

Atwood City Council
February 15, 2024
Regular Meeting
City Hall, 7:00PM

Atwood City Council met in regular session on February 15, 2024, at City Hall. The meeting was called to order by the Honorable Mayor Janet Stice at 7:00PM. Present were Mayor Janet Stice, Councilmembers: Dakota Dunker, Dietrich Kastens, Sandy Mulligan, Mark Vrbas and Diana Tongish; City Clerk Dana Philpott; City Attorney Charles Peckham; City Superintendent Rick Kramer; David Blau Engineer with Miller & Associates, James Wright with Midwest Energy, Inc., Gary Fisher, Josh Wolters, Brian Clark, Melanie Prideaux, Dale Luedke, & Alicia Baumfalk. Absent: Chief of Police Brian Withington

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

The **minutes** of the regular meeting on 01/18/24 were approved as circulated on motion of Councilman Kastens, seconded by Councilman Vrbas, approved by all.

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

Public Comments: None

Appearances:

Midwest Energy, Inc./Franchise Fees- James Wright Key Accounts Manager with Midwest Energy, Inc. presented a new electric & gas franchise ordinance agreement with the City of Atwood. The current agreement will expire in April. The proposed franchise fees will be 4.5% for electric & 4.0% for gas with a \$.04 per therm for any gas transported on Midwest Energy gas lines. These fees are the same as in the previous agreement. The new agreements will be in effect for 20 years, with a new opener clause in these agreements to make changes every 5 years with a 6 months' notice given to Midwest Energy. Councilman Kastens made a motion to approve ordinance #905 the gas franchise agreement and authorize the mayor to sign it, seconded by Councilman Vrbas, approved by all. Councilman Kastens made a motion to approve ordinance #906 the electric franchise agreement and to authorize the mayor to sign the ordinance agreement, seconded by Councilman Vrbas, approved by all.

David Blau with Miller & Associates - presented a draft of the platting of south 7th Street from Pearl Street to the area where the new proposed housing will be built. The draft clarifies the boundaries in the surrounding area. There is room for a 32ft wide street. Superintendent Kramer did not have any issues with the new street being 32 ft wide but stated he did not want to go any less than the 32 ft. David Blau explained there were no issues with the utility design of the proposed new housing development for Two Homes LLC. A retention pond has been designed to address the issue of the drainage problems in that area. The retention pond is designed to hold water during rain events only. The pond will remain dry most of the time. Blau stated that the retention pond will need to be maintained. It will need to be kept free of debris and mowed. The pond will be located on private property so the city will not be responsible for the maintenance of the pond.

USD #105/Eric Stoddard had not arrived at the meeting yet due to the Special School Board Meeting.

Old Business:

Rural Housing Incentive District Resolution 2024-03 – Josh Wolters with Two Homes LLC requested council approval of the RHID Resolution so the project can move forward. Councilman Kastens stated that the RHID has been an interesting long process. He felt there was no risk to the taxpayers or to the city by moving forward with the RHID. Following a lengthy discussion, Councilman Kastens made a motion to approve the RHID Resolution 2024-03, seconded by

Councilman Vrbas. Councilwoman Tongish abstained from voting. Voting yes were Councilman Kastens, Councilman Vrbas, & Councilwoman Mulligan, voting no – Councilman Dunker, Motion carried 4-1. (KS Law states that the abstained vote goes with the prevailing side.)

New Business:

USDA Annual Report – City Clerk Dana Philpott presented the USDA Annual Report. Councilman Kastens made a motion to authorize the city clerk to submit the annual report to the USDA, seconded by Councilman Dunker, approved by all.

Department Reports:

City Clerk Dana Philpott reported that the city-wide clean-up day will be Monday, April 22nd with Wednesday, April 24th as an alternate date. Some of the high school student groups will be assisting the city crew with the cleanup again this year. Deputy Clerk Ana Vargas & I will be attending the Court Clerk Conference at the end of February. City Hall will be closed starting at noon on February 28th and be closed all day February 29th & March 1st.

City Attorney Charles Peckham shared his activities for the month. He negotiated with defendants, prepared journal entries, appeared in city court, corresponded with the judge on several issues, worked on questions concerning planning & subdivision, worked with Superintendent Kramer on zoning issues, worked on issue with former defendant regarding purchase of weapons.

Chief of Police Brian Withington was absent but provided his report to the council.

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 doing some clean-up from snow removal, removing the gravel, working outdoors. They are waiting on a meter for well #8 to get that changed out.

USD #105/Eric Stoddard – gave an update to the city council on the process of working through the county sales tax bond. They will be holding a meeting on Saturday with Representative Adam Smith to discuss the sales tax bond so he can get a bill written and introduced to the legislature to get approval to impose a county sales tax for the construction of a new school. Mr. Stoddard wanted to keep the lines of communication open with the city in case the district needed to ask approval for a city sales tax and thanked the city council for their support. The school is looking for other funding sources such as grant opportunities to assist with building a new school.

Council Reports:

Councilman Dunker – Airport – the board will meet next week. **Housing Authority**- there is 1 open apartment currently, but they have a waiting list of 5-6 people. The apartment will need to be cleaned and painted before it is rented.

Library -The library will be going back to hours from 10am-6pm Monday-Friday starting March 1st.

Councilman Kastens – Fire department – Councilman Kastens thanked Rick & Rick for all the work and time in getting the 2004 Ladder Firetruck to Atwood.

Councilwoman Mulligan – Economic Development -The community daycare will be moving forward with purchasing the dental clinic. They completed a loan for the Tortilla Factory. Deb will be moving to her new office location on Hwy 36 in the building with My Place Café. Ace Foundation will be paying for ½ of the rent & internet. Deb is planning to come to the June city council meeting to give a report.

Councilwoman Tongish – Theater – The board met on February 12th. They held the election of officers. President - Echo Hagler, Vice-President- Renee Wright & Secretary – Annie Easterday. Councilwoman Tongish reported that the theater board was recommending to the mayor to appoint Melanie Prideaux & Laura Boston to the board. At this time Mayor Stice asked that the council approve the appointments. Councilman Kastens moved to approve the mayor's appointments of the two new board members, seconded by Councilwoman Mulligan, approved by all.

Councilman Vrbas –no report

Mayor's Notes: no report

With no further business to come before council, **Councilman Vrbas moved to adjourn** seconded by Councilwoman Mulligan. The meeting adjourned at 8:17 pm.

Dana Philpott, City Clerk

Janet Stice, Mayor