

Atwood City Council  
June 16, 2022  
Regular Meeting  
City Hall, 7:00PM

Atwood City Council met in regular session June 16, 2022, in Council Chambers. The meeting was called to order by the Honorable Mayor Janet Stice. Present were Mayor Janet Stice, Councilmembers Dakota Dunker, Dietrich Kastens, 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, Dawn Gabel Development Director at Options, & Cassidy Fanders Director of Atwood Housing Authority.

**The agenda** was approved as circulated on motion of Councilman Vrbas, seconded by Councilwoman Mulligan, approved by all.

**The minutes of the of the special meeting on May 18<sup>th</sup>** were approved as circulated and the minutes of the regular meeting on May 19<sup>th</sup> were amended by Councilman Dunker with the correction of the amount of the economic Development request for funds to \$30,000 and the amount of the grant was \$10,000, there was an additional 0 at the end of the amounts. Councilman Mosley also requested to add to the May 19<sup>th</sup> minutes that the county commissioners were aware of the problem with the county resolution #2022-09 regarding limiting the number of dogs and the county commissioners had plans to correct the resolution prior to the city council meeting. **The minutes of May 19<sup>th</sup> were approved as amended** on motion of Councilman Mosley, seconded by Councilman Vrbas, approved by all.

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

**Public Comments:** Rosalie Ross representative of the Rotary Club, requested permission for the lake road to be patrolled for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July and to close the road for the county challenge race from 6:45 a.m. to 8:30 a.m., the bike race from 4:00p.m. to 5:00p.m. and for the fireworks display. At this time, Councilman Kastens made a motion to amend the agenda moving Rosalie Ross from the 3-minute public comments to the new business item 1a., seconded by Councilman Mosley, approved by all. Councilwoman Mulligan made a motion to approve the lake road closure request for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July events same as in the years past, seconded by Councilman Mosley, approved by all.

**Old Business: None**

**New Business:**

**Dawn Gabel Development Director of Options** -provided a handout to the council of the services Options provided to Rawlins County and the other 17 counties they provide services to. She also reported that there was a large increase in services since Covid. She asked for the continued financial support from the city and asked for a \$500 increase for 2023. The requested amount would be \$1500 for 2023. Mayor Stice thanked her for coming and told her the request would be considered at the budget workshop.

**Cassidy Fanders Director of the Atwood Housing Authority** -reported to council that she had won the 2017 lawsuit she filed against HUD for the 2012 Capital Fund. She had requested \$1,000 from council in 2017 for the buy in to the lawsuit and it was approved. She was here tonight to give back the \$1,000 to the City of Atwood and thanked the council for the support. The council thanked Cassidy for her hard work and for the return of the funds.

**Date for budget workshop** -City Clerk Dana Philpott reported she talked to John Mapes, city auditor regarding the workshop and that a special meeting before the workshop would be held to vote on the revenue neutral rate intent. The special meeting and the budget workshop are set for Wednesday, June 29<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m. at city hall.

**Compliance Officer contract** -Councilwoman Mulligan reported that she, Councilman Mosley, and City Clerk Dana Philpott conducted an interview with Patricia Runkle for the compliance officer position. It was an excellent interview, and the position was offered to her. The contract was shared with the council and Councilman Vrbas moved to approve the contract with Patricia Runkle for the compliance officer position and approve the mayor to sign the contract, seconded by Councilman Mosley, approved by all.

**Zoning Board property variance recommendation for Linda Glad** -Mayor Stice reported that the zoning board recommended to approve Linda Glad's request for the grain bin gazebo. Councilman Kastens made a motion to accept the recommendation of the zoning board for the request at 312 East Hill Drive, seconded by Councilwoman Mulligan, approved by all.

**Tree removal proposal** – Mayor Stice reported that there was a dead tree behind Casey's in the alley that needed to be removed. Mayor Stice talked to Grant Glad the city's insurance agent, and it was his recommendation that the city remove the tree. The tree could cause property damage and take out power lines. Councilman Kastens moved to accept the proposal from Matt Hanzlick in the amount of \$1,900 for the removal of the tree in the alley by the power lines, seconded by Councilman Dunker, approved by all.

**Emergency Siren time** – Councilman Dunker reported he is still receiving complaints from citizens about the change of time on the emergency siren on Saturday at 9:00a.m. Councilman Dunker is recommending that it be switched back to the original time of 3:00 p.m. It is very disruptive to those who work nights. Councilman Mosley suggested moving it to 12:00p.m. and reported that Ryan Murray Emergency Management Director had sent him information on what other cities and counties in the surrounding areas are doing. He will send the report to the city clerk to share with the rest of the council. Following discussion, it was agreed that council would meet with the county commissioners to come up with an agreement on the emergency sire time.

**Agreement with Rawlins County Commissioners regarding dispatch**- City Attorney Charles Peckham sent out the history and agreements from over the years for council to review. Currently, the city pays \$2,750 a month for dispatch services. The last agreement signed was September 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2004. Council agreed that they needed to have a joint meeting with the commissioners to update the contract and list out the details of what those services are that dispatch provides for the city.

## **Department Reports:**

**City Clerk Dana Philpott** - reported that the second and last ARPA payment in the amount of \$92,862.67 was received on Monday. She also reported John Mapes of Mapes & Miller will be here at the regular city council meeting in July to go over the 2021 audit.

**City Attorney Charles Peckham** –shared his activities for the month. He negotiated with defendants, reviewed prior agreements with the county on dispatch, prepared number of journal entries, appeared in city court, sent a letter regarding a nuisance issue around a trailer, worked on zoning issues, attended the zoning variance meeting. **Jayhawk**- the popcorn popper broke down and needed to be replaced – a new one has been ordered. They are applying for a grant from ACE Foundation and the Rotary has pledged \$1,000 towards the new popcorn popper. The board is planning to hold several fundraisers. The Top Gun Maverick movie did very well the first weekend. There were 287 people in attendance.

**Police Chief Brian Withington** – presented his report. His department worked 15 reports, from May 19<sup>th</sup> to June 15<sup>th</sup>. There were no arrests made, 3 non-custodial arrests, 2 juvenile arrests, 5 warnings given, 7 tickets issued, and 8 traffic stops. Other patrol activity included 271 public relations, 8 business checks, 47 miscellaneous complaints, and 1 paper served. Chief Withington reported training with his narcotic dog went well and he has two more weeks of training with the dog before he brings him home. Chief Withington reported Officer Payton Beims turned in his resignation this afternoon. This is a 30-day notice. We will need to start advertising for a new officer.

**City Superintendent Rick Kramer** – presented his report showing the areas where the city crew has spent their time since the last meeting. They have been mowing, tree trimming and doing street repairs. The depth to the water wells has remained consistent. The street sweeper is broken down but should be a minor repair. The water report shows the amount of water pumped and sold for the month. The month of May showed 7, 495,000 gallons used, and 7,112,000 gallons sold.

## **Council Reports**

**Councilman Dunker – Housing Authority** – There is currently one apartment available, they are finishing remodeling one apartment and it will be available to rent this fall. **Pool** - Jen Melia reported to Councilman Dunker that everything is going well at the pool.

**Councilman Kastens** – reported he has started working with City Clerk Dana Philpott on the budget.

**Councilman Mosley** – no report

**Councilwoman Mulligan** – reported she and City Clerk Dana Philpott attended the emergency management ESF 8 meeting last week. It was a good meeting. She will be working on some spreadsheets and information from Public Health Officer Karla Heble that was sent out on what the city's responsibilities are. **Economic Development** – Deb Minkler is back from her training. There will be a meet and greet on Wednesday, June 22<sup>nd</sup> at her office.

**Councilman Vrbas** reported that the city will be looking for a new police officer.

**Mayors Notes:** No report

With no further business to come before Council, Councilman Mosley moved to adjourn, seconded by Councilman Kastens. The meeting was adjourned at 8:47 PM.

Dana Philpott, City Clerk

Janet Stice, Mayor