

**CITY OF EVART  
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
August 21<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):** Jim Schwab, Matt Hildebrand, Sean Duffy, Sandy Szeliga

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

**Guests:** Travis Douglas, Alicia Michell, Mark Sochocki, Melissa Newkirk

**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 Minutes – August 10, 2023
- B. Regular Council Minutes – August 10, 2023
- C. Vendor's List \$130,488.41

Duffy asks that we strike a comment from the regular council minutes. Motion by Mayor Emerick to approve the consent agenda with the amendment of the minutes. Support by Hildebrand. Motion passed with all in favor.

**Unfinished Business**

**D. Well 1 Pump Motor – still waiting for cap prices**

D. Duncan will research and bring back to council the cost savings of idling pump 1.

**E. Residential Rental Properties Inspections Program**

Continuing discussion from the last meeting. Hildebrand brings up Sec. 6-117 (f). and questions if the \$500 fee for failure to register is a yearly or monthly fee? Inspection cycle is considered again and settled on every 2 years, however, the landlord must register every time there is a new tenant. Council agrees that 60 days is a fair amount of time to insert into Sec. 6-117 (b)., and suggests stating they have 30 days from inspection to have issues fixed (with extensions).

**F. Attorney Services**

Duffy It is the recommendation of both Lockhart and Duffy to hire Eric Williams as the new city attorney. Motion by Duffy to appoint Eric Williams as the new city attorney paying the \$1,000 retainer fee/hourly fee schedule as presented. Support by Mayor Emerick. Motion passed with all in favor.

**New Business**

**G. First Children's Finance – Melissa Newkirk – Presentation**

Melissa Newkirk is the Business Development Manager for First Children's Finance. The goal of First Children's Finance is to help children, families and communities thrive by increasing the availability, affordability and quality of early care and education. She presents to council the growing need for childcare in our community. 1 in 4 women surveyed who had become unemployed during the pandemic cited lack of childcare as the cause. To put this in perspective, there are 3 children for every childcare slot. Childcare workers earn \$21,000-30,000 on

average. That is a federal poverty-level wage for extremely skilled, essential work. First Children's Finance offers community consulting, national collaborative initiatives, and off-the-shelf childcare business development tools.

**H. Cemetery Policy and Procedures**

Motion by Hildebrand to update the language in the Cemetery Policy and Procedures. Support by Mayor Emerick. Motion passed with all in favor.

**I. Water Supply System Emergency Response Plan Renewal**

Motion by Mayor Emerick to approve the Water Supply System Emergency Response Plan. Support by Hildebrand. Motion passed with all in favor.

**Department/Informational Reports:**

**J. Accounts Payable Report (8/11/2023-8/21/2023)**

**City Attorney Report/Comment:**

**City Clerk Report/Comment:**

**Finance Director Report/Comment:**

The Cemetery Commission collectively decided that the 5K suggestion will not be able to happen this fall due to the lack of time and people available to plan. They are working on other alternatives like a spaghetti dinner fundraiser in the spring. August 9<sup>th</sup>, a water pipe burst in the basement of the Depot. Luckily, J. Duncan was in her office and heard it, and within a short period of time Patrick was here to shut off the water. An insurance claim was made and 911 Restoration was hired.

**Department of Public Works Report/Comment:**

Cleaned up city property behind 11<sup>th</sup> Street lift station. Repaired a washed out drain on 1<sup>st</sup> Street. Removed old signs from Riverside West, and painted all the parking lines there. Repaired the road next to the kayak launch. Continuing brush and bag pick ups and painting picnic tables. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Street Improvement Project and paving on S. Main St. were completed.

**Police Department Report/Comment:**

Chief and Lockhart met with Mark Sochocki at the Housing Commission to talk about the Sergeant job.

**Downtown Development Authority Report/Comment:**

Held a community meeting for SBEI and 15 people attended. Jason O'Dell was here and presented on the safe routes to school and there was also discussion on the Developer's Day event. Wayfinding signage is moving forward. Environmental Expo Day included 15 vendors and concluded with the Jake Slater concert at the Depot.

**Ewart Area Fire Department:**

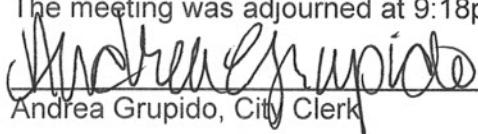
**Ewart Housing Commission:**

Sochocki shared that the school board voted down the sale of the property. Sochocki believes that the city residents' perception of the housing commission doesn't fit the reality and that this is a missed opportunity to provide more affordable housing for the city.

**City Manager Report/Comment:**

The Potter's Field sign is up. Met with Teamsters, and Dale and Patrick and was given a new wage scale which Lockhart will be bringing to council labor relations. Lockhart's next review comes up in November. As requested, she has met with her department heads and staff to get their opinions on her performance and has those responses for council.

Motion by Mayor Emerick to adjourn. Support by Hildebrand. Motion passed with all in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 9:18pm.

  
 Andrea Grupido, City Clerk