

October 15, 2020  
Atwood City Council  
Regular Meeting 7:00 PM

Atwood City Council met in regular session October 15, 2020 in Council Chambers. The meeting was called to order by the Honorable Mayor Janet Stice at 7:00PM. Present were Mayor Janet Stice: Councilmembers Gary Fisher, Dietrich Kastens, Mark Mosley, Mark Vrbas & Sandy Mulligan, City Clerk Dana Philpott; City Attorney Charles Peckham; City Police Chief Brian Withington; City Superintendent Rick Kramer; Rosalie Ross of the Rawlins County Square Deal and Gary Steele of Miller & Associates.

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

The **Minutes** of the regular meeting on September 17, 2020 & minutes of special meeting on September 28, 2020 were approved as circulated on motion of Councilman Mosley seconded by Councilman Fisher, approved by all.

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

**Public Comments:** Rosalie Ross appeared to council to inform them of a phone call she received from a Rawlins County resident regarding the article she wrote about Highway 25 still needing to be cleaned up from the large downed trees from the storm in August 2019. Superintendent Kramer reported that Joe Capo from KDOT informed him that he has a crew scheduled to come out from Topeka to do the clean-up.

**Appearances:**

**Cathy Domsch** -appeared to council to explain the SPARKS funding process and to explain that she is currently working on restructuring Economic Development and would like to hire a new full-time director. This director would be a full-time county employee. The commissioners have allocated \$40,000 and Cathy asked the city council to allocate the \$30,000 that is budgeted for 2021 for Economic Development. After discussion, the council tabled the request at this time.

**Rocky Hayes** – did not appear

**Old Business:**

**Water leaks:** Councilman Kastens made a motion to issue a credit to the Karen Horinek Trust account after their leak this summer. After the precedence was set earlier of issuing credits to a couple of customers, he felt we needed to go ahead and issue a credit based on a two month average of 2019 versus 2020 and any overage over that will be credited to the account, with it noted that we will be returning to following the ordinance in place that the customer is responsible for all water usage that passes through the meter. This information will be published in the newspaper and put on the new city website as soon as it is up and running, seconded by Councilman Vrbas, approved by all.

**Water meter policies:** Councilman Kastens made a motion to charge all accounts with 2 meters one base rate charge at the highest meter rate charge and the second meter will only be charged for the usage, seconded by Councilman Mosley, approved by all.

**New Business:**

**Engineer proposals for KDOT Project Atwood CCLIP-GI US-36** – received one proposal for the KDOT project from Miller & Associates. Gary Steele with Miller & Associates explained in detail about the project. Councilwoman Mulligan made a motion to select Miller & Associates as the project engineer seconded by Councilman Fisher, approved by all.

**Department Reports:**

**City Clerk Dana Philpott** – reported that the quarterly reports were submitted in September, she crossed trained Ana on payroll this month and she did an excellent job. Submitted application to the Recovery Assistance Program for reimbursement for plexiglass shields and cleaning supplies for the theater. Also, submitted a quote for videoconferencing equipment for the conference room which includes a laptop. Things are progressing quickly with the new city website, submitted photos and they are currently working on setting up departments and pages. That should be completed sometime next week.

**City Attorney Charles Peckham** — shared his activities for the month. He reviewed new construction by Nutrien Ag at airport, he advised that they needed to get building permit, talked with Mayor & real estate agent regarding a conditional use permit for cabin from temporary housing to residential, worked on issues from the resignation of zoning and nuisance officer, negotiated with defendants, worked on issues with Jayhawk and reopening, negotiated with attorneys, prepared journal entries, appeared in city court, reviewed reports. Reported that the Jayhawk will have its first showing this weekend. They will be showing Downton Abbey. They have put in place the necessary precautions to have a soft opening and will see how everything goes. They have 4 planned movies over the next few weeks.

**Police Chief Brian Withington** presented his report. His department worked 5 reports from September 17<sup>th</sup> to October 15<sup>th</sup>. There was 1 arrest made, 12 warnings given, and 5 tickets issued. Other patrol activity included 127 public relations, 41 miscellaneous complaints, and 25 business checks.

**City Superintendent Rick Kramer**- presented his report showing areas where city crew has spent their time since the last meeting. The water report shows the amount of water pumped and sold for the month. The month of September showed 8,071,00 gallons used and 7,424,000 gallons sold. Superintendent Kramer presented a quote for a backhoe for \$86,796.20. The backhoe was scheduled to be purchased in 2022 but the current city backhoe needs repairs to the engine and needs new tires. Councilwoman Mulligan made a motion to go ahead and purchase the backhoe and pay for it out of the water savings account for \$86,796.20 seconded by Councilman Kastens, approved by all.

#### **Council Reports:**

**Councilman Gary Fisher** –no report

**Councilman Dietrich Kastens** - reported our secondary 1985 firetruck was taken to Salina for repairs but they were not able to repair the truck due it being too old and were not able to get the parts needed. This truck is scheduled to be replaced in 2022. The truck is still a functioning truck and can be used as a back-up truck.

**Councilman Mark Mosley** - airport board will meet next week to go over Nutrien Ag project. Councilman Mosley wanted to recognize Atwood Public Library as they won the Kansas Library Award for the best Small Kansas Library. Our public library is a great asset to our community.

**Councilwoman Sandy Mulligan** – no report

**Councilman Mark Vrbas** – no report

**Mayors Notes:** Mayor Stice reported that there were 3 building permits approved since the resignation of the former zoning officer and City Superintendent Rick Kramer will be approving the building permits. Mayor Stice reported there were two people interested in the nuisance and zoning officer position at this time.

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