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The January 10th 2024 meeting was cancelled, and rescheduled for January 17th, 2024, due to no quorum.

Mayor Fred French started the January 17th, 2024 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: Daniel Schwindt, Robin Moniz and Randy Walker.

Mayor Fred French made a motion to appoint Larry Ryff to complete the remainder of his council term. Daniel Schwindt motioned to accept the appointment of Larry Ryff to the city council, Randy Walker seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0.

Next the Mayor said that the council needed to appoint a council president. Robin Moniz motioned that Daniel Schwindt be council president, Randy Walker seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-0. Mayor French said that Daniel would have to sign a signature card at the bank to allow him to sign checks when needed.

Mayor French made a motion to appoint Ginger Stewart to the remaining council position. Daniel Schwindt made a motion to accept the appointment. Robin Moniz seconded the motion, it carried 4-0.

Previous Meeting Minutes: Mayor French said the next item of business is the minutes from the previous meeting. Daniel Schwindt made a motion to accept the minutes as written from December 13th, 2023. Randy Walker seconded the motion and the motion passed 4-0.

Appropriation Ordinance: The Mayor said next is appropriation ordinance #1149. Daniel Schwindt made a motion to approve appropriation ordinance #1149, Robin Moniz seconded the motion. The motion carried 4-0.

Treasurers Report: Mayor French said the next item is the Financial Statement, he asked if everyone had looked at it. Heather wasn't able to attend. So I explained that there was actually two reports, a revised report for November 1st – November 30th 2023, because I had used the wrong account number when I wrote the check for the American Legion building for the library, it took it out of the library fund and made the account negative. So, I changed the account number and took it out of the general fund. That's why Heather had revised the report. Daniel Schwindt made a motion to accept the revised statement from November 1st – November 30th 2023. Randy Walker seconded the motion and it passed 4-0. Daniel Schwindt made a motion to accept the financial statement for December 1st- December 31st, 2023, Randy Walker seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-0. Larry Ryff suggested that the council and Mayor have a conversation about the CD's that are maturing. Larry Ryff made a motion that I would have permission to change CD# 5391, #15404, and #15405 to put them into the special 9-month CD when they come due. Daniel Schwindt seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-0. Mayor French thanked Larry for catching the maturing CD's.

New Business: Mayor French said we would move onto new business now, John Moniz has turned in his resignation. He said that we will need a motion to accept it. Larry Ryff made a motion to accept John's resignation, Randy Walker seconded the motion and the motion carried 4-0. The Mayor said that John was a good one and he will be missed, John needs to relax and enjoy his retirement. Daniel Schwindt asked if there was anyone to replace John. Mayor French said that he had talked to Pat, and he is planning to help out parttime and see how things work out for now.

Clerk Update: Called Chad Lorson to let him know the Fire District #2 agreement was approved and I had a signed copy for him to pick-up. Went to Dickinson County Courthouse in Abilene to pay the property taxes on the vacant lots and do the deed work on the American Legion building. Spoke to Brock with UPS about rent for the Northside of the building. He was planning to be around the area and wanted to stop by and pay the invoice for this year. So, I typed up the invoice so it would be ready when he came. He asked if I could email it to him, so I did. John told me that the soap dispenser in the men's bathroom in the park was leaking. I looked up the previous orders and found the ones I had ordered originally and ordered a new one so John could replace the old one. Larry called me Christmas Day to let me know John was going to New Mexico and asked if Pat would come into do meter reads. Pat agreed that he would come in on Tuesday to do the meter reads. We couldn't get the handheld to connect with the Command Link. I called Preston and he helped us to connect the two and Pat did the meter reading. I took my Floating Holiday 😊 Thank You!! John came in and gave me his letter of resignation. I talked to Larry and Fred to let them know. Emailed Pace analytical in Salina to get pricing for water testing. Called Koffman Electric to see if they would be interested in working on the water tower light. They are not interested in working on the light on the tower. There was a conversation about Maguire Iron, the tower company that we have a contract with. I plan to contact them and find out the details of our contract with them. No action was taken.

Larry Ryff told Mayor French that he would like to visit about the vacant lots that the city owns, he told Larry to go ahead. Larry said first of all he thinks we need to advertise the vacant lots, in the next 60 days figure out if we have buyers for any of them. Larry said the end game for the city was to encourage new construction in Hope. He said as you drive around town there are 2-3 more properties that should be condemned. Larry said that he thinks we should get ahold of Mr. Holland in Abilene and see if he would assist the city in the condemnation of these properties and what the costs will be for his services. There was a conversation between the Mayor and council. Larry Ryff made a motion to authorize Mayor French to get ahold of James Holland out of Abilene to get prices on condemnation proceedings and to have Mr. Holland to come down and meet with the council and answer questions and what have you. Randy Walker seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-0. There was another discussion about how the proceedings worked the last time we had Mr. Holland come down and help us with the condemnation proceedings. There was no action taken after the discussion.

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Mayor French asked if anyone had anything else to talk about. Robin Moniz asked when the Library was planning to move. I said that I had given them keys to the building the second week of December. Larry said that he wasn't surprised they hadn't started moving in, his concern was that we have had snow on the ground for two and a half weeks and there are no footprints to the door to check on the heater and water pipes. Mayor French said that he might just run by there and check to make sure things are ok. Daniel Schwindt made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Robin Moniz seconded the motion and the motion passed 4-0.

_____ Fred French, Mayor

Attested

_____ Joni Rikard, Clerk