

Atwood City Council
March 16, 2023
Regular Meeting
City Hall, 7:00PM

Atwood City Council met in regular session on March 16, 2023, at City Hall. The meeting was called to order by the Honorable Mayor Janet Stice at 7:00PM. Present were Mayor Janet Stice, Councilmembers: Sandy Mulligan, Dakota Dunker, Mark Vrbas and Diana Tongish; City Clerk Dana Philpott; City Attorney Charles Peckham; Chief of Police Brian Withington; City Superintendent Rick Kramer; Rosalie Ross of the Rawlins County Square Deal, Nick Bearley & Tyrel Prideaux. Absent: Councilman Dietrich Kastens

The **agenda** was approved as circulated on motion of Councilman Vrbas, seconded by Councilwoman Mulligan, approved by all.

The **minutes** of the regular meeting on February 16, 2023, and special meeting on February 21, 2023, were approved as circulated on motion of Councilwoman Mulligan, seconded by Councilwoman Tongish, approved by all.

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

Public Comments None

Appearances

Brian Clark/dilapidated properties: Brian Clark did not attend.

Nick Bearley & Tyrel Prideaux Atwood Ambassadors- appeared before council to request to shut down the downtown as in the past for the Rod Run on May 19th & 20th on 4th Street from the Rawlins County Grade School to Atwood Floral and on Main Street from Midwest Energy to the Atwood Public Library. They also requested to have the lake road shut down to one-way traffic for safety from Friday morning May 19th to Sunday morning May 21st. Councilwoman Mulligan made a motion to approve the street closings and lake for road one-way traffic, seconded by Councilman Vrbas, approved by all. Next, Bearley & Prideaux also requested to extend the boundaries of selling liquor outside the Knights of Columbus Hall to the concrete parking lot. Councilman Vrbas made a motion to approve extending the boundary to the concrete parking lot, seconded by Councilwoman Mulligan, approved by all.

Old Business

Bid proposal for generator at city hall -the council reviewed the two bid proposals from Ross Manufacturing for \$9,466.08 and High Plains Electric for \$7, 688.01. Superintendent Kramer reported he contacted Dustin Diedrich of High Plains Electric to get the details on the generator. The two generators on the bids are the exact same model. Councilman Vrbas made a motion to accept the High Plains Electric bid for the generator at city hall in the amount of \$7,688.01, seconded by Councilwoman Tongish, approved by all.

Cost Share Grant for the downtown street improvement project. The project proposal submitted by Weigel Concrete for the tear out and replacement of concrete from 3rd & State Street to the intersection

of 4th & State Street is \$249,120. The deadline to submit the grant is March 23rd. The amount of funds in the Special Street Improvement Fund is \$126,086.24. Councilman Vrbas made a motion to approve a 50% match to the \$249,120 for the matching Cost Share Grant, seconded by Councilwoman Mulligan, approved by all.

New Business

Set date for special meeting to select sanitation contractor -Councilwoman Mulligan made a motion to set the date for the special meeting on Tuesday, April 4th at noon, seconded by Councilman Vrbas, approved by all.

Department Reports

City Clerk Dana Philpott reported the USDA report was filed last week. A copy of the report was given to the council. She will be attending the Municipal Finance and Budget Workshop in Dodge City on April 19th with the mayor and Councilwoman Mulligan. A new community calendar was set up on the city website. City Clerk Dana Philpott and Deputy Clerk Ana Vargas will maintain the calendar. There will be a class at the library to assist citizens on how to view the new calendar. The city-wide clean-up is scheduled for Monday, April 24th. The high school students will assist the city crew with the clean-up again this year. BASE Grant announcement of awardees is set for March 28th. City Clerk Dana Philpott also reported that \$13,000 has been donated to the new Christmas Tree fund. Linda Wright, Ana Vargas, & I have been busy this week attending meetings with organizations to ask for donations for the new tree.

City Attorney Charles Peckham shared his activities for the month. He reviewed the police department policy and procedures, prepared a draft contract for a new sanitation contractor, negotiated with defendants, appeared in city court, negotiated with an attorney and defendants, and reviewed zoning questions. There will be a zoning variance hearing next month.

Chief of Police Brian Withington presented his report. His department worked 30 reports from February 16th to March 15th. There was 1 arrest, 1 non-custodial arrest, 7 tickets issued, 18 warnings given, and 16 traffic stops. Other patrol activity included 284 public relations, 59 miscellaneous complaints, 1 paper served, 10 business checks, and 2 agency assists. Chief Withington reported that he attended a training in Garden City with his dog Ali.

City Superintendent Rick Kramer presented his report showing the areas where the city crew has spent their time since the last meeting. The water report showed the amount of water pumped and sold for the month. The crew has been working outdoors, at the swimming pool, theater and cleaning streets. The well depths are good, and the system is back up and running online. Superintendent Kramer reported he checked pricing on a new pool heater. The new heater will be around \$36,000. The current heater was the heater for the old pool and was not the correct size for the new pool so the new heater was specifically designed for size of this pool and will be more efficient than the old heater. Council agreed to table the approval of the new heater until the special meeting on April 4th.

Council Reports

Councilman Dakota Dunker -Housing Authority-the remodeling for apartment #23 is finished and the last apartment will be finished in April. They are planning to host an open house for the newly remodeled apartments. **Airport-** the board meets next week. **Library-** They are remodeling the restroom; they have purchased new chairs and a table for the meeting room. The meeting room is available for public use since Midwest Energy has permanently closed their meeting room to the public.

Councilman Dietrich Kastens – Absent

Councilwoman Mulligan – Economic Development-Deb Minkler has been doing lots of training and working on grants. She helped Two Homes LLC with their grants and is working on a grant for the Atwood City Fire Department for a new firetruck.

Councilwoman Tongish -Pool- the new lounge chairs were purchased. The pool will open May 27th and close on August 13th. Jen Melia said she currently has 8 lifeguards hired and needs an additional 4 more to cover all schedules. There will be 2 sessions of swimming lessons. The 1st session will be from June 19th -June 29th and the 2nd session will be from July 10th -July 21st. **Jayhawk Theatre-** The theatre board came up with a new policy to deal with kids being disruptive during the movies. The new policy will be published in the newspaper and posted at the theatre. The theatre board will be hosting another Bingo fundraiser night at the Atwood Country Club on March 25th.

Councilman Vrbas – Solid Waste -he has visited with a couple of people who are interested in the sanitation contractor position.

Mayor's Notes: Mayor Stice reported she will be attending the Municipal Finance & Budget Workshop in Dodge City in April.

Adjourn -With no further business to come before council, Councilman Vrbas moved to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 7:56PM.

Dana Philpott, City Clerk

Janet Stice, Mayor