

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

Atwood City Council met in regular session July 21, 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, John Mapes of Mapes & Miller, Deb Minkler Rawlins County Economic Development Coordinator & Danielle Plus

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

The minutes of the of the regular meeting on June 16th & the special meeting on June 29th were approved as circulated on motion of Councilman Mosely, seconded by Councilwoman Mulligan, 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:

John Mapes of Mapes & Miller presented the 2023 proposed budget hearing notice to council to review. The budget public hearing will be held at 7:00 p.m. at the September 15th regular council meeting. **Next, John Mapes reviewed the 2021 city audit** discussing each area by fund. Copies of the audit were provided to the council members. There were no statutory violations. The audit is as clean of a report as you are ever going to get. The general fund increased by \$52,000 and the utility accounts increased \$179,000. Overall, everything looks good. Councilman Kastens moved to approve the 2021 audit and authorized filing the report with state agencies, seconded by Councilman Vrbas, approved by all.

Deb Minkler Rawlins County Economic Development director gave her quarterly report to council. She is currently working with Travis Rickford on funding for starting up a daycare center. They will be having a Rawlins County Building Blocks to Child Care program next Tuesday evening and along with this they are trying to partner up with the school on starting an after-school program. She is currently looking into grants for a firetruck for the city. She has put in a request to the Rotary Club to assist with the purchase of a firetruck. She reported that there is a CDBG grant available for parks and recreation – this would be a good grant to apply for to replace the protective barrier under the playground equipment at the Kelley Park.

Danielle Plus/Smokin' on the Beaver Committee member requested a temporary CMB license & golf cart permits for the SOTB event in September. Councilman Kastens made a motion to approve the temporary CMB permit for the SOTB event with serving from 2:00pm to 11:00pm and to approve 6 golf cart passes for the SOTB committee, seconded by Councilwoman Mulligan, approved by all.

Patricia Runkle City Compliance Officer provided her monthly report to the council. She has 30-50 properties on her radar. Half of the properties that received door hangers had complied with the mowing and removal of weeds. Woody's were hired to mow a property on state street after several attempts to notify the owner that he was out of compliance. She did a surveillance before the meeting and there are several new properties that she will be giving notices to either tomorrow or on Monday. The council thanked her for coming and for providing a monthly report.

Old Business:

Emergency siren time discussion-Councilman Dunker revisited the issue with the emergency siren time and noted that there was no test siren last Saturday. The siren is not being tested each Saturday and the times have been inconsistent. The city does pay \$33,000 a year for dispatch and jail services. The siren is supposed to be tested every Saturday morning according to the agreement signed by the 3 mayors & Commissioner Mosley. Councilman Mosley provided a copy of the agreement and pointed out that the agreement stated, "In the event this agreement requires revisions, the undersigned agree to meet and revise this Agreement" Councilman Kastens pointed out that this is a public safety issue that needs to be dealt with soon. Following discussion, it was agreed that a new agreement should be made with specific details on what is expected for the testing of the emergency siren and to change the time as the citizens do not like the 9:00 a.m. time on Saturday. Mayor Stice said she would contact the 2 other mayors from Herndon & McDonald to discuss revising the agreement. Mayor Stice asked City Attorney Charles Peckham to draw up the new agreement and to put in the agreement that this is a public safety issue.

Set dates/times to meet with Rawlins County Commissioners regarding city/county agreements – this item was tabled. It was agreed that the emergency siren needed to be dealt with and that time was needed to look into the other city /county agreements before a meeting date was scheduled.

New Business: None

Department Reports:

City Clerk Dana Philpott - reported that the quarterly unemployment & 941 report have been submitted. The last lease payment on the 2018 police charger was made and all vehicle lease payment are now paid in full. The grader is the only piece of equipment left to pay on. The sewer GO bond was paid for this year.

City Attorney Charles Peckham –shared his activities for the month. He negotiated with defendants, prepared several journal entries, appeared in city court. **Jayhawk**-The popcorn popper fundraiser is going well, movie attendance is better, and the board is planning several fundraisers.

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 helping with the street project and mowing. The water report showed a 6 % water loss, but they did flush out mains which was part of the loss. The water report showed 11,294,000 gallons used and 10,739,000 gallons sold. The well depths have remained consistent, and all equipment is in good working order. The street project is going well. There were some changes made to the project due to the condition of the intersection at 3rd & Page Streets. The city crew had planned to fix that intersection but instead had Weigel Construction fix it due to the condition of it. We will now be \$9,000 short on the project total. Councilman Kastens made a motion to approve the additional \$9,000 to pay Weigel Concrete to finish the work on the Atwood city streets and to pay it out of the Special Street Improvement Fund, seconded by Councilwoman Mosley, approved by all.

Chief of Police Brian Withington- presented his report. His department worked 29 reports from June 16th to July 20th. There were 2 arrests made, 7 non-custodial arrests, 8 warnings given, 15 tickets issued, 19 traffic stops. Other patrol activity included 76 miscellaneous complaints, 12 business checks & 293 public relations.

Council Reports

Councilman Dunker reported that the pool slide is broken, and Rick is going to try and get that fixed. Jen Melia told Councilman Dunker that this has been one of the busiest seasons at the pool in years.

Housing authority- there is currently 2 – 1-bedroom apartments available. They were approved for a grant from 2nd Century and will be looking into installing a flagpole, flower bed and a new sign out front.

Councilman Kastens – reported that the fire department needs to replace their bunker gear. All is going well with the zoning department.

Councilman Mosley – The airport board met Monday night. The grant for the new beacon tower for \$80,000 was approved by the state.

Councilwoman Mulligan – no report

Councilman Vrbas – no report but did want to thank Rick & his crew and Weigel Construction for the great job on the street improvement project. He has been receiving a lot of compliments from citizens.

Mayors Notes: Mayor Stice reported that the trailer on the hill that has been on the nuisance list has been removed but there is still a lot of stuff that has been left to clean up. She has also received several compliments from citizens on the street improvement project.

With no further business to come before Council, Councilman Kastens moved to adjourn, seconded by Councilman Mosley. The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 PM.