

The Hoyt City Council met in regular session on September 3, 2024.

Present were council members Leonard Allen, Larry Valdez, Debbie Drescher, Becky McClane and Joe Romans. Mayor Robert Bell was absent. Also present were Lee Hendricks, Caleb Hitz, city clerk Shawna Blackwood, Garrett Nordstrom, Matt Swenson, April Lemon and Chief of Police Dan Wentling.

President of the council Debbie Drescher called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

Council was previously provided minutes from the August 6, 2024 council meeting for review. Leonard Allen made a motion to accept the minutes from the August 6, 2024 council meeting. Joe Romans seconded, motion carried.

Matt Swenson appeared before the council to present information regarding repairs he is wanting to complete on the parking lot in front of his businesses at 116 W Fourth. Mr. Swenson is asking for city to contribute toward repair of the parking lot that shows in the city easement. The estimated repair cost for this stage of the repair is \$60,000. He's asking for the city to repair the area showing as their easement at an estimated cost of \$24,500. Swenson also mentioned a discussion he had with a representative from the Jackson County Department of Commerce regarding grants available for these types of projects. Council discussed with the attorney city street vs. public property. Council will need to confirm the right of way area showing in the Jackson County parcel map. Council member Joe Romans will discuss with Jackson County Commerce possible grants for this type of project and will discuss with city personnel the property lines.

April Lemon with Jackson County Tourism Board dropped off ornaments for Hoyt kids to decorate for the community Christmas tree. Council suggested contacting Pride of Hoyt to see if they could put together an event where kids could decorate the ornaments.

Garrett Nordstrom discussed the process for the CDBG grant application and sidewalk project projected costs presented by SMH Consultants. A public hearing regarding the application will be held on October 1. Council discussed using funds from the Capital Improvement Fund for this project.

Lee Hendricks discussed with the Garrett Nordstrom the letter received from KDHE regarding the pre approval for a loan to replace identified lead service lines. Mr. Nordstrom discussed the loan process. He stated he would look at this further and notify the city of the next steps in the process.

Joe Romans made a motion to levy a property tax exceeding the revenue neutral rate and accept the 2025 budget as presented. Larry Valdez seconded, motion carried.

City Clerk did a roll call vote for the 2025 budget. All council members voted yes to approve the 2025 budget.

City clerk discussed the right of way ordinance presented by Giant Communications. City attorney was going to review, discuss with the prior attorney and council could vote on this at the next meeting.

City council presented a plaque to former city attorney Lee Hendricks. Mr. Hendricks was an outstanding city attorney and will definitely be missed.

Leonard Allen made a motion to spend up to \$250 for refreshments for the ornament decorating discussed previously. Joe Roman seconded, motion carried.

Debbie Dreasher made a motion to appoint Caleb Hitz as the city attorney. Joe Romans seconded, motion carried.

City clerk presented the monthly financial report. Council again discussed the Capital Improvement Reserve Fund and whether those funds could be used for the sidewalk project.

Debbie Dreasher inquired about the number of loans payments left on the remaining sewer loan. According to the amortization schedule, the loan will be paid off in March 2029 if the city does not make any additional prepayments. Council discussed the parking lot project presented earlier and what were available in the special highway fund to cover this cost if the council approved covering the expense.

City clerk discussed purchasing an ad for the Royal Valley High School yearbook. The council has purchased a \$50 ad in the past. Larry Valdez made a motion to approve purchasing a \$50 ad for the RVHS yearbook. Joe Romans seconded, motion carried.

Council discussed moving forward with the loan for replacement of the lead service lines discussed earlier. Leonard Allen made a motion to notify KDHE the city will be moving forward with the loan process for identified areas needing lead service lines replaced. Larry Valdez seconded, motion carried.

City clerk discussed a request by the local scout leader to use the community building for a pinewood derby event and whether the council would consider waving the fee for the event. Leonard Allen made a motion to allow the scouts to use the community building for this event at no cost. Larry Valdez seconded, motion carried.

City clerk noted the city had paid for 6 portable toilets for the Pride of Hoyt event and 5 for the July 3 event.

Larry Valdez discussed the status of the radio read meter installation. There are about 30 meters installed. The clerk is still working on setting up the software for the meters that have been installed.

Debbie Dreasher provided an update on parks. She will work on getting with Kenny Bryan regarding the water hydrant installation.

Joe Romans had nothing additional to report on streets.

Larry Valdez had questions regarding the driver requirements for UTVs that Joe Romans had shared with the council. Valdez discussed wanting to change the requirements that are currently in place. He would like to remove the current requirements and instead match the requirements of the state, but also include the insurance requirement. The attorney will review the current ordinance regarding UTVs and can present updated changes at next month's meeting.

Larry Valdez had nothing to report on sewer. Becky McClane had nothing to report on water. Larry Valdez stated he had recently checked the community building and everything looked good.

Leonard Allen made a motion to enter executive session for ten minutes for employment matters to include the city attorney, Chief of Police and city clerk. Larry Valdez seconded, motion carried.

Council exited executive session.

Chief of Police Dan Wentling presented the monthly police report. Wentling shared with the council repairs done on the black police car. He also reported an additional officer was recently hired to work day shifts.

Leonard Allen made a motion to allow the Chief of Police to use up to \$2,500 to equip the new officers using \$2,491 of ARPA funds and to make up the difference with ammunition. Joe Romans seconded, motion carried.

Joe Romans made a motion to pay bills. Larry Valdez seconded, motion carried.

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Shawna Blackwood
City Clerk