

**CITY OF EVART
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
January 3rd 2023 @ 7:30PM
Community Room at the Depot, 200 S. Main Street**

Mayor Chris Emerick called the meeting to order at 7:30pm, then led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Present (staff): City Manager Pepper Lockhart, Finance Director/Treasurer Jennie Duncan, Downtown Development Director (DDA) Todd Bruggema, Director of Public Works (DPW) Don Duncan, City Attorney Jim White, City Clerk Andrea Grupido

Guests: Deb Mishler, Roger Elkins

Citizens' Comments: Elkins brought in a copy of the Our Town paper and just wanted to mention how pleased he was with a couple different articles. One being the City Manager's Corner and the other being the article about Ice Mountain.

Approval of Agenda:

Motion by Mayor Emerick to approve the agenda as presented. Support by Hildebrand. Motion passed with all in favor.

Approval of Consent Agenda:

- A. Pre-Council Work Session Minutes – December 19, 2022
- B. Regular Council Minutes – December 19, 2022
- C. Vendor's List \$242,865.70

Motion by Hildebrand to approve the consent agenda. Duffy said there should be one correction to Letter J. in the regular council meeting minutes, stating that Duffy abstained from that vote. Hildebrand rescinded his motion and restated to approve consent agenda with the correction. Support by Mayor Emerick. Motion passed with all in favor.

Unfinished Business:

D. Appointment to Council Members to Boards, Commissions and Committees – *Discussion*. Bruggema is moving forward with interviews for the DDA.

E. City Attorney Proposed Contract.

White only has one problem with the proposed changes made in his contract and that is the dollar amount. Duffy agrees that the current pay is fair. Motion by Hildebrand to approve the proposed contract revised by Dickinson & Wright with amending item number 4a to represent the pay of \$35,000. Support by Duffy. Motion passed with all in favor. White states he will come to the 2nd meeting of the month unless he is needed otherwise.

New Business:

F. Removing names from Financial Institutions.

Lockhart was not able to be removed from an account because it was specified as a checking account in the previous minutes. Motion by Mayor Emerick to remove Pepper Lockhart from all accounts whether it is a savings account, checking account, CD, or money market account leaving the only three names on all accounts as Jennie Duncan, Sandy Szeliga and Andrea Grupido. Support by Hildebrand. Motion passed with all in favor.

G. Request for Approval to Dispose of Assets.

D. Duncan is asking for the '96 International truck to be disposed of. He explained that the truck has been sitting idle for 5 years and showed pictures of the split frame leaving it unsafe to drive. Disposing of it will also remove it from the insurance. Motion by Hildebrand to dispose of the '96 International truck with last 4 vin 1135. Support by Schwab. Motion passed with all in favor.

H. Recommendation of Reappointment to Housing Commission.

BJ Northon wishes to continue serving on the Housing Commission. Szeliga wants to postpone that decision in order to confirm that Northon has been to the mandatory training. In addition, Szeliga is asking Lockhart to find out who else on that board has completed the training. Motion by Mayor Emerick to reappoint BJ Northon to the Housing Commission. Support by Duffy. Roll call vote: Mr. Schwab – yea, Mayor Emerick – yea, Mr. Hildebrand – yea, Ms. Szeliga – nay, Mr. Duffy – yea.

I. Audit Proposal.

J. Duncan recommends a 5-year contract with Baird, Cotter and Bishop. This is being tabled in order for J. Duncan to contact them about including an opt out clause into the contract.

J. TIF Plan Ordinance – Discussion.

The TIF Plan is complete, however the DDA needs to pass a resolution at their next meeting (January 10th), and then it will be brought to City Council to be passed as an ordinance. White does not think it's necessary to have another public hearing (reading) on this matter.

Department/Informational Reports:

K. Accounts Payable Report (12/20/2022- 1/3/2023)

L. Revenue and Expense Report – (December 2022)

City Attorney Report/Comment:

White said that given the holidays he mostly worked with the DDA on getting the TIF Plan finalized, and the parking agreement for 101 S. Main St.

City Clerk Report/Comment:**Finance Director Report/Comment:**

J. Duncan has been busy with annual and quarterly reports, W2's, and 1099's.

Department of Public Works Report/Comment:

DPW got the ice rink up. It is smaller, but there was no cost to the city because there were enough materials found. DPW continues to track down their energy cost, and meeting MIOSHA requirements. In tracking down energy cost, they did replace a garage door seal to save on heat. The new door at the Police Department is almost finished. There are 8 fire hydrants not functional, and they have replaced 2 of those already and continue working on the rest.

Police Department Report/Comment:**Downtown Development Authority Report/Comment:****City Manager Report/Comment:**

Teresa will be out of the office and Lisa will be filling in. Working with Chief Beam on scheduling her so that the Police Department can have open hours. We will be reviewing River Street soon.

Ewart Area Fire Department:**Ewart Housing Commission:****Citizens' Comments:**

Motion by Mayor Emerick to adjourn. Support by Sean Duffy. Motion passed with all in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 8:17pm.



Andrea Grupido, City Clerk