

**CITY OF EVART
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
July 17th, 2023 @ 7:30PM
Community Room at the Depot, 200 S. Main Street**

Mayor Pro Tem Sandy Szeliga called the meeting to order at 7:30pm, then led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present (via roll call): Jim Schwab, Matt Hildebrand, Sandy Szeliga
Absent: Sean Duffy, Mayor Emerick

Present (staff): City Manager Pepper Lockhart, Finance Director/Treasurer Jennie Duncan, Downtown Development Director (DDA) Todd Bruggema, Chief of Police John Beam, City Clerk Andrea Grupido

Guests: Ruth Ann Northon, Mr. Chown

Citizens' Comments: Mr. Chown introduces himself. He moved here from down state and is the new owner of the Dairy Whip. He states a concern of his is the speed at which people drive past his business.

Approval of Agenda:

Motion by Szeliga to approve the amended agenda removing item H. Support by Hildebrand. Motion passed with all in favor.

Approval of Consent Agenda:

- A. Pre-Council Minutes – July 5, 2023
- B. Regular Council Minutes – July 5, 2023
- C. Vendor's List \$141,409.34
- D. Budget Amendments

Motion by Hildebrand to approve the consent agenda. Support by Schwab. Motion passed with all in favor.

New Business

E. Ruth Ann Northon – Planning Commission – discussion only

Ruth Ann was excited to tell council about the progress being made with the Master Plan. She states that Brad from Williams and Works has been extremely helpful to work with. Council will have the final version to approve very soon. Ruth Ann also wanted to bring to council's attention that the Planning Commission currently has 6 members, only 4 of which attend regularly. She would like to see a full board again and asks council for help in spreading the word.

F. Water/Sewer Rate Increases 23-24 Fiscal Year

Motion by Schwab to approve Resolution 2023-12 increasing the water/sewer rate for the 2023-2024 fiscal year, to be reviewed again in 2024 before the next budget hearing. Support by Szeliga. Roll call vote as follows: Hildebrand – yea, Schwab – yea, Szeliga – yea.

G. Sergeant Job Description

Council agrees that the job description looks sufficient, and will await further information from the housing commission in relation to the salary compensation.

I. AT&T Tower

The city manager will create an updated agreement with the suggested changes.

Department/Informational Reports:

J. Accounts Payable Report (7/6/2023 – 7/17/2023)

K. Summary of Funds – June 2023

City Attorney Report/Comment:**City Clerk Report/Comment:**

The next council meeting is scheduled for August 7 and there is an election August 8. In order to give enough time to set up for the election, it is being asked to reschedule the next meeting until after the election. Council agrees to move the next meeting date to August 10.

Finance Director Report/Comment:**L. Monthly Report**

J. Duncan has been contacted by the new finance director in Reed City asking for help in understanding parts of the job. Lockhart wanted to highlight J. Duncan in the fact that others are coming to her for her expertise now.

Department of Public Works Report/Comment:**Police Department Report/Comment:****M. Monthly Report – June 2023**

Planning continues for National Night Out August 1st. Chief has been getting consistent ride-alongs, and interest in bringing the reserve program back. Schwab asks if the speed control signs could be moved to any other problem areas right now while school is out. Lockhart states that the Safe Routes to School program plans on putting in a crosswalk across US10 by Oak Street and this will hopefully slow down traffic by the Dairy Whip.

Downtown Development Authority Report/Comment:**N. DDA Minutes – June 13, 2023**

August 9th we will be hosting a county wide Economic Developer Day. August 19th is the Environmental Education Expo. There are about 15 exhibitors signed up already and the Pokemon event is filling up fast. Jake Slater will be performing at the Depot August 19th as well.

Evart Area Fire Department:**O. Evart Fire Board Minutes – June 20, 2023****City Manager Report/Comment:**

P. City Manager Monthly Report

Q. Updated Park Revenue Report

Met with the county about the rental ordinance board they created and getting involved. Met with Lume and invited them to participate in Economic Developer Day. Lockhart will be gone next week for Manager's training.

Citizens' Comments:

Motion by Szeliga to adjourn. Support by Hildebrand. Motion passed with all in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 8:11pm.


Andrea Grupido, City Clerk