

Atwood City Council  
April 21, 2022  
Regular Meeting  
City Hall, 7:00PM

Atwood City Council met in regular session April 26, 2022, in Council Chambers. The meeting was called to order by the Honorable Mayor Janet Stice. Present were Mayor Janet Stice, Councilmembers Dietrich Kastens, Dakota Dunker, Sandy Mulligan, Mark Mosley & Mark Vrbas, City Clerk Dana Philpott, City Attorney Charles Peckham, City Superintendent Rick Kramer, Chief of Police Brian Withington, Rosalie Ross of the Rawlins County Square Deal, Annie Easterday representative of Rawlins County Alumni Association & Becky McFee.

Councilman Mosley requested to amend the agenda to add Executive Session to discuss non-elected personnel to item X and moving Adjourn to item XI.

**The agenda** was approved as amended on motion of Councilman Mosely, seconded by Councilman Vrbas, approved by all.

**The minutes of the regular meeting on March 17, 2022,** were approved as circulated on motion of Councilman Mosley, seconded by Councilman Kastens, approved by all.

**The bills** were approved as read on motion of Councilman Kastens, seconded by Councilwoman Mulligan, approved by all.

**Public Comments:** None

**Appearances:**

**Alumni Committee** - Annie Easterday representative of Rawlins County Alumni Association appeared before council to request to extend the borders around the Columbian hall for alumni festivities to include the tent area that will be set-up in the parking lot. Annie provided a map for the council of the area where the tent is to be set-up. Councilman Mosley made motion to approve the request to extend the borders from the south end of the covered porch to the north end of the parking lot at the Columbian Hall on Saturday, May 28<sup>th</sup> from 12:00pm until 2:00am Sunday, May 29<sup>th</sup> seconded by Councilwoman Mulligan, approved by all.

Becky McFee appeared before council to voice her concern about being stopped by a police officer regarding a complaint he received about where she was riding her scooter and that the complainant about backed over her. She complained about how the officer treated her. Chief Withington reported he would review the body cam and explained to Ms. McFee that his department had received several complaints about her on her scooter. He explained to her that she needs to be as close to the curb as possible and to use the sidewalks as much as possible when access is available. Councilman Mosley also suggested to Ms. McFee that she add a flag to her scooter for safety reasons.

### **Old Business:**

**Procurement policy**- council reviewed the procurement policy that was presented at the last council meeting. Following discussion and suggestions of changes, council agreed to table the policy to the next council meeting and asked City Attorney Charles Peckham to review the policy and make the necessary recommended changes. The procurement policy will then be reviewed at the next council meeting in May.

### **New Business:**

**CDBG** – information regarding the CDBG grant was included in the packet. City Clerk Dana Philpott asked the council if they would like to have Justine Benoit from the Northwest Kansas Planning & Development Commission come back to a council meeting to provide information on the CDBG grant for the water project. Council agreed they would like to have her return to provide additional information on the CDBG grants for the water project. City Clerk Dana Philpott will contact Justine to see if she can be here for the May council meeting.

### **Department Reports:**

**City Clerk Dana Philpott** reported that the city-wide clean-up is scheduled for next Wednesday, April 27<sup>th</sup>. There are currently 27 people signed-up. The deadline to sign-up is Monday, April 25<sup>th</sup>. City Clerk Philpott reported on the progress of the new online account feature for the city. She showed the council an online account and a sample of an electronic bill.

**City Attorney Charles Peckham** – shared his activities for the month, he reviewed zoning issues with Superintendent Kramer, attended airport board meeting and the Kansas Rural Water Association Conference, negotiated with various attorney's and defendants, prepared journal entries, sent out letters and 30-day notices, reviewed issues regarding a request for conditional use. **Jayhawk Theater**- the theater board revised the bylaws, finances at the theater are still not good but they are slowly getting better.

**Police Chief Brian Withington** presented his report. His department worked 10 reports, from March 17th to April 20th. There was 1 arrest made, 2 non-custodial arrests, 15 warnings given, 5 tickets issued, and 16 traffic stops. Other patrol activity included 458 public relations, 1 business check, 72 miscellaneous complaints, 1 agency assist, & 1 paper served. Chief Withington also reported he will be going to Georgia next month to get his narcotic dog and will have a two-week training with the dog in Georgia.

**City Superintendent Rick Kramer** presented his report showing the areas where the city crew has spent their time since the last meeting. They are doing spring work, mowing, cleaning, and working at the pool. They pressure washed the pool today and the company will be here on Monday to paint the pool. The well depths to the water wells are staying consistent and all equipment is in good working condition. Superintendent Kramer presented a proposal from Atlas Automation in the amount of \$8,086.00 to update the master controller for the water system at the city shop. The proposal includes a cyber security package and software security. Councilman Kastens made a motion to accept the

proposal from Atlas Automation using funds from the water savings account, seconded by Councilman Vrbas, approved by all. City Superintendent Kramer also recommended to council to remove the rubber mulch from Kelley Park playground area. The kids have been putting the mulch in the restrooms and it scattered all throughout the park area. He recommended putting sand back in the playground area or wood mulch. He will wait until fall to remove the rubber mulch and check into options for an alternative protective material. The shrubs and bushes in the front area by the pool doors were removed and poured to concrete. They will be installing a couple of benches there. Superintendent Kramer reported to council on the classes that the city crew attended at the Kansas Rural Water Association Conference. He reported that Rick had passed his test and they are now all certified.

### **Council Reports**

**Councilman Dunker** – reported he attended the pool board meeting they have 11 employees as of now. The board decided to leave the prices for admission the same this year and will look into increasing them next year. **Housing authority**- they are still remodeling a couple of apartments. Councilman Dunker reported he was asked when the address numbers on the curbs in front of the houses would be finished. He contacted the president of the 4-H and was told they will finish it up this summer as soon as the weather warms up.

**Councilman Kastens** reported he attended the core community assessment meeting. There were several topics brought up about housing shortage and quality housing. There was discussion on what citizen and tenant options are when there is a safety or health issue that needs reported. Mayor Stice said that they should report the concern to the Rawlins County Public Health Officer at the Rawlins County Public Health Department.

**Councilman Mosley** reported that Gary Worthy attended the airport board meeting. Worthy reported there is an aircraft mechanic from McCook looking to relocate his business. This would be a great opportunity for Atwood & Rawlins County. The mechanic is looking for land to build his business on. The airport could offer a long-term lease option. He would own the building, but the airport would still own the land. He would employ 4 to 5 employees.

**Councilwoman Mulligan** – reported that the Economic Development board hired Deb Minkler as the new Economic Development Coordinator. She will be going to a training next week for an Economic Development course. Dave Brown with the airport board asked Deb about grants to assist the airplane mechanic to start-up a new business. She is currently looking for grants for a city firetruck and will be reaching out to the city clerk next week following her training to see if there are additional grants for the water project. She is working with the ACE Foundation on solving the lack of daycares in Rawlins County. Her office is currently located in the old commissioners meeting room in the courthouse.

**Councilman Vrbas** no report

**Mayors Notes:** Mayor Stice reported she attended the Kansas Rural Water Association Conference in Wichita and visited with a Purple Wave representative regarding firetrucks. The rep asked to keep them

in mind as the city gets closer to purchasing a firetruck. She also reminded the department heads that the budget season is coming up and it is time to start planning and getting requests to Dana. When the auditors are here, we need to check with them on moving the funds set aside for the firetruck to a special fund before the end of the year.

**Executive session for non-elected personnel** – Councilman Mosley made a motion to go into executive session for non-elected personnel to include the mayor, council, city clerk & city attorney for 15 minutes, seconded by Councilman Vrbas. The executive session began at 8:54 PM Council returned to regular session at 9:09 PM. Councilman Mosley made another motion to return to executive session for 5 minutes beginning at 9:10 p.m. seconded by Councilman Vrbas. Council returned to regular session at 9:15 PM with no action taken.

With no further business to come before Council, Councilman Mosley moved to adjourn, seconded by Councilman Kastens. The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 PM.

Dana Philpott, City Clerk

Janet Stice, Mayor