

REGULAR MEETING

The Fairbank City Council met in regular session on Monday August 26, 2024. Mayor Kayser called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM with the Pledge of Allegiance. Members present: R. Woods, Williams, Erickson, and T. Woods. Absent: Gruetzmacher. Also, present at City Hall: Heather Prendergast, City Attorney; Dakota Drish, Police Chief; Brian Delagardelle, Water/Wastewater Operator; Nick Kuker, Public Works; Michelle Laube, Deputy Clerk; and Brittany Fuller, City Clerk.

Motion by T. Woods, second by Erickson to approve amending the agenda to add Approve Historic Architectural Reconnaissance Survey for the Fourth Street Sidewalk Project under new business item 7.d. Motion carried.

Motion by Williams, second by R. Woods to approve the amended agenda. Motion carried.

There were no public hearings.

Motion by Erickson, second Williams to approve the following consent agenda items as presented: August 12, 2024 Regular City Council Meeting Minutes and Cigarette Permit for the Fairbank Food Center. Motion carried.

There were no comments during the informal comment section.

Motion by T. Woods, second by Erickson to approve the donation of a park bench from Jim Fink. He will work with the Public Works department on placement. Motion carried.

Another quote for a Bobcat skid loader was presented that had a few changes from the quote received at the last meeting which included a ride control addition. That quote was for \$64,604.29. Discussion on purchasing used or new took place. Both skid loaders would work for all the attachments the city currently owns. The new skid loader would come with a two-year warranty. Motion by T. Woods, second by R. Woods to approve the purchase of the new machine at \$64,604.29 and to split the cost up between all the equipment savings accounts by percentage. Roll call vote- Ayes: T. Woods, R. Woods, Erickson, and Williams. Nays: None.

Lisa Kremer was present from the Buchanan County Economic Development Commission to present the council with information regarding past accomplishments and on upcoming and active BCEDC Programs.

There were no new discussions or information regarding the shelter replacement at Veteran's Park.

Kevin Bodensteiner and Janice Martins from Fairbank Fire and EMS and on behalf of the Buchanan County Emergency Management Services were present to talk to the council about the essential service tax levy that will be on the ballot this fall for all of Buchanan County. Also present was Chris West, Fairbank Fire Chief; Jake Schwartz and Jenna Beck from the Fairbank EMS; John Kerkove, Independence EMS; and Kim Lingenfelter and Dan Walter from the Jesup EMS. The rate proposed is seventy-five cents per thousand and will be for fifteen years. Each community would be able to keep their share of the levy but there is nothing in writing yet on how that would work. There will be town hall meetings in various locations in Buchanan County and information will be shared when those are scheduled.

Another step was needed before the sidewalk project along Fourth Street could be started and go out for bid. The grant process is now requiring a historic architectural reconnaissance survey to be completed. Bear Creek Archeology, Inc. out of Cresco was only one of two people that offered to do the survey but Mayor Kayser explained that Jon Biederman, the city engineer, said that the second company stated they would have to receive training first. Motion by Williams, second by Erickson to approve the proposal for a historic architectural reconnaissance survey for \$4,520.00 by Bear Creek Archeology, Inc. The field work would likely begin the first week of September. Roll call vote- Ayes: Williams, Erickson, R. Woods, and T. Woods. Nays: None.

During the council/mayor comments or concerns, Councilman R. Woods stated that Dave Mudderman with Quality Truck Rebuilders had called him regarding some electrical issues at the shop. Brian said they would investigate it to see what was going on. Mayor Kayser stated that nuisance abatements were served and that other abatements were being addressed as well. He also announced that another grant written by the City Clerk for the ball diamond upgrade project had been awarded to the city. The Black Hawk Gaming Association matched the award received from the Buchanan County Community Foundation for another \$15,000.00 to put towards the project. That past week, he had met

with Premier Technology about some security upgrades for technology at City Hall that were recommended after an ICAP audit. He asked everyone to review the information sent out about the possibility of a mass texting program that could be purchased through a company for the city. Mayor Kayser planned another goal setting session for after the next council meeting and stated he is going to retrieve quotes for lighting upgrades to the council chambers.

During the department reports, Fire Chief West stated that they had had a busy month with some good training and that the Amish safety training day brought in 293 individuals from 75 families. He also received the updated ISO rating but hadn't had time to review it. Brian stated that Nick had been gone a few days for Gas training and they all attended Wastewater training that past Thursday. Butler County REC was in town and replaced 4 poles that needed to be updated. He presented a picture of the snake from the pool, and it showed damage underneath from what appears to be from picking at it. The snake was new that past year and it cost over \$14,000.00 and it may possibly be ruined. He also stated that they had noticed the bathrooms at the facility were not being cleaned after they had reminded pool staff frequently. These things will be noted for next year's staff training. Mayor Kayser reminded everyone that there is an opening on the pool board if anyone is interested. Police Chief Drish started off by thanking the council for their courteous and professional behavior during the essential service tax levy conversation as other communities had not gone the same way. He also thanked the Fire and EMS volunteers, stating that the Amish safety day was very successful. He attended on behalf of the DNR. He was still waiting on the camera system for the car and informed everyone that the school resource officer, Mitch Frank, had attended the first day of school and was looking forward to another year with the students.

Motion by Williams, second by Erickson to adjourn the meeting at 7:35 PM. Motion carried.

Jason Kayser, Mayor

Brittany Fuller, City Clerk