

**CITY OF EVART  
SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
Tuesday, September 14, 2021 @ 6:00PM  
Community Room at the Depot, 200 S. Main Street**

Mayor Chris Emerick led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Emerick at 6:04pm.

**Present (via roll call):** Dan Elliott, Mayor Emerick, Matt Hildebrand

**Absent:** Sean Duffy, Sandra Szeliga

**Present (staff):** Interim City Manager Richard Lewis (via telephone), Finance Director/Treasurer Pepper Lockhart, Director of Public Works Dustin Moma, City Clerk Kathy Fiebig

**Guests:** Evert Area Fire Chief Shane Helmer, Randy Berger (RCB Contracting Services), John Bieri (Beaver Tree and Irrigation), Chuck Keysor

**Citizens' Comments – none**

**New Business**

**A. Additional funding for storm damage cleanup**

Mr. Lewis advised council that things have been moving very quickly and the cost of clean up is already approaching the \$50,000 benchmark. He recommended releasing an addition \$25,000 to ensure that efforts continue in a timely fashion.

Mr. Moma stated that he did a final assessment earlier in the day and identified two more hazardous trees, both on City property (Riverside West and the Skate Park). Both will have to be addressed by contractors. He would like to utilize RCB and Beaver Tree on a limited basis to remove brush. He would appreciate the additional funding and will use it wisely.

Fire Chief Helmer reported the after the storm on September 7, 77 people (roughly 240 man hours) were in service from 2:45pm until 3am. The priorities were addressing downed power lines, clearing City streets and removing trees resting on houses. The Fire Department has spent \$10,900.00 so far. Mr. Helmer will be reaching out to any organizations, such as the Fairgrounds, that had storm damage and will continue to research avenues for reimbursement.

Mr. Hildebrand asked if the City can request reimbursement for trees lost and Mr. Helmer said no. He also mentioned that the City and the Fire Department should not touch anything on private property unless it's a hazardous situation. If a resident receives insurance money for something the City or Fire Department addressed, those funds should be remitted to the City. He suggested sending a letter to all residents where we removed trees requesting that insurance funds be handed over to the City.

Mr. Hildebrand believes the City should absolutely chase reimbursements for all of the crane work.

Motion by Mayor Emerick to authorize Interim City Manager Lewis to spend up to an additional \$25,000.00 to allow crews to continue with the storm clean up from the incidence on September 7. Support by Mr. Elliott. Motion passed with all in favor.

Mr. Berger asked if this funding would include the two hazardous trees remaining, and Mr. Lewis stated that it would.

***Citizens' Comments: none***

Motion by Mayor Emerick to adjourn. Support by Mr. Hildebrand. Motion passed with all in favor.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:22pm.

  
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Kathy Fiebig  
City Clerk

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