

Atwood City Council
November 17, 2022
Regular Meeting
City Hall, 7:00PM

Atwood City Council met in regular session November 17, 2022, in Council Chambers. The meeting was called to order by the Honorable Mayor Janet Stice. Present were Mayor Janet Stice, Councilmembers Dietrich Kastens, Sandy Mulligan, Dakota Dunker, City Clerk Dana Philpott, City Attorney Charles Peckham, City Superintendent Rick Kramer, Compliance Officer Patricia Runkle, Rosalie Ross of the Rawlins County Square Deal & Will Arthur with Nestled Insurance. Absent: Councilmembers Mark Vrbas & Mark Mosley & Chief of Police Brian Withington.

Mayor Stice requested to amend the agenda to add under new business item D. Approval of publication of public hearing to amend the Landfill Budget. Add an executive session for non-elected personnel as item X and move Adjourn to XI. Under new business C. Amend Charter Ordinance should be Charter Ordinance #6. The agenda was approved as amended on motion of Councilman Kastens, seconded by Councilman Dunker, approved by all.

The minutes of the regular meeting on October 20, 2022, were approved as circulated on motion of Councilwoman Mulligan, 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:

Darryl Campbell – did not appear

Patricia Runkle/Compliance Officer – presented her report to council. She sent out a couple of letters to residents whose houses are in need of painting, giving them 90 days to comply. She has been doing a lot of patrolling, making note of houses that are in need of repair.

Old Business:

Nestled Insurance/Will Arthur - Mr. Arthur, with Nestled Insurance, presented his proposal to the council on the Attentive Cafeteria Plan. Following discussion, Councilman Kastens made a motion to move forward with the Attentive Preventive Care Management Plan providing an enhancement to the Employee Cafeteria Plan, seconded by Councilwoman Mulligan, approved by all.

New Business:

Letter of Support for Grass Roots Institute of Kansas, Inc. – Council reviewed the request from JoEllyn Argabright requesting a letter of support to revitalize the downtown area on State Street and to move forward with their plan to strengthen the connection between rural producers and consumers, bolster the regional food system, and support economic growth in Northwest Kansas. Councilman Kastens made a motion to authorize a letter of support for Grass Roots Institute of Kansas, Inc, seconded by Councilwoman Mulligan, approved by all.

Damage to Meter/Meter Equipment - City Clerk Dana Philpott & City Superintendent Rick Kramer reported to council on an incident where a customer damaged the radio read on the meter lid by mowing over it. The replacement cost was \$150.00. The customer admitted to running over it and to the damage. The customer was billed for the damage but wanted to know where it was documented that the customer was responsible for the damage. Ordinance #789 section 42-58 states the consumer shall be charged all repair expenses and gives the City Superintendent the authority to determine who is responsible for the replacement cost of damaged equipment.

Amend Charter Ordinance #6/Delinquent account notices & payment due date – City Clerk Dana Philpott presented a list of the changes that needed updated to the current Charter Ordinance #6. Section 2 added a street improvement fee, changed the due date to the tenth (10th) of the month after billing is sent out. Section 3 City Clerk shall bill water service, sewer service, street improvement fee, and solid waste pickup on one bill. Section 6 Landlord Liability shall be governed by Section 42-24 of the City Atwood Municipal Code as amended. Section 10 – added \$75.00 reconnection fee for after regular business hours. Councilman Kastens moved to adopt Charter Ordinance #11 which amends Charter Ordinance #6, seconded by Councilman Dunker, Voting yea: Councilmembers Kastens, Dunker, Mulligan & Mayor Stice. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

Approve publication of public hearing to amend Landfill Budget – Councilwoman Mulligan made a motion to approve publication of the Public Hearing to amend the 2022 Landfill Budget, seconded by Councilman Kastens, approved by all.

Department Reports:

City Clerk Dana Philpott –reported bonuses were paid out this week with the regular payroll. The electronic notification of disconnect notices this month went well. We only had two delinquent customers who we had to deliver notices to as we were not able to get in touch with them via phone. City Hall will close Wednesday, November 23rd at 1:00 and will be closed all day on November 24th & 25th. Ana and I came in and worked four hours on Veteran’s Day so we will take our other four hours of holiday pay for the ½ day on the 23rd. The After Christmas Party will be held in January, will have a list of dates and a location at next month’s meeting.

City Attorney Charles Peckham – shared his activities for the month. He has trials this month on running a stop sign and a battery case, has an appeal on failure to report accident in district court in December, negotiated with defendants, prepared journal entries, appeared in city court, reviewed Charter Ordinance on water and utility billing, negotiated with attorney, regarding suspended license, worked on issues with deceased person found in the lake. **Jayhawk** – last month the movie attendance was not good. Should have better movies this month. The city crew will be renovating the theater ceiling after the first of the year. Worked to use funds for closed venue grant correctly, funds need to be expended.

Police Chief Brian Withington - was absent but provided his report for the council.

City Superintendent Rick Kramer – presented his report showing the areas where the city crew has spent their time since the last meeting. They are working outside and winterizing and servicing equipment. The restrooms at Kelley Park are closed now for the winter. They will be changing out some meters each month as some are now 20 years old. Tomorrow they will put up the Christmas Tree & lights. Superintendent Kramer provided the water report which showed the amount of water pumped and sold for the month of October.

Council Reports

Councilman Dunker – Housing Authority - Cassidy Fanders director at the Housing Authority reported to Councilman Dunker that the new flagpole has been installed, they are continuing remodeling work on a couple of apartments. They currently have one vacant apartment.

Councilman Kastens -no report

Councilman Mosley – absent

Councilwoman Mulligan – Reported her and City Clerk Dana Philpott attended an Emergency Management meeting today at the courthouse. There were tabletop exercises and discussions on how to put a plan into action for each scenario. Ryan Murray the regional Emergency Management Coordinator reviewed the city evacuation plan. The plan looked good to him. We do need to complete the designated shelter locations and a few other things. She reminded everyone to keep their City of Atwood Id's current. The council discussed getting a generator for city hall as city hall would be a main shelter location and point of contact for citizens in a county/city disaster.

Economic Development – Speaker Vernon Hurd attended the last meeting and spoke to the board. He recommended to check the city ordinance and county resolution as economic development needs to have the correct ordinance and resolution in place to become tax exempt. City Attorney Charles Peckham recommended replacing the current outdated ordinance with a new one.

Councilman Vrbas -absent

Mayors Notes: No report

Executive Session for Non-elected personnel - Councilman Kastens made a motion to move into executive session for non-elected personnel for 10 minutes beginning at 8:22PM to include council, City Attorney Charles Peckham, City Superintendent Rick Kramer & City Clerk Dana Philpott, seconded by Councilwoman Mulligan, approved by all. A motion was made by Councilman Kastens to return to regular session at 8:30PM seconded by Councilwoman Mulligan approved by all with no action taken.

With no further business to come before Council, Councilman Kastens moved to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 8:31 PM.

Dana Philpott, City Clerk

Janet Stice, Mayor