

The Hoyt City Council met in regular session on January 7, 2025.

Present were Mayor Bob Bell, council members Leonard Allen, Debbie Dreasher, Joe Romans, Larry Valdez and Becky McClane. Also present were Kady Pugh, Chris Pugh, Oliver Filbert, Aaron Filber, Caleb Hitz 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 December 3, 2024 meeting. Larry Valdez made a motion to approve the December 3, 2024 minutes. Joe Romans seconded, motion carried.

Kady Pugh appeared to discuss his completed Eagle Scout Project. Pugh provided total costs of the project in the amount of \$658.21. Pugh had the Mayor sign off on the project and asked if the city would still agree to pay half of the project costs. After discussion, Joe Romans made a motion to cover \$358.21 of the Kady Pugh Eagle Scout project costs. Debbie Dreasher seconded, motion carried.

Oliver Filbert appeared to present his idea for his Eagle Scout Project. Filbert would like to construct a bark box to put by the dog park at the city park. The bark box would be a blessing box for dogs and cats including food, treats, etc. He estimated the project would take approximately 2-3 weeks to complete and provided an estimate project cost of \$200. Mayor Bell offered to donate plexus glass for the project. Debbie Dreasher made a motion to accept the proposal for the bark box project presented by Oliver Filbert. Joe Romans seconded, motion carried.

City clerk presented information from Dean Cape (Cox Communications) regarding an upcoming fiber project. Mr. Cape wasn't able to make the meeting due to weather. The proposed project would include placing fiber up S road to 110<sup>th</sup> Street and then follow each street to place fiber and pedestals to cover each property. The fiber would stop at the road. As there were many questions regarding exact location and scope of project, council asked for the clerk to see if Mr. Cape could attend the February meeting so that council could get questions answered before moving forward with the project. City attorney Caleb Hitz will look into contract and license requirements for this type of work.

Council wanted to give a big shout out to Kenny Bryan for his snow removal work. Great job, Kenny! Joe Romans also wanted to thank the neighbors for helping out each other. It was also reported Kenny Bryan had asked for assistance from Ehrhart Excavating to move the large piles of snow from the city building and along Fourth Street to the north side of the community building as the piles were safety hazards for driving and were blocking many parking spots. Debbie Dreasher discussed checking to make sure we were good on salt and sand. Joe Romans will follow up on this.

Council discussed with the attorney the status of the letter to the owner at 104 Highland regarding cleanup of the property. Attorney had sent a letter but neither the city office or his office had heard anything yet in response to the letter.

Clerk stated water bills for the manual read meters had gone out late due to another software issue.

Joe Romans provided an update regarding the easement situation relating to property and fixing the parking lot at 116 W Fourth Street. It was reported the property in question is owned by KDOT and initially were not in agreement to transferring ownership of the property or allowing Swenson to repair the parking lot. However, after meeting with Mr. Swenson and reviewing the area, KDOT agreed to sign the property over to the City of Hoyt. Romans asked if the council was in agreement with this and if so, they could then transfer the property to Mr. Swenson so all of the parking lot is his and he could move forward with repairs. Council was in agreement in transferring ownership to Mr. Swenson after the transfer of the property from KDOT to City of Hoyt.

Romans asked about the discussion with Todd Anderson relating to the sidewalk project. It was confirmed the costs and scope are not finalized and those can be changed moving forward. Council is waiting to hear on grant approval for the project, which is estimated to be late January.

Attorney Hitz stated he had looked into the requirements for audits. The only consequence he found was that it could impact the city receiving federal funding if the audits were not completed. Hitz had reached out to Lee Hendricks for additional names of auditors but had not heard back yet.

City clerk presented the monthly financial report from the accountant.

Mayor Bell reported the Miracle on Fourth Street event had another successful year.

Chief of Police Dan Wentling provided the monthly police report. Wentling reported the new tires were put on the black car and the car was serviced.

Debbie Dreasher stated she had spoke with the high school ag teacher in December about assisting with landscaping projects in the park in the spring.

Joe Romans discussed the prior discussion of possibly transferring money into the special highway fund for street repair. The current amount in the fund is \$16,000. Council discussed waiting until winter weather is over before reviewing streets that need replaced. Mayor Bell asked about costs of striping the community building parking lot. It was believed Kenny Bryan had a contact and was looking into getting an estimated cost. Debbie Dreasher discussed wanting to look at possible parking solutions for Haymaker's and restriping along Fourth Street.

Larry Valdez on sewer reported Kenny Bryan had some issues with the pump station at 8<sup>th</sup> and 214. He fixed the loose connection and replaced fuses and it seems to be working now with no issues. It was also reported the pumps had quit in the pit north of the main pumping station but those are also now fixed. It was reported approximately 50 of the radio read meters have been installed.

Larry Valdez reported no issues with the community building. It was reported the senior citizen exercise class was scheduled to begin tomorrow (January 8, 2025).

Debbie Dreasher discussed wanted to do something once service arrangements are made for animal control officer Crystal Kiely. Council discussed a monetary donation to her husband. Larry Valdez made a motion to present a monetary donation of \$250 to Ron Kiely. Joe Romans seconded, motion carried. Instead of purchasing a plant, Joe Romans discussed planting a tree or bush in the park, possibly with a bench. Leonard Allen suggested planting a dogwood tree in the park. Joe Romans will look at prices and can report back at next meeting.

Council discussed waiting a few months to advertise for the animal control position.

Debbie Dreasher made a motion to pay bills. Larry Valdez seconded, motion carried.

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:57 p.m.

Shawna Blackwood  
City Clerk