

## 1 | Hope City Council Meeting January 12th, 2022

Mayor Ryff called the January 12th, 2022 regular council meeting to order at 6:00pm and led the council in the pledge of allegiance.

The Mayor asked me to do roll call, it showed the following present: Fred French, Ginger Stewart and Daniel Schwindt. Gordon Hunnicutt and Robin Moniz was absent.

Mayor Ryff said that we do have a quorum and due to time factors, I would like to make an introduction, he was going to rearrange the meeting a little bit. He said we have a Mr. Branden Dross he is from the city of Herington and is the city manager there, he has a presentation, and he is sure it is about water rates. Branden Dross introduced himself and explained he has been the city manager of Herington since September of 2020. He said they were just starting construction of the new water treatment plant when he started. At that time there was no city manager so, communication had broken down in terms of rates passed along to Hope and Woodbine. Branden said after 6 months of getting the rate analysis done, it was determined that the rate payers would have to see an increase. He said it is a 5-million-dollar plant and after speaking with KDHE, KRWA and USDA they said if they don't do a major rate increase that they would default on their loan by 2024. January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022, they had increased the Herington residents. The average user of 5000 gallons will have an increase of \$7.57. Starting in 2023 the rate will increase by 3.6%. He said due to the short time they didn't want to come here and say they want to do a major jump, after looking at rates and what is most comparable for a city of this size and Woodbine as well, they want to purpose a 3.6% increase. The city manager said that is why he was here to discuss the increase and answer any questions we might have. There was a lengthy conversation between the Mayor, Council and Mr. Dross. Mayor Ryff explained that the city would be having a work-session to discuss the water rates. He asked if the council had anymore questions, they did not. The Mayor thanked Branden for coming over and let him know that we would be in contact with him. Mayor Ryff said that he would like to table the discussion and move into new business.

New Business: The Mayor said that when he had talked to Dave about showing up to the meeting that he promised to not keep him here all night. He said the citizens and the council would like to express their appreciation for him being on the council for the last 6 years. Mayor Ryff said he would like to express his appreciation for having him on the council for 6 years and he thinks the rest of the council members enjoyed working with him. The Council and Mayor thanked him and said they would miss him being on the council, David Wendt thanked everyone for the gesture. Mayor Ryff said he would like to introduce Daniel Schwindt, he said that he is David Wendt's replacement. Mayor Ryff thanked Dave again and then he left.

Previous Meeting Minutes: Mayor Ryff said the next item of business is the minutes from the previous meeting. Fred French made a motion to accept the minutes as written from December 8<sup>th</sup>, 2021. Ginger Stewart seconded the motion and the motion passed 3-0.

Appropriation Ordinance: Mayor Ryff said next is appropriation ordinance #1126. Ginger Stewart made a motion to approve appropriation ordinance #1126, Fred French seconded the motion. The motion carried 3-0.

Treasurers Report: The mayor said the next item of business is the Treasurer's report and he was just informed Heather would not be here, but the report is in the notebook. He said he really didn't have any comments about it, unless someone has a question. The Mayor explained a few things to the new councilmen, he said that we had just been through an audit so he felt like the numbers on the financial statement are real close. Fred French made a motion to accept the financial statement for December 1<sup>st</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup>, 2021. Ginger Stewart seconded the motion and it passed 3-0.

New Business: Mayor Ryff said the next item of business is Mayer Sewer Cleaning Contract. He said that he had looked it over and with each sewer cleaning contract it comes with a small rate increase. The Mayor explained how the city is split into three sections when they clean the sewer lines., he said the important part of the cleaning is the last 150' of transmission line where it goes into the lagoon. Fred French made a motion approve the three-year contract with Mayer Sewer Cleaning for 2022, Daniel Schwindt seconded the motion. The motion carried 3-0. The Mayor said moving on we do have a resignation letter from the city prosecutor Joycelyn Lucas Randle. He said that we are looking for a new city prosecutor for municipal court. He said he would like a motion to accept the letter. Fred French made a motion to accept Joycelyn Lucas Randle's resignation letter. Ginger Stewart seconded the motion and it passed 3-0. The next item of business, you will see a sheriff's contract for 2022, Jerry Davis the Dickinson County Sheriff dropped it off, the mayor asked what the Council's opinion was of it. There was a conversation about the contract. No action was taken. Mayor Ryff said the next item of business is resolutions for the condemnation of the two properties that have been inspected. Fred French made a motion to adopt resolution 22-001 and 22-002 when corrections are made, Ginger Stewart seconded the motion. The motion carried 3-0. The next item on the agenda is Kansas Rural Water Association training. The Mayor said basically they are having some classes up in Grandview Plaza about backflow prevention. He said that the City of Hope has a few of them. He said that when Pat attends the classes, he will receive 5 credit hours for each day that he is there toward certification renewal.

Old Business: Mayor Ryff said under old business we have a water rate study discussion, and that he had mentioned that we would get back to the water rate study. Basically, what we need to do, is decide what we want to do with the water rates. He said we can set up a committee to come up with what you want to do with the water rates, there are samples from the KRWA rate study and their suggestions. There was a conversation about what the best option would be. The council decided that we should have a work session on Monday January 31st at 4pm.

Mayors Discussion: Mayor Ryff said he don't have a lot, David Wendt has been replaced by Daniel Schwindt and that leaves a hole for being council president. Mayor Ryff said that a new council president needed to be selected and it is

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something he would like to get done. He said the council president is pretty much like being a councilmember other than our checks require three signatures, with that being said we keep four signatures on file with the bank in case of someone not available to sign the checks. Also, if the Mayor is not available for the council meeting the council president runs the meeting in his absence. He said that is pretty much the long and short of it. Ginger Stewart made a motion to nominate Fred French for council president, Daniel Schwindt seconded the motion. The motion was carried 3-0.

Maintenance Report: Mayor Ryff said I don't have a lot to say about the maintenance side. He is doing good even though he has had a few problems. Over new years, he was gone and out of town. We should have maybe moved some snow in front of the businesses, but we didn't. He wasn't here, and he didn't get back until after the fact. The windstorm caused a little damage, it caused him a good week and a half of work. He Said there were three big trees that blew down and there is one down at the cemetery. So, he has been busy hauling the limbs and brush to the burn pit. He said there was some sign damage and he had to reset some signs, street signs and stop signs. He had surgery on his hand when he got back, he has it all wrapped up but has been working.

Clerks Report: Talked to John about the wind damage to the bay door on the Westside of the building from the 90+ mile an hour windstorm. Talked with Larry about the doors too. We went and looked at them from the inside of the building and Larry and John moved the center back to make them usable for the UPS drivers using the Northside of the building. Jerry Davis the Dickinson County Sheriff came down to visit and asked how things were going. He wanted to drop off a contract for 2022 so if we decide we want additional protection for 2023 we would have a rough idea of what it would cost. Received an email from Joycelyn Lucas Randle about her resigning her position as city prosecutor, I talked to Larry about it, and he suggested that I ask her for her recommendations and to check with the other municipal court clerks and to see who they use. I received a fax from Mayer Specialty Services about getting a contract with them for sewer cleaning for 2022. I let Larry know, he had me look back to see when the last cleaning was. It was the end of December 2020 when they cleaned the Northside of town. Larry and I talked about the bronze grave markers and twenty new flags for the cemetery. I looked up the last order, then called and placed the order with the company, and they said it would be the first of February when they planned to send the order out. Mayor Ryff said that he did have Fred look at the shop bay door and Fred said for \$250.00-\$300.00 he would fix it. He said for Fred to put us on his list and so he can fix it when he has the time. Ginger Stewart made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Daniel Schwindt seconded the motion. It carried 3-0.

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\_\_\_\_\_ Larry Ryff, Mayor

Attest:

\_\_\_\_\_ Joni Rikard, Clerk