

Atwood City Council
January 16, 2020
Regular Meeting
City Hall, 7:00 PM

Atwood City Council met in **regular session** January 16, 2020 at City Hall. The meeting was called to order by the Honorable Mayor Janet Stice at 7:00 PM. Others present were Councilmembers Dietrich Kastens, Mark Mosley, Mark Vrbas; City Clerk Keri Riener; City Attorney Charles Peckham; Chief of Police Brian Withington; City Superintendent Rick Kramer; Rosalie Ross of the Rawlins County Square Deal. Councilman Gary Fisher and Councilwoman Sandy Mulligan were absent.

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

The **Minutes** of the regular meeting on December 19, 2019 and special meeting on January 2, 2020 were approved as circulated on motion of Councilman Vrbas, seconded by Councilman Dietrich Kastens, approved by all.

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

Public Comments:

Melody Bearley requested Council opinion regarding a 4H community service project to paint address numbers on city curbs. April is National 4H Service Month and EMS has expressed their support as residence numbers would be very helpful when EMS is responding to an emergency call. Melody plans to apply for a Dane G Hansen grant for the expenses associated with the project. Councilmembers gave their support and thanked Melody for considering this as a project.

Melody also mentioned that she is tentatively scheduling the city dog vaccination clinic for Saturday, February 29th. More details will be available as the date gets closer.

Appearances: None.

Old Business:

City Attorney Charles Peckham discussed the need to move forward in the process of vacating 9th Street, as all adjoining landowners have signed a petition in favor of the action. He apologized for not having this topic on the agenda, as he was involved in an out of town jury trial and only realized the timeliness of this situation yesterday. After reading the proposed ordinance, Councilman Kastens moved to **adopt Ordinance #889 vacating a portion of Ninth Street between Greason Industrial Park and Pinger-Greason Addition to the Original Town (now City) of Atwood, KS**. Councilman Mosley seconded, approved by all. The ordinance states that property owners have agreed to bear the expense of closure and legal notice has been given as required by statute. The City Attorney will supply the ordinance to the newspaper to be published.

New Business:

Resolution 20-01 concerning the updated City Fee Schedule for 2020 was discussed. City Clerk Keri Riener informed Council that the increased cost of sidewalk blocks is reflected in the list, with an updated price of \$125 per block. The water savings fund balance is stable and 2020 income would be maintainable with a reduced rate increase or no increase at all. A few years of building up the sewer savings fund is recommended since the sewer project only recently concluded. Councilman Kastens **moved to approve the 2020 Fee Schedule effective February 1, 2020, with the 5% sewer rate increase effective May 1, 2020 and no water rate increase for 2020**. Councilman Mosley seconded, approved by all.

Resolution 20-02 designating the Rawlins County Square Deal as the official newspaper and <http://www.atwoodkansas.com> as the official website of the City of Atwood was approved on motion of Councilman Kastens, seconded by Councilman Vrbas, approved by all.

Resolution 20-03 declaring the three local banks as the financial institutions to be used as depositories of funds for the City of Atwood was approved on motion of Councilman Vrbas, seconded by Councilman Mosley, approved by all.

City Clerk Keri Riener reviewed previous discussion regarding the purchase of a new Archer 2 handheld water meter reader. The city currently has two aging handheld readers that are not reading as well and have batteries that need to be replaced. These can still be used as backup readers if needed. The Archer 2 will work with the current software and costs \$2,700.00. Councilman Vrbas moved **to approve purchasing the Archer 2 handheld water meter reader**, Councilman Kastens seconded, approved by all.

Department Reports:

City Clerk Keri Riener reported the General Fund Cash Carryover for 2019 as \$395,244.31, after the Special Street Improvement Fund transfer of \$50,000.00. This amount includes the pool sales tax balance received from the county. Other notes of interest: The sewer fund expense budget was \$236,016.00, with revenues for the year of \$227,985.33 and actual expenses of \$193,192.57. The water fund expense budget was \$791,240.00, with revenues of \$573,550.10 and actual expenses of \$698,508.69. The 2019 year was closed in the computer software and 2020 is now open. The W-2's and 1099's have been mailed and will be filed with the state and IRS next week. The Kansas Rural Water Conference is scheduled for March 24th – 26th. Councilmembers planning to attend this year should turn their registration forms in to the city clerk by the February council meeting, so registration can be sent in as a group.

City Attorney Charles Peckham has conducted routine monthly court documentation, negotiated with attorneys regarding municipal court cases and worked on employee issues. The airport agreement with SureFire Ag was revised to reflect statutory requirements. Charles researched case law on vacating streets and drafted an ordinance for Council on that topic. He also advised Council that the Tourism Board may meet to discuss increasing the bed tax this year.

Police Chief Brian Withington presented his report. His department worked 6 reports from December 19, 2019 to January 16, 2020. 1 arrest was made, 9 warnings given and 3 tickets issued. Other patrol activity included 42 public relations, 21 miscellaneous complaints, 18 business checks and 1 agency assist.

City Superintendent Rick Kramer discussed his report showing the areas where the city crew has spent their time since the last meeting. They have been working in the shop and city hall when the weather is cold. The tree limb pile from the storm last year was completely cleared this month. A total of 45 loads were taken to the landfill. The new grader has been used for some street repairs. The water report shows the amount of water pumped and sold for the month. The month of December showed a -20% water loss. Usually there is at least one negative water loss per year due to the timing of the reports versus when the water was pumped. Overall, the city had an 8% annual water loss. The depth to the water in city wells has remained consistent.

Council Reports:

Councilman Gary Fisher was absent.

Councilman Dietrich Kastens had nothing to report.

Councilman Mark Mosley shared that the airport board met Monday. Gary Worthy attended to share construction plans and was granted permission to build a new hangar.

Councilwoman Sandy Mulligan was absent.

Councilman Mark Vrbas had nothing to report.

Mayors Notes:

Mayor Stice shared that a new Charter Ordinance should be considered to change the installation date and appointment dates to reflect elections now held in November. A Charter Ordinance must be published twice in the newspaper and then has a period of 60 days for the public to petition for a referendum. Following discussion, the City Attorney was asked to draft a Charter Ordinance for review with a December meeting date for swearing in new city officials, followed by mayoral appointments in January.

With no further business to come before Council, Councilman Mosley moved to adjourn, seconded by Councilman Vrbas, approved by all. The **meeting adjourned at 7:51 PM.**

Keri Riener, City Clerk

Janet Stice, Mayor