

Minutes
City Council
Monday, April 8th, 2024
5 pm

The meeting opened with the recitation of the pledge of allegiance.

Mayor Atkins called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. with council members Amanda Guetter, and Roger Baumann present.

Also present were Clerk/Treasurer/Administrator Brandon Baune, Public Works Director Jim Jenniges, City Attorney Matt Novak, City Engineer Matthew Miller, EDA Director Pat Eichten and Miranda Hadley.

EDA Update – Mr. Eichten gave a brief EDA update noting that they approved a new loan for Wabasso Plumbing and Heating. He also noted that he is sitting on a housing committee for Redwood County.

731 Main Street Building Concerns – Those present at last week’s EDA meeting, including Miranda Hadley, representing Envyus Salon, gave the rest of those present an overview of the building concerns at 731 Main Street. Mr. Novak reiterated some of the options including everything from doing nothing to exploring imminent domain. Mr. Novak noted that after much discussion at the EDA meeting, the EDA, and the tenants at 731 Main Street, are asking the council to allow the city to explore imminent domain. Motion by Guetter, second by Baumann to have Mr. Novak begin exploring the use of imminent domain on this property. Atkins – yes; Guetter – yes, Baumann – yes,

Clerk/Treasurer/Administrator – Mr. Baune gave the council an update on things going on in the office. He noted Paya was up and running and ready for residents to begin using, and that more advertising and citizen help would be done over time. He also noted that they are still working with Banyon to get the timecard module up and running but hopes to have it functioning by the next payroll. Lastly, Mr. Baune noted that he sent out letters to select organizations around town to begin forming a committee for the City’s 125th celebration in 2025. The committee plans to meet for the first time in May. Responsibilities will be divided up and sub-committees will be formed with interested residents in the town.

Engineering Report – Matthew Miller provided an update on the Sanitary Sewer Improvements Project as well as the Water Treatment Facility and Well Improvements. The overview is as follows:

- 1. Sanitary Sewer Improvements**
 - a. Construction began officially on April 1st
 - b. New Lift Station is set
 - c. Making progress going from North to South through town mostly by way of the alleyways
- 2. Water Treatment Plant Improvements & New Well**

- a. Submitted Plans and Specs to PFA and now waiting on funding package.
- b. Funding expected to be around a 50/50 split between loans and grants.

Loan Resolution – Go Sewer Revenue BAN of 2024A – Mr. Baune noted that Michelle Wickliff with the USDA reached out on this loan resolution for the interim financing, stating that they had forgotten to get this to us prior to approving that last month. Motion by Guetter, second by Baumann to approve resolution authorizing and providing for the incurrence of indebtedness for the purpose of providing a portion of the cost of acquiring, constructing, enlarging, improving and/or extending its water and sewer utility system.
Atkins – yes; Guetter – yes, Baumann – yes,

Street Report – Mr. Jenniges and Mr. Baune provided the street report. It was noted that the city would soon begin street sweeping.

Water/Wastewater Report - Mr. Jenniges and Mr. Baune provided the water/wastewater report.

1. Mr. Jenniges passed his Class C water test last month. With that, the city will soon be able to save some money on People Service for the water side of their services. Brandon will begin the process of looking into updating our contract with them.
2. **Water and Sewer Testing machine quote** – Motion by Baumann, second by Guetter to approve new water and sewer testing machine similar to the one in the quote for the amount of \$3,806.
3. **Chlorine Booster Pump by Quality Flow** – Mr. Jenniges noted that he is still waiting on a quote from quality flow for a pump for the fall when the water tower is taken offline. Due to its time-sensitive nature, Mr. Jenniges asked if the council would approve the purchase so long as it came in under \$20,000. Motion by Guetter, second by Baumann to purchase pump by quality flow, provided it does not come in above \$20,000.
Atkins – yes; Guetter – yes, Baumann – yes,

Parks Report – Mr. Jenniges and Mr. Baumann gave the parks report.

1. It was noted that the water was turned on at the fields.
2. Mr. Jenniges noted that the building at the athletic field as very packed and messy making it hard to get around. Mr. Baune was directed by the council to contact the school about having this cleaned up and asked for an update next month. It was also discussed that the city should go back to leases for the football, softball, and baseball fields. Mr. Baune and Mr. Novak will work together on drafting up new leases.

Variance Process – Mr. Baune noted that individuals had come in asking about obtaining a variance. The council reiterated the members who make up the panel. Mr. Baune was directed to speak with the members from the utility panel to find a person willing to sit as the at-large member for variance proceedings. It was also discussed that there should be a reasonable fee for a hearing request. Motion Guetter, second by Baumann to charge a \$25 fee for variance hearings by the Board of Appeals.

Atkins – yes; Guetter – yes, Baumann – yes,

Consent Agenda – Motion by Guetter, second by Baumann to approve consent agenda as follows:

1. Approve the Minutes from the March 11, 2024, Council Meetings
2. Approve Highway 68 Off-Sale Liquor License Renewal

Atkins – yes; Guetter – yes, Baumann – yes,

City Bills – Motion by Guetter, second by Baumann to approve the bills as follows:

General Checking

101 General Fund	\$27,978.62
225 Fire	\$885.99
230 Ambulance	\$4,136.59
320 USDA RD Sewer Rehab	\$3,426.00
601 Water	\$25,738.47
602 Sewer	\$5,846.14
603 Sanitation	<u>\$3,181.67</u>
Total Checks	\$71,193.48

Atkins – yes; Guetter – yes, Baumann – yes,

Motion by Baumann, second by Guetter to adjourn at 6:10 p.m.

Atkins – yes; Guetter – yes, Baumann – yes,

Brandon Baune
Clerk/Treasurer/Administrator