

**CITY OF EVART
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
February 21st, 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, City Attorney Jim White, Chief of Police John Beam, City Clerk Andrea Grupido

Guests: Travis Douglas, Jesse Hyden, Jim Custer, Kassie Hill, Kelci Elder

Citizens' Comments: none

Approval of Agenda:

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

Approval of Consent Agenda:

- A. Pre-Council Work Session Minutes – February 6, 2023
- B. Regular Council Minutes – February 6, 2023
- C. Vendor's List \$304,835.54
- D. Budget Amendments

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

Unfinished Business:

- E. 101 S. Main St. Final Parking Agreement
- J. White added the language changes requested from council. Motion by Duffy to approve the final parking agreement for 101 S. Main Street. Support by Szeliga. Motion passed with all in favor.

New Business:

- F. Request for Purchase Truck Bed Toolbox
- Motion by Hildebrand to approve up to \$15,000 from the water/sewer fund for the purchase of a truck bed toolbox. Support by Schwab. Motion passed with all in favor.

- G. Backyard Animals
- Hildebrand wants to see a draft drawn up with the suggestions talked about in the work session.
- J. White suggests that the city have the "right of inspection" added into the proposed changed ordinance. Hildebrand likes the enclosure guidelines in the Grand Haven backyard chickens ordinance presented by Lockhart. Chief states that going along with this proposed backyard animal ordinance, there needs to be an updated blight ordinance as well. Duffy suggests we reach out to other City Managers who have allowed chickens to see what, if any, issues they have had. Szeliga goes on record and states she is opposed to chickens being in the city as they are farm animals and belong on a farm.

H. Water Ordinance Revisions – Draft

The Water and Sewer Committee held a meeting on January 31, 2023, to discuss potential changes in the water ordinance. Discussion was had, and this item will be added to the agenda later when the ordinance can be presented with the proposed changes.

I. Council Member Trainings

In preparation for the 2023-2024 budget, J. Duncan is asking for direction with how to move forward. With more trainings being held in person again versus virtual, the expense is greater because there is travel involved. Council agrees that there needs to be more set aside for said trainings, particularly during election years.

J. Youth Soccer Requests

At the Parks and Recreation Meeting February 14th, 2023, there was a resident who asked about bringing soccer back to the community. The city owns several nets and DPW already mows the Industrial Park where they would be practicing. Lockhart touched base with the insurance, and they recommended we have AYSO add the city as an additional insured carrier. J. White is working on creating a release as well. Motion by Duffy to allow the city to enter into an agreement with AYSO and allow them to utilize the Industrial Park for the purpose of youth soccer, contingent on the insurance stipulations. Support by Hildebrand. Motion passed with all in favor.

Department/Informational Reports:

K. Accounts Payable Report (2/7/2023 – 2/21/2023)

City Attorney Report/Comment:

L. Monthly Report (1/14/2023 – 2/14/2023)

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

M. Monthly Report

Department of Public Works Report/Comment:

N. Monthly Report – January 2023

The list of completed projects from the DPW includes repairing the park host Gator, installing 9 new meters, PM's, replacing 2 more crime watch signs, trouble calls, repairing the old chipper, snow plowing, and filling potholes. They also installed a new "Child at Play" sign by the skate park as a result from feedback of a citizen at the Morning Coffee meeting. The total bill for the plow truck repair came in at \$4,065, which council approved up to \$10,000 at the February 6th meeting.

Police Department Report/Comment:

O. Monthly Report – January 2023

Working on budget preparations, policy procedure updates, and performance evaluations. Jesse has roughly two more weeks before he is able to go on solo assignments. Teresa is back, only working 8am-noon right now. Central Square is still proving to be a time saver. The PD is working with the State to get funding for authorized trainings.

Downtown Development Authority Report/Comment:

P. DDA Agenda 2/14/2023 and minutes 1/10/2023

Evert Area Fire Department:

Q. Fire Board Minutes – January 17, 2023

City Manager Report/Comment:

R. Monthly Report

Attended the Housing Commission meeting with JJ, so now all the officers have been there to make an appearance. The Housing Commission has reported as of Dec. 31st, they are up \$115,000 that they did not use out of their budget. The fire department and some city staff are doing CPR training. Lockhart, Duffy and Mark Sochocki met a second time with Habitat for Humanity, and they are excited to be working with Evert.

Citizens' Comments:

Motion by Mayor Emerick to adjourn. Support by Duffy. Motion passed with all in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 8:55pm.



Andrea Grupido, City Clerk

