

Atwood City Council
December 15, 2022
Regular Meeting
City Hall, 7:00PM

Atwood City Council met in regular session December 15, 2022, in Council Chambers. The meeting was called to order by the Honorable Mayor Janet Stice. Present were Mayor Janet Stice, Councilmembers Sandy Mulligan, Dakota Dunker, & Mark Mosley via Go To Meeting Mark Vrbas; Deputy Clerk Ana Vargas, City Attorney Charles Peckham, City Superintendent Rick Kramer, Chief of Police Brian Withington, Brian Clark & Josh Wolters with Two Homes LLC. Absent: Councilman Dietrich Kastens & City Clerk Dana Philpott.

The **public hearing** for the 2022 amended budgets was held. The hearing opened at 7:00pm. There were no comments made. The hearing closed at 7:01pm. Councilman Mosley made a motion to approve the amended 2022 budgets for the airport fuel and landfill funds, seconded by Councilwoman Mulligan, approved by all.

Councilman Mosley requested to amend the agenda adding under the appearances section C. Brian Clark with 2 Homes LLC. **The agenda** was approved as amended on motion of Councilman Mosley, seconded by Councilman Dunker, approved by all.

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

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

Public Comments: None

Appearances:

Tricia Runkle/Compliance Officer was absent but provided her monthly report to the council.

Rod Carroll- did not appear

Brian Clark & Josh Wolters/Two Homes LLC – Two Homes LLC purchased the Betty Wilkens property located at 507 S. 7th Street. They plan to re-sell the home and they will also be purchasing the land behind Mike & Rosie Braxmeyer’s property. They are planning to build 4-6 homes in the location of Betty Wilkens property that adjoins to the property behind Braxmeyer’s. They will be looking for grants to fund the dirt work, infrastructure etc. They need to put together some estimated costs for the infrastructure to be ready to apply for the grants. They were requesting the city to help with the cost estimates by using Miller & Associates Engineering Company. The engineers will need to submit the plans to KDHE for approval for the water & sewer lines as the properties are located within the city limits. Josh Wolters thanked the city for all their assistance in working with Two Homes LLC. The council thanked Brian Clark & Josh Wolters for coming and informing them of the plan to add additional new homes.

New Business

Blue Cross Blue Shield Insurance Rates 2023-Mayor Stice reported that the new insurance rates increased 22%. We have the money budgeted for the current employees and if we add another officer, we will possibly need to look into some alternative funds.

2023 Holiday Schedule – The 2023 paid holiday schedule was presented to the council. Councilman Vrbas made a motion to approve the 2023 Holiday schedule, seconded by Councilwoman Mulligan, approved by all.

After Christmas Party – Mayor Stice informed the council that the After Christmas Party will be held January 23rd at the Atwood Country Club at 6:00pm. There will be steak & chicken available. Please let City Clerk Dana Philpott know if you will be able to attend as it gets closer to the date.

Resolution 22-07 Transfer Street Funds to Special Street Improvement Fund- We will be transferring \$20,000 out of the General Street Fund to the Special Street Improvement Fund and the \$30,000 out of the Fire Department Fund will be transferred to a Special Equipment Fund. Councilman Mosley made a motion to approve Resolution 22-07 and to authorize the mayor to sign it, seconded by Councilwoman Mulligan, approved by all.

Compliance – Mayor Stice recommended suspending the compliance officer contract at this time and to look at covering this position in-house. The current compliance officer Patricia Runkle will be notified of the suspension due to budget constraints for 2023. Councilman Mosley made a motion to suspend the compliance activities until April 1st and review at that time, seconded by Councilwoman Mulligan, approved by all.

Department Reports:

City Clerk -Deputy Clerk Ana Vargas reported that City Clerk Dana Philpott has been doing the end of the year process training online. She also attended a training in McPherson with the mayor & Councilwoman Mulligan on Ethics & Civility. It was a very good, informative training course to attend. Deputy Clerk Ana Vargas reminded the council to take home their 2022 council packets from the binders so we can start over for 2023.

City Attorney Charles Peckham shared his activities for the month. He has an appeal trial upcoming before Judge Berens, negotiated with defendants, prepared journal entries, appeared in city court, negotiated with an attorney regarding a suspended license, he will be filling a tax exemption for property taxes on 7th Street that is for a drainage ditch. City Attorney Peckham requested to increase his fees for 2023 due to inflation. **Jayhawk** -There is a bingo fundraiser scheduled in January. They will need to get a license from the Kansas Department of Revenue, slight improvement in admission at the

theater. Charles reported that Kathy Vrbas & himself will be going off the theater board in January. Roddy Dill & Annie Easterday have agreed to serve on the board. Mayor Stice recommended the council approve the new board members. Councilman Mosley made a motion to approve Roddy Dill & Annie Easterday to the Jayhawk Theater Board in January, seconded by Councilwoman Mulligan, approved by all.

Chief of Police Brian Withington presented his report. His department worked 15 reports from November 17th to December 14th. There were 2 non-custodial arrests, 9 tickets issued, 8 warnings given, & 14 traffic stops. Other patrol activity included 31 miscellaneous complaints; 2 agency assists, & 265 public relations.

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 changing out meters and doing maintenance work on the equipment. The mayor requested bids for a generator for city hall, Kramer said they could install the generator with the assistance of Midwest Energy. He will also go ahead and request bids from other contractors and bring the bids to the next council meeting.

Council Reports:

Dakota Dunker: No report

Dietrich Kastens: Absent

Mark Mosley: The airport meeting is next Monday. He learned some new information on the ARPA money regulations.

Councilwoman Mulligan - They are revamping the Economic Development ordinance and will bring it to council next month. Linda Wright went off the board and Shelby Wright resigned. They are looking for two new board members.

Mark Vrbas – No report

Mayor's Notes: Mayor Stice recommended a 7% wage increase for all city employees as budgeted with the exception of Ana Vargas & Ricky Kramer. They will both receive a \$2.00 an hour increase plus the 7% increase as they have both been taking on additional duties. City Attorney Charles Peckham will also have a 7% increase in his billing hours.

With no further business to come before council, Councilman Mosley moved to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 7:50PM

Ana Vargas, Deputy Clerk

Janet Stice, Mayor