

**CITY OF EVART  
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
April 17<sup>th</sup>, 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, Mayor Emerick, Matt Hildebrand, Sandy Szeliga

**Absent:** Jim Schwab

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

**Guests:** Mike Fulton, Mr. Hooker, Mrs. Hooker, Deb Mishler, Brian Rowley, Travis Douglas

**PUBLIC HEARING: CLEAN WATER STATE REVOLVING FUND (CWSRF)**

**Mayor Emerick calls the public meeting to order at 7:31pm**

Brian Rowley from Fleis & Vanderbrink described the project plan for the public attending. He explained that this public hearing is the next step in the application process.

**Citizens' Comments:** Mr. Hooker asks if the old lagoon liner has to be removed before the new liner is installed. D. Duncan explained that the old liner does have to be removed in order to inspect the clay surface underneath.

**Mayor Emerick closes the Public Hearing at 7:56pm.**

**Citizens' Comments:** Mr. Hooker suggests installing solar panels for the bridge lights. Mr. Hooker and his wife complain about the odor coming from the Lume plant. They want to make sure they are doing emissions testing.

**Approval of Agenda:**

Motion by Mayor Emerick to approve the agenda with the correction of item I. as MDOT Resolution "2023-07", removing item D. Budget Amendments, and the addition of items K2. CWSRF Resolution 2023-08, and K3. Request for meter purchase. Support by Hildebrand. Motion passed with all in favor.

**Approval of Consent Agenda:**

**A.** Pre-Council Work Session Minutes – April 3, 2023

**B.** Regular Council Minutes – April 3, 2023

**C.** Vendor's List \$62,129.92

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

**Unfinished Business:**

**E.** Schmude Oil and Gas Lease – postponed until May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023 meeting

**F.** Budget – Second Draft Workshop

The public hearing for the budget is planned for the May 15<sup>th</sup> council meeting.

**New Business:****G. Land Division Application Fee**

Motion by Hildebrand to approve the city of Evert passing the Land Division fee onto the resident. Support by Szeliga. Motion passed with all in favor.

**H. Park Host**

Motion by Mayor Emerick to increase the Park Host pay from \$700/month to \$900/month. Support by Hildebrand. Motion passed with all in favor.

**I. MDOT Resolution 2023-07**

Motion by Hildebrand to approve Resolution 2023-07. Support by Szeliga. Roll call vote as follows: Mayor Emerick – yay, Hildebrand – yay, Szeliga – yay, Duffy – yay, Schwab – absent.

**J. Pension Fund Relief Request – Resolution 2023-09**

Motion by Hildebrand to approve Resolution 2023-09. Support by Mayor Emerick. Roll call vote as follows: Hildebrand – yay, Szeliga – yay, Duffy – yay, Mayor Emerick – yay, Schwab – absent.

**K. CDBG Grant – Resolution 2023-06**

Motion by Szeliga to approve Resolution 2023-08. Support by Hildebrand. Roll call vote as follows: Szeliga – yay, Duffy – yay, Mayor Emerick – yay, Hildebrand – yay, Schwab – absent.

**K2. CWSRF – Resolution 2023-08**

Motion by Hildebrand to approve Resolution 2023-08. Support by Mayor Emerick. Roll call vote as follows: Duffy – yay, Mayor Emerick – yay, Hildebrand – yay, Szeliga – yay, Schwab – absent.

**K3. Meter Purchase Request**

Motion by Hildebrand to approve up to \$13,000 for the purchase of two 1.5” meters, one 3” meter, one 4” meter, and one 6” meter from SLC Meter, LLC with funds coming from General Ledger #591-547-930. Support by Szeliga. Motion passed with all in favor.

**Department/Informational Reports:**

L. Accounts Payable Report (4/4/2023 – 4/17/2023)

M. Summary of all Funds – March 2023

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

J. Duncan will be going to training next week.

**Department of Public Works Report/Comment:****N. Monthly Report – March 2023**

Projects done by DPW include painting the safe walk and placing the crosswalk signs from the Depot to the skate park, replacing a broken storm drain top, painting the salt barn, continuing painting/repairing picnic tables, repaired skate park equipment, and worked with community service to pick up trash at the parks and other city properties. Upcoming tasks will be to start sweeping sidewalks and removing hazardous trees.

**Police Department Report/Comment:****O. Monthly Report – March 2023**

The PD is working on filling the part time position to accommodate lobby hours. Officer Hyden is doing great. They are still working on applying for the accreditation grant.

**Downtown Development Authority Report/Comment:****P. DDA Minutes (3/14/23) and Agenda (4/11/23)**

Bruggema reminds everyone about the upcoming presentation with Bruce Johnston, 5:30pm April 25<sup>th</sup> at the Depot.

**Ewart Area Fire Department:**

**Q. Fire Board Regular Minutes/Public Hearing Minutes – March 21, 2023**

**City Manager Report/Comment:**

Lockhart shared with council that the Ewart 3<sup>rd</sup> grade class came to City Hall for a field trip. The class voted beforehand to elect their own Mayor and council members. When they arrived at City Hall, it was set up for a meeting which they all participated in. The only item on the agenda was "Expansion of the Splash Pad". Lockhart explained to the class how our municipality is run with all the different departments. The "meeting" started with citizen's comments and the class was very involved and engaged. Lockhart then had to break the news to council that unfortunately, at this time, there was no money in the budget for the expansion. Chief Beam was in attendance, so Lockhart made the suggestion to not pay him anymore to do his job and keep the community safe. The class was not in agreement. With a vote of 4-1, council decided not to expand the Splash Pad. The class left with a better understanding of how the City operates and hopefully there will be more events like that in the future.

**Ewart Housing Commission:**

**Citizens' Comments:**

Deb Mishler suggests getting the high school involved in elections.

**Motion by Mayor Emerick to adjourn. Support by Hildebrand. Motion passed with all in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 8:58pm.**

  
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Andrea Grupido, City Clerk