

November 19, 2020
Atwood City Council
Regular Meeting 7:00 PM

Atwood City Council met in regular session November 19, 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, Sandy Mulligan, City Clerk Dana Philpott; City Attorney Charles Peckham; City Superintendent Rick Kramer; Rosalie Ross of the Rawlins County Square Deal & Cathy Domsch. Councilman Mark Vrbas & Chief of Police Brian Withington were absent.

The **Agenda** was approved with the addition of new business line item (b) Neighborhood Revitalization Plan. Councilman Mosley moved to approve, seconded by Councilman Kastens, approved by all.

The **Minutes** of the regular meeting on 10/15/2020 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 Councilman Fisher, approved by all.

There were no public comments

There were no appearances

Old Business:

Request for funds for Economic Development Director- Cathy Domsch addressed council to hear from council on recommendation, requirements & expectations they would want to see in hiring a new Economic Development Director. After council discussion, they informed Domsch the city would not be able to contribute any funds for 2021 as the budget had already been set. The funding for 2021 is set for the upkeep, taxes & possible extensive work to the lot left in Greason Industrial Park. Council recommended that Domsch address council next year before the budget is set in June. With the hiring of the new office manager at the K-State Extension office, this person will have more flexibility in working on community development.

New Business:

Timer for Whistle- Superintendent Rick Kramer provided information on the whistle and how it works. This is separate from the emergency siren that the Rawlins County Dispatch controls. The replacement cost is \$1500. The new timer can be adjusted as to how many times or how long the whistle blows. The majority of citizen's who contacted council wanted to see the whistle restored. Councilman Fisher made a motion to approve the purchase of the new timer for the whistle, seconded by Councilwoman Mulligan, approved by all.

Neighborhood revitalization plan – Mayor Stice presented a new Neighborhood revitalization plan – this is a sliding scale tax deduction plan. The plan has been changed from 10 year to a 3-year plan. Councilman Kastens made a motion to approve the mayor to sign the new Neighborhood Revitalization Plan seconded by Councilman Mosley, approved by all.

Department Reports:

City Clerk Dana Philpott – Provided information to council on the new Blue Cross Blue Shield rates for 2021. There is \$1500 a month per employee budgeted – we are still well under the average budgeted amount. Council authorized the clerk to sign the Blue Cross Blue Shield 2021 contract. City Clerk Dana Philpott requested to go ahead and pay the Christmas bonuses as soon as possible so that employees can use them as needed. This is built into the budget so council authorized to pay the bonuses ASAP or when the employees would like them paid. Had a request from Officer Payton Beims to take the old city laptop that was purchased in the early 2000's. Council agreed that all data needed to be removed and then approved to give the laptop to Officer Beims. Reported that city was approved for the SPARKS grant that was submitted for the video conferencing equipment and new laptop and received reimbursement money for the Jayhawk Theater on supplies that were purchased for COVID precautions. Reported that the new city website is up and running and the new fence west of city hall was installed by Finley Construction last week.

City Attorney Charles Peckham — shared his activities for the month. He met with the airport board, represented City in Court, advised mayor and council of governor's proposed changes, obtaining driving records from other states, discussed warrants with dispatch, responded to KBI and FBI requests on record, working with defendants on payment of amounts due, sent out letters and 30 day notices, Jayhawk Board made the decision to close the theater temporarily due to COVID-19 but has requested some sparks fund to compensate for loss of revenue. Will be attending the commission meeting on Monday, November 23rd regarding the Governor's mask mandate.

Police Chief Brian Withington was absent but provided his report for the month. His department worked 10 reports from October 15^h to November 19th. There was 1 arrest made, 3 warnings given, and 6 tickets issued. Other patrol activity included 307 public relations, 12 miscellaneous complaints.

City Superintendent Rick Kramer- presented his report showing areas where city crew has spent their time since the last meeting. They have been working on building repairs at the fire building and power plant. The water report shows the amount of water pumped and sold for the month. The month of October showed 5,667,000 gallons used and 4,938,000 gallons sold. The received the new backhoe from Foley Equipment and encouraged council members to stop by and take a look at it.

Council Reports:

Councilman Gary Fisher – reported that he had talked to Cassidy Fanders at the Housing Authority and they are continuing with remodeling projects at Wheatridge. They still need new members for the tree board as one member just moved recently – would like to advertise for new members. Will submit the report in December to Arbor Day – this will be 25 years for Atwood to be Tree City USA.

Councilman Dietrich Kastens - Councilman Kastens presented a letter from Jenny Popp 5Ten Main director asking the council to provide a letter of support to apply for the Dane G. Hansen Foundation - council tabled the request and asked that Jenny Popp or a representative of 5Ten Main appear before council and ask for the letter of recommendation so if council have questions or concerns those could be addressed at that time. Councilman Kastens will notify Jenny Popp of the councils' request. Councilman Kastens requested to get the fire department budget from clerk next week to see where they are at. Will present a plan next month for code enforcement.

Councilman Mark Mosley - airport board met on Monday. They will be applying for the CARES grant to purchase a gate with an opener across the tarmac and make improvements to the pilot building. Also looking into getting a car port put up for the courtesy cars. Will be starting on a process of the parallel taxi way project. This project will take several years and will be looking for grant money to help complete it. They have also discussed putting in a helipad near existing runway. This would allow the option of bringing in a helicopter in more adverse weather conditions.

Councilwoman Sandy Mulligan – Economic Development will have a meeting on December 7th to discuss the plans for the last Greason Industrial Park lot. They will also be discussing how to re-structure the committee as they now will only be dealing with E-Loans and the finalization of the last lot at the Greason Industrial Park.

Councilman Mark Vrbas – was absent

Mayors Notes: Mayor Stice reported City Superintendent Kramer is handling zoning in house and doing a great job. Chief of Police Withington has been talking to residents about cleaning and removing cars and equipment off the streets. Nuisances are not an issue currently there is a lot of clean-up going on right now. She will be meeting the commissioners Monday on the Governor's executive order.

With no further business to come before Council, Councilman Kastens moved to adjourn, seconded by Councilman Mosley. The **meeting adjourned at 8:33 PM.**

Dana Philpott, City Clerk

Janet Stice, Mayor