

1 | Hope City Council Meeting April 3rd, 2017

Mayor Ryff called the April 3rd, 2017 regular council meeting to order at 7:00pm and led the council in the pledge of alliance. Mayor Larry Ryff asks for roll call, it showed the following present: Jared Morgan, David Wendt, and David VanHook. Carol Lauxman and Gordon Hunnicutt were absent.

Jared Morgan made a motion to dispense with reading the previous meeting minutes and approve the way they were written. David Wendt seconded the motion. The motion carried 3-0.

Appropriation Ordinance: The Council reviewed the Appropriation Ordinance #1069 Jared Morgan moved to approve the Appropriation Ordinance and David VanHook seconded the motion and the motion passed 3-0.

Financial Statement: Heather Stackley said one thing was the general certificate of deposit matured on April 2nd, 2017 she said she wasn't sure what the council would want to do with it. I had gone to the bank and got a new rate sheet that was good until April 5th. Mayor Ryff mentioned that he would entertain a motion to approve the Financial Statement and then the Council could decide what to do with the CD. David VanHook made a motion to approve the Financial Statement David Wendt seconded the motion and the motion passed 3-0. After a brief discussion Jared Morgan moved to go ahead and renew the general CD for another year. David VanHook seconded the motion. The motion carried 3-0.

Police Report: The Deputy handed out the report and asked if there were any questions. He said that there had been 11 calls with 76.75 total hours. There were no questions, Mayor Ryff and the Council thanked the officer and the officer left.

New Business: The Mayor explained we would start with Chelsea Morris with USDA Rural Development. Chelsea explained that she had spoke to Thaniel Monaco with BG Consultants and he had told her that the City was planning on moving forward with the water project and ready to pursue some interim financing. She had brought a list of USDA Rural Development recognized bond counsels for the City to pick from. She explained that all of the firms on the list had worked with USDA and knows the procedures and are familiar with them. She had no recommendations when it came to the bond counsels. She explained that the City would first contact the bond counsel and then find the lender to work with. Once that is all in place we would start paying BG Consultants for the engineering design for the water project. Chelsea said it was her understanding that the City is planning on reapplying for the CDBG Grant this fall and that the design of the project should be completed before

the application is submitted. Chelsea said that once the temporary financing is in place, she would like to keep track of the spending to make sure it will be reimbursable. The bond counsel will need to review the draft bond documents as well. She said most of the bond counsels know the routine and to send a copy of them to USDA as well. Chelsea said Thaniel had mentioned two concerns with the water purchase contract with Herington. Chelsea asked if there had been any more discussions with Herington since last fall. Mayor Ryff explained that there had not been, but said that he and Jared had a discussion about it. Chelsea said they do not have to have the contract formally in writing until construction starts. Mayor Ryff explained that it had been mentioned to the Herington City Manager several times and that we had been told that the rates would not increase. The Mayor went on and said that he felt like it would help if maybe USDA could write a letter to explain why the contract needs to be updated. Chelsea said that she could put a letter together as well as talk to the Herington's City Attorney to explain that the water purchase contract needs to be extended for the terms of our loan with USDA and that it is required for us to move forward with our project. Jared then asked Chelsea what our deadline is for selecting a bond council. She said that it would be between the city and our engineer to decide when that would need to take place. She said until construction begins there is no expense that they require the city to pay. So from their perspective there is no timeline for them, they just don't want the process to stop. Jared asked what it would look like if we received additional loan and grant from them how that would work. She said there would be some more paperwork, but they work build off of what they have now and do some more calculations. Chelsea said it would be a separate funding request, so it would be a second loan, however as far as the bookwork and paperwork goes it would be under the one. She went on to say that she felt like they could structure it so the bond cost would be as minimal as possible and still cover everything. Chelsea asked if there were any more questions and thanked the Council for letting her come and said if we had any concerns to give her a call or send her an email. The Council thanked her and she left.

Mayor Ryff said next under new business was building permits; he explained that we would address them one at a time. The first one is for Agri-Trails Co-op, they are building on to their existing fertilizer shed. Jared Morgan move to approve the building permit and David VanHook seconded the motion and it passed 3-0. Next was one for Steven and Kristen Watkins they are putting up a garden shed and welded wire fence in their back yard. Jared Morgan motioned to approve the building permit and David Wendt seconded the motion and the motion carried 3-0. Next was a building permit from Ryan Harrison he is

planning to put up a wooden privacy fence at his current place of business. David VanHook made a motion to approve the fence and Jared Morgan seconded the motion passed 3-0. A second building permit from Ryan Harrison at his property on Main Street he is going to put a door on the south side on the building and remove the trailer house. Jared Morgan moved to approve the building permit and David Wendt seconded. The motion passed 3-0. The last building permit was from Terry Youtsey he is planning on building a wooden privacy fence in his back yard. Jared Morgan moved to approve the building permit and David Wendt seconded the motion. The motion carried 3-0.

Next under new business Steven Watkins. Mr. Watkins began telling the Council that he lives at 25 E Broadway and has lived in Hope two years, and almost an eight year army veteran. He explained that he had never attended a Council meeting before and that this was the first one that he had been to and that he wasn't sure how it all worked. He went on saying he was at the meeting regarding his chickens. Mr. Watkins explained that he had received a certified letter in the mail from the Mayor. He said that he had previously read the Ordinance and had understood it to allow chickens. So he had went out and bought some chickens. Mr. Watkins continued and read Ordinance # 414 Regulating Animals in the city limits of the City of Hope, section 17 Prohibited Animals. He explained that his interpretation of the Ordinance is it does not prohibit chickens. Mr. Watkins said that he currently has 11 chicks housed within his home. He said that his homestead set on a parcel that is nearly one acre. He said that he had submitted a building permit that includes and 8'x 10' steel shelter with an 8'x 10' fence approximately in the center of his property. He said that his intention is to raise his chickens there once they are mature enough to live outside. Mr. Watkins then asked if there were any questions. David VanHook asked if there had been a complaint. Mayor Ryff explained that there had not been a complaint, but his interpretation of the ordinance was that chickens are not allowed in the city limits. However he said it is entirely up to the Council. Mr. Watkins said that he did not mean to ruffle any feathers. He went on to say that he has 5 kids that are home schooled and thought it would be a great learning experience for them. He said that if any of them turned out to be roosters he realized that would be a sound problem, but that they made collars to help control that. Plus with them being in the center of his property there shouldn't be anyone even hear them. He said they would properly take care of the coop so no one should be able to smell them unlike the cattle on the other side of town. He said there shouldn't be any disturbance to any of his neighbors. Mr. Watkins said that they will be contained not free ranged. Jared Morgan said his opinion is that we have this ordinance and that

he knows when it was written, that it was intended to exclude chicken from the city limit of Hope, and that precedence has already been set. Jared explained to Mr. Watkins that he wasn't the first person to ask to have chickens in town, and when that happened the City had always taken the stance and said no. Jared continued and said that he couldn't in good conscience vote for Mr. Watkins to have chicken when he had told others they couldn't. Jared said that he could appreciate his situation and that he wouldn't argue with anything that Mr. Watkins had said, but that's just how he feels about the situation. Mr. Watkins asked if the City could contact the people that were told no and tell them it was ok. Jared explained that the City has a lot going on right now and at this moment he feels that the City wouldn't put much effort into it. Jared said making sure that when you turn the knob in the shower that you get water is what the City's focus is right now. He said that the City is working on the City's infrastructure and feels that is what is important right now. Jared explained that he sympathized with him and understood completely what Mr. Watkins was saying and that hoped that Mr. Watkins could understand why he had to take this point of view on it. Mayor Ryff said that right now the Ordinance was going to stand the way it is and that the Council understands it to prohibit chickens. Mr. Watkins then said that he hopes the tax payers of the City of Hope enjoys paying for this in court, thank you, have a great night and he left.

Next under new business Mayor Ryff said basically that in the last 2 weeks we have had an issue with the computer. He said that the hard drive has some bad tracks. Under the FYI section there are some price quotes from TCT from Council Grove and NCS from Manhattan. After a very lengthy discussion David VanHook made a motion to purchase a new computer option number 2 from Network Computer Solutions and David Wendt seconded the motion and the motion passed 3-0.

Old Business: Mayor Ryff explained that this had been brought up sometime last fall. Basically it is an article that you publish in the City's official newspaper about Ordinance's on mowing your grass and keeping up the yard work. The Mayor continued to say that once you publish it in the paper that it eliminates the need to write individuals about their yards. A lengthy discussion took place and the Council decided that I should come up with a draft letter for the Council to review at the next meeting.

Standing & Special Committee Reports: Jerome asked about the progress at 110 E 2nd Ave. He thought it look as if progress had stopped. I explained that I

had spoken to the guy's wife and she estimated that it would be completed in 2 months time.

Maintenance Report: Billy handed out pictures and explained that he wanted to show the Council that he had gotten the pipes in the pump house painted. He told them he was still planning on cleaning up the floor but the painting part was done. Billy said he thought the paint was very good paint. Billy said that the other thing was that there is a free workshop for small water supply systems in Abilene on the 6th of April. Mayor Ryff said that he had me already register him for the class since it was free and the only expense would be the drive there and back. He said everything else had been going good and that he had been getting the equipment ready for mowing season.

Clerks Report: I registered Billy for the workshop in Abilene. Set up a conference call with Thaniel, Nichole, Jared and Larry and myself. I talked to Chelsea about moving forward with water project and to add her to the agenda for the meeting. Called Brian Bina to confirm the hourly rate and let him know the Council selected him to be the New City Attorney. Received a call from Zeiner funeral home about marking the plot for Mr. Meece. Had computer problems and called for help and got price quotes from TCT and NCS. I requested to attend the budget workshop in Salina on the 19th, Jared Morgan made a motion for me to attend the workshop and David Wendt seconded the motion and the motion carried 3-0.

David Wendt said that since we are all here that he and Billy had talked about getting an oxygen bottle so that Billy would have a torch at the city shop. David explained that he had gotten a lease agreement and that they do a 1 year lease or a 5 year lease.

David VanHook made a 3 point rock rake that he will allow the city to try up at the Cemetery to help turn the rock up there to control the weeds.

Mayor Ryff said he would entertain a motion to adjourn if there wasn't anything else. David Wendt made a motion to adjourn and David VanHook seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0.

_____ Larry Ryff, Mayor

Attest:

_____ Joni Rikard, City Clerk