

Mayor Ryff called the August 9th, 2023 regular council meeting to order at 7:00pm and led the council in the pledge of allegiance. Mayor Larry Ryff asked me to do roll call, it showed the following present: Fred French, Gordon Hunnicutt, Robin Moniz, Ginger Stewart and Daniel Schwindt.

The Mayor said the next item of business will be Pat Coup since she had another meeting to go to. He said he wanted to introduce Pat Coup with the Fall Festival. Pat handed out a flyer and said this is very tentative and subject to be changed. She said first there are street closures that are pretty much the same as last year. She explained that they need to have 2nd Avenue close from Main Street to the alley by the annex on Thursday because they have a new tent company that is planning to be here on Thursday instead of Friday so they will need to have the street closed on Thursday. The tent will be taken down Sunday. She said that on Saturday they will need to have 2nd Avenue closed from Main Street to the School for the car show. Pat said they would be happy to have any help that anyone wants to give. She said it won't be turned down! Mayor Ryff said he would entertain a motion to close the streets for the festival. Fred French made a motion to close the streets for the Fall Festival, Gordon Hunnicutt seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0. The Mayor said that was a done deal then. Fred French said that The Grid would be open that day for lunch too! The Lion's club will be serving food also. Pat said that they would not be moving down to the park either. That it will be right up town on 2nd Avenue. The Mayor said that we will get the extra dumpster ordered, turn on the electric meter, talk to the Sheriff's department and K-DOT about the parade. Pat thanked the Council and Mayor then left the meeting. Mayor Ryff said lets go ahead and move on and since he has already rearranged the meeting, we have another visitor here, Mr. Chris Border and he is wanting to visit with the city Council about the dog ordinance. Mayor Ryff said he was going to go ahead and turn the floor over to him. Chris Border said it was pretty basic really. He said he was trying to adopt a rescue and train him to be a service dog, he said he had lost his other service dog not too long ago. Chris said it wasn't until he went to adopt the rescue agency said that the breed restriction bans in town prevented him from adopting the dog. He said that he had had pit bulls his whole life and worked with several organizations in Oregon where he is from. He said once he gets the dog, and it has been trained to be a service dog the ordinance does not apply but the ordinance keeps him from being able to get the dog. There was a conversation between the Council, Mayor and Mr. Border. Mayor Ryff said he would entertain a motion to allow Chris Border to have a rottweiler mix and the dog will be enrolled in a service dog program and let Chris have up to one year to get the dog certified and if needed to have me type up a letter. Gordon Hunnicutt seconded the motion and the motion carried 5-0. Chris Border thanked the Mayor and Council and left the meeting.

Previous Meeting Minutes: Mayor Ryff said the next item of business is the minutes from the previous meeting. Ginger Stewart made a motion to accept the minutes from July 12th, 2023, as written. Robin Moniz seconded the motion and the motion passed 5-0.

Appropriation Ordinance: Mayor Ryff said next is appropriation ordinance #1145 He said if there are any questions please ask. Gordon Hunnicutt made a motion to approve appropriation ordinance #1145, Fred French seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-0.

Treasurers Report: The mayor said the next item of business is the Treasurer's report. The Mayor explained that Heather had work activities, he said school has started for her in the school district that she works with. The Mayor said that if there were questions he would try and answer them and if he couldn't he would have me answer them. Gordon Hunnicutt made a motion to approve the financial statement for July 1st – 31st 2023, Fred French seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0.

New Business: Mayor Ryff said that basically gets us to new business, and we have handled the first two. He said item C is my yearly evaluation. He said he was not sure how to do that. He said they are either doing a good job or they are not doing the job, if they are not doing the job they should not be here. So, in that case I have a good evaluation as far as he is concerned. He said I don't know if any of you have any other opinions. He said what we have going works pretty decent, there again is it always perfect, no it is not, nothing is. Mayor Ryff said as far as my evaluation he would give me an A+ rating. He said with that evaluation she would like for us to give her a pay raise. The Mayor asked the council to go into executive session. Gordon Hunnicutt made a motion to go into executive session for 15 minutes, Daniel Schwindt seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0. Gordon Hunnicutt made a motion to come out of executive session, Robin Moniz seconded the motion and the motion passed 5-0. Gordon Hunnicutt made a motion to increase my wage 4% and also gave me an extra PTO day. Fred French seconded the motion and the motion carried 5-0. Mayor Ryff said as far as the PTO goes it is actually a combination of vacation and sick leave. So, sixteen days might sound like quite a few. The Mayor, Council and I, had a conversation about how PTO works. No action was taken. Mayor Ryff said moving on, the next item of business is old business.

Old Business: Vehicle for maintenance update well basically just letting you know that we did buy a vehicle. He said that the vehicle is decent and there are a few things that need to be added to it like signs and also a trailer hitch. The Mayor said it looks like it is going to be everything we where wanting for a maintenance truck.

Mayor's Discussion: Mayor Ryff said he really didn't have much to discuss other than, we are going to be leaning on pet tags and also nuisance properties those two items. He said earlier someone asked about Mr. Barker and he said that he will probably be using Judge Barker more in the next three months. He said as of the 15th he is planning on writing tickets for pet tags that is number one. Number two is for nuisance properties. There have been some letters sent out and it will be around the same time. The Mayor and Council had a discussion. No action was taken. The Mayor said moving on he would like me to give my update.

Clerks Update: Fred let me know that the dealership with the utility trucks needed an exemption certificate for the purchase of the truck. So, I went to the state website, put in the required information and printed an exemption certificate. I called Brad Anderson with K-DOT and talked with him about the two signs the City is wanting to put up. He explained that there are several things that will be required before we will be allowed to put the signs up including applying for a permit from the state highway department. Of course, each sign will have to go through different subdivisions of K-DOT. Then I emailed Brad the information about the digital sign and where the possible location of the sign would be. I sent a separate email to give him the information for the solar speed limit signs and their possible locations. He told us they had to be at least a hundred feet away from any other sign. I received an email from Brad to let me know that he received them and that he sent them on to the district office. He did let us know that the solar speed limit signs post would have to meet crash compliancy standards. Sent the notice to exceed the RNR (Revenue Neutral Rate) to the Dickinson County Clerk's office. I also sent it to Kim Maquire at the Abilene Reflector Chronicle and asked her to publish it in the newspaper. I went to the Endzone and bought a bag of ice and baggies to put in the cooler with the water samples for the TTHM and Haloacetic acids tests that we send in quarterly to the KDHE. It has to arrive at a specific temperature, or they won't accept it. They did and we passed both of them 😊 I emailed Tandi with the information about the new used truck that we bought for the maintenance department to get insurance added to it. We also took a picture of the VIN number for her to verify.

Mayor Ryff said moving on there are couple more items he wanted to discuss. He said Kent Campbell with the Economic development group has resigned his position and is no longer there. He said it does not really have a big effect on The City of Hope but maybe a small one. He said that Kent was helping us with some different items and now we are not sure where we are with things. Another item of business is the application of the maintenance position. He said that we have been struggling with it. The Mayor said he was talking to John, and John had decided to come back to fulltime. He said that he has no problem reinstating him. He said in the maintenance department, the summer help has been good help, but he is getting ready to go back to school. The Mayor said he talked to Parker about working some Saturdays part-time and to help John out during the Fall Festival. Mayor Ryff said since we are talking about issues, has anyone got any issues that you would like to address? Mayor Ryff said Daniel, I know that you had made a suggestion to raise the council and mayor pay at last meeting, did you have anything to add? Daniel explained that he was thinking it should be raised to a hundred dollars a

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month. He said everything else stays the same, just an increase in pay for the mayor. There was a conversation between the mayor and council. Daniel Schwindt made a motion to raise the mayor's pay to a hundred dollars per month. Gordon Hunnicutt seconded the motion, the motion passed 5-0.

Gordon Hunnicutt made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Daniel Schwindt seconded the motion and it carried 5-0.

_____ Larry Ryff, Mayor

Attested:

_____ Joni Rikard, Clerk