Manuel at 402 Annetta. Manuel is asking for a variance to have her fence extend into the city easement to go around an existing tree on the east side of the property. Hendricks explained the process for the hearing. Manuel discussed her request. The fence will extend into the city road right of way easement. Manuel was informed in the instance the city needs to use the easement, the fence will need to be removed at the owner's cost. Chris Frederick was present to ask questions regarding the exact location of the request. Frederick had no objections after learning the location. Debbie Dreasher made a motion to close the variance hearing. Joe Romans seconded, motion carried.

Joe Romans made a motion to approve the variance request filed by Sue Manuel at 402 Annetta as presented. Leonard Allen seconded, motion carried.

Larry Valdez made a motion to approve the May 22, 2024 special meeting minutes. Leonard Allen seconded, motion carried.

The city clerk stated a fence permit at 102 W First Street was presented and approved by Paul Crawford.

Council discussed the bid presented by Ehrhart Excavating to clear out trees on the north side of the street just west of 4th and Eastern. Bryan has cut back some of the trees at that location. Larry Valdez shared his discussion with Kenny Bryan regarding further work in the area. Bryan suggested first clearing out the trees on the south side of the road and hold off on the north side until fall. Mayor Bell discussed Bryan had mentioned guard rails would be needed on both sides after clearing the trees for safety purposes. Larry Valdez made a motion to discuss with the property owner on the south side (Jim Area) about clearing out the trees and brush in the culvert to give a better view for drivers and have the north side remain as is until fall. Leonard Allen seconded, motion carried.

It was noted there was no new updates on the geese matter handled by the city attorney.

Leonard Allen stated he was notified the Jackson County Senior Citizen group is working on delivering senior meals to Hoyt. They are in need of drivers to deliver the meals. Leonard Allen asked for thoughts on offering incentives for people to do that task. Allen will get more information on the details and council can discuss further at the next meeting.

Joe Romans asked for a status update on sidewalk project/grant application. There was nothing new noted from Governmental Assistance Services.

City clerk presented the monthly financial report from the accountant.

Mayor Bell reported the garage sale weekend went well.

Joe Romans asked for an additional speed limit sign on Burnett Street.

Leonard Allen presented the monthly police report.

Joe Romans discussed the part time police officer position. It was noted an ad was placed in the Topeka Capital as well but no applications have been received yet. Romans stated he knew someone interested and was going to have him contact the Chief of Police.

Debbie Dreasher reported on parks. She would like to contact the RVHS Ag teacher and students about coming up with a plan and helping in the fall.

Joe Romans had nothing additional to report on streets.

Larry Valdez related no sewer issues reported from Kenny Bryan.

In water, Larry Valdez reported the radio read meters were delivered. Kenny Bryan had relayed to Valdez needing to install 20 meters before setting up the software with the new meters. The install process of the meters was also discussed. Valdez discussed having Farrell Holthaus taking over all the mowing so Kenny can focus on getting the meters installed.

No issues were reported from the community building.

Leonard Allen made a motion to go into executive session for five minutes to include the city attorney and city clerk for attorney client privilege discussion. Debbie Dreasher seconded, motion carried.

Council exited executive session

Leonard Allen made a motion to pay bills. Larry Valdez seconded, motion carried.

Leonard Allen made a motion to adjourn. Larry Valdez seconded, motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Shawna Blackwood
City Clerk