

**CITY OF EVART
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
April 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, Chief of Police John Beam, City Clerk Andrea Grupido

Guests: Ralph Carlson, Diane Carlson, Travis Douglas, Al Fox, June Marie Essner, Kim Mayo, Darrel Kordie, Roger Elkins, Jacob Booher, Paris Pattee.

Citizens' Comments: Mr. Kordie is concerned that there is nothing being done about the half demolished building on the east side of town. He states it's the first thing people see when entering the city of Evert and it has been an eye sore for some time.

Approval of Agenda:
Motion by Mayor Emerick to approve the agenda with the addition of Backyard Animals to unfinished business. Support by Hildebrand. Motion passed with all in favor.

Approval of Consent Agenda:
A. Pre-Council Work Session Minutes – March 20, 2023
B. Regular Council Minutes – March 20, 2023
C. Vendor's List \$
Motion by Hildebrand to approve the consent agenda. Support by Mayor Emerick. Motion passed with all in favor.

Unfinished Business:
D. Schmude Oil & Gas Lease
The city manager and DPW director will work on getting the information requested from council from the work session.

Backyard Animals
Szeliga shares the city of Clare ordinance with council. Szeliga states that she would like to see our draft include "neighbor permission".

New Business:
E. Budget – First Draft
The Parks and Recreation budget did increase in anticipation of the campground opening back up. Hildebrand requests a salary breakdown of D. Duncan and his department workers. With this budget, D. Duncan is focused on fixing roads, replacing signs and building the equipment pool fund. D. Duncan is working on cross training and educating his department on the budget. Lockhart is negotiating the Teamsters contract and is predicting an increase in health insurance. \$28,000 was allocated to be put towards the balloon payment of the loader purchased in 2019. This is the first draft, and council has 6 weeks to approve. Council requests a budget workshop.

F. Fleis & Vanderbrink Plan Project for Clean Water (CWSRF) – emailed Friday

This project plan breaks down what the city is applying for, totaling 10.3 million dollars. The plan focuses on sewer replacement lines on S. Cherry, S. River and the 2 lines in the alley from 5th to 7th Street. Maintenance and updating our lagoon. Replacing the fencing around the wastewater plant and lift station screening.

Department/Informational Reports:

G. Accounts Payable Report (3/21/2023 – 4/3/2023)

H. Revenue and Expense Report

City Attorney Report/Comment:

City Clerk Report/Comment:

Finance Director Report/Comment:

I. March 2023 Board of Review Minutes – Corrected

Department of Public Works Report/Comment:

The ice rink is down, and a new liner will need to be purchased for next year. The meter at City Hall was replaced, potentially saving the city over \$2,000/year.

Police Department Report/Comment:

Downtown Development Authority Report/Comment:

Reminder that Bruce Johnston will be here on April 25th @ 5:30pm.

City Manager Report/Comment:

There is one interview scheduled for park host, but still advertising for that position.


Ewart Area Fire Department:

Ewart Housing Commission:

Citizens' Comments:

Kim Mayo from the Garden Club is disappointed that their budget request for \$2,300 was not met. Mr. Kordie would like to see more city residents get involved in the Garden Club. June-Marie Essner is a business owner on Main Street, she expressed the importance of the Garden Club and how it improves the appearance of our downtown.

Motion by Mayor Emerick to adjourn. Support by Schwab. Motion passed with all in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 8:26pm.


 Andrea Grupido, City Clerk