

City Council Minutes
October 23, 2023

The meeting was called to order in the Council meeting room at 7:00 p.m. by Mayor J.D. Hegwood. Also present were Mitch Brenner, Lance DeLissa, Roberto Holguin, Brian Kroth, and George Lucas. Also present were City Administrator Dean Cordes, City Clerk Janet Gleason and City Attorney Clay Kuhns.

Visitors were Bobbie Allsion, Jamie Boese, Tom Kuhns, Sierra Eagan, Casie McAtee, Cindy Brenner, Kimberly Meyer, Matthew Sins, Shelly Mitchell, and Dakota Gentry.

Council approved six utility extensions.

McAtee and Brenner presented information about the Meade County Community Foundation dotation drive from November 15- 28. They noted that they have secured a “dollar for dollar” matching grant for up to \$70,000.00. They distributed a list of past recipients in Meade County. Most of the account funding has come from diversion funds. Motion by Kroth, seconded by Brenner to donate \$1000.00 to the Meade County Community Foundation. Motion carried with all in favor.

There was no public comment.

Boese reported to the council that both potential purchasers of the MIH homes have declined. The third potential buyer has also reconsidered. Council reviewed the advertising flyer and Boese will make the suggested changes. She intends to post information about the houses on social media, Dodge City, Liberal and at the High Plains Dairy.

Minutes of the October 9, 2023, meeting were approved as written.

Planning Committee did not have a quorum, but Cordes noted that they would not have approved Building Permit # 23023 because it does not meet the zoning regulations. Council denied the permit.

Cordes informed the Council the Neil Isaac was contacted about a commercial property that might be available, so the zoning appeal is on hold.

Brandon Haynes has offered the city \$1000.00 for the used pickup that did not need repairs. Consensus of Council was to keep the better pickup for city use, possible for animal control. Cordes will discuss the repairs the other pickup will need with Haynes and find out if the school will still want to purchase it.

Attorney Kuhns informed the council that the property located at 509 N. Fowler will be on the next tax sale if the taxes are not paid.

Council reviewed the letter Cordes sent to the new owners of the property located at 402 W Carthage. He has had no response from them. Council requested Cordes send a certified letter requesting action on the property.

Council confirmed with Cordes the rental price on the Police Department building would be set at \$1000.00 per month and the tenant would pay all utility costs. The city will continue to pay the taxes, building insurance and provide maintenance. Renters would be expected to insure their contents. The furniture would be available for tenant use or would be moved if the tenant chooses to bring their own. After discussion, it was the consensus of the Council the term of the lease would be a minimum of one year. If the building is rented, the city will change the canvas to something neutral.

Cordes has had one application for the animal control officer and will interview them next week. Council reviewed the rate of \$250.00 month for a probationary period of 3 months and \$325.00 month if approved. Cordes and Gleason will get information regarding possible training programs. Council approved for the old pickup to be used for animal control.

Council reviewed the police department spreadsheet and quarterly Treasurers report.

Gleason distributed a memo from the Seward County Solid Waste Management Planning Committee inviting them to a meeting on Wednesday November 8 to discuss updates to the Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan and other issues regarding the area landfill. Council requested Cordes attend.

Gleason informed the council the milo had been harvested. Council directed Gleason to sell it.

Gleason presented the following quotes for a renewing Certificate of Deposit in the amount of \$600,000.00 currently at Bank of the Plains:

Integrity Bank: 6 month @ 1.66 APY or 12 months @ 1.96% APY

Meade State Bank: 6 month @ 5.11% APY or 12 Months @ 5.11% APY

Bank of the Plains: 6 month @ 5.30% APY or 12 Months @ 5.30% APY
Motion by DeLissa, seconded by Kroth to renew the CD with Bank of the Plains at 5.30% APY for 12 months.
Motion carried with all in favor.

Council approved Gleason’s request to attend the City Clerks and Municipal Finance Officers fall institute.

Gleason informed the council she had been getting health insurance coverage quotes for 2024. She is getting quotes for vision and dental coverage as well. Freedom Claims will be making a presentation on October 25 at 8:30 am if any council members would be able to attend. Quotes from all entities will be in the packets for the next meeting.

Cordes reported that there has not been any response from CHUBB regarding the claim on the engine.

Motion by Holguin, seconded by Kroth to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried with all in favor. Meeting adjourned at 7:55p.m.

JD Hegwood, Mayor

Attest:

Janet Gleason, Clerk