

1 | Hope City Council Meeting January 6th, 2020

Mayor Ryff called the January 6th, 2020 regular council meeting to order at 7:00pm and led the council in the pledge of allegiance. Mayor Ryff welcomed Ginger Stewart the new council person.

The Mayor asked me to do roll call, it showed the following present: Carol Lauxman, David Wendt and Fred French. Gordon Hunnicutt and Robin Moniz were absent.

Previous Meeting Minutes: Mayor Ryff said the first item is the minutes from the previous meeting. David Wendt made a motion to dispense with the reading of minutes and approve the way they were written; Fred French seconded the motion and the motion passed 3-0.

Appropriation Ordinance: Mayor Ryff said next is appropriation ordinance #1102. Carol Lauxman made a motion to approve appropriation ordinance #1102, David Wendt seconded the motion. The motion carried 3-0.

Financial Statement: Mayor Ryff said that the Treasurer was not able to make it to the meeting tonight, he said he would let the Council take a couple of minutes to take a look at it. Mayor Ryff said that it looked like we ended up the year in pretty good shape. He said that he wanted to talk about the City of Hope Water Project account too. Mayor Ryff explained that there is enough money in the account to pay November's pay request and that we will not need to make the last draw from the bond until the end of February. Mayor Ryff said he would like for everyone to take a good look at the trash fund because it would be coming up later on. David Wendt approve the financial statement for December. Fred French seconded the motion and the motion passed 3-0.

Police Report: Sheriff Deputy did not show.

Visitor: Mayor Ryff said we were supposed to have visitors Thaniel and Wesley from BG Consultants, but Wesley had canceled the progress meeting earlier. He said Ginger Stewart would be the visitor.

New Business: Mayor Ryff said the progress report would be next, he said basically the payment request is for the month of December. He explained that J & K had a short month. So, the pay request is less, however they are billing for change orders that happened while we were under construction. Mayor Ryff explained that the change orders are due to little issues that we had during construction. He reviewed some of the items with the Council. He said J & K have taken all their equipment out of town except a dump truck. Mayor Ryff said he would like for them to haul a couple of loads of rock in the next 2-3 weeks to take care of a couple of areas that need some more rock. He said other than that he doesn't expect to see them until they come back in March to rake up some spots and get ready to seed the grass. Mayor Ryff said he had not heard from BG about the tower work and plans to contact Thaniel to find out where we are at in that process. He said back to the major point is that we have a pay request of \$66,366.73. He asked if there were any questions, there were none. David Wendt made a motion to approve the pay request of \$66,366.73 to be paid to J & K Contracting, Fred French seconded

the motion and the motion passed 3-0. Mayor Ryff said the next item of business is the M & K Trash contract. He said the last rate increase for trash was triggered by an increase at the county transfer station in 2015. So, in 2019 we talked about last month that the county had another increase. M & K contacted us to let us know he would need to increase his rates by twenty cents for everyone. Mayor Ryff said his question was if the Council wanted to eat the increase or raise the rates to the customers, and if we are going to do a rate increase, what we would need for a rate increase. The Council and the Mayor had a lengthy discussion. Mayor Ryff said the current Ordinance is in the Council binders, he explained that the new Ordinance would have a different number and repeal number and it would be the current Ordinance number and of course the price would be change from \$17.00 to \$17.50. Fred French made a motion to increase the rates from \$17.00 to \$17.50 for trash pick-up. Carol Lauxman seconded the motion. The motion carried 3-0. Mayor Ryff said the next item of business is the Dickinson County Fire District #2 2020 contract. He explained that the agreement with the fire department is the City agrees to pay the fire district what the mil rate is for the year for fire coverage. A short conversation took place between the Council and Mayor. Carol Lauxman made a motion to approve the agreement between Fire District #2 and the City. Fred French seconded the motion. The motion carried 3-0. Mayor Ryff said the next item is a building permit from Eli Fleming. He said that he had spoke to Eli's mother a couple of times and still has some questions about it. He said basically he is planning to build a building at the old lumber yard lot. It will be closer to the American legion than the lumber yard. It will be a good-sized building 35' X 80' X 16'. There was a discussion between the Council and Mayor. Fred French made a motion to table the permit until February's meeting. David Wendt seconded the motion, the motion passed 3-0.

Maintenance Report: Billy said that he had put in a lot of new meters and that he had 12 more new meters to put in. The 12 that is left has to be dug up to be put in. He took care of a little water leak on the East end of Broadway. He said he did snow removal. He put pads in the barrels that didn't have pads and collected the old meters. Billy said he met with Mayer (sewer cleaning crew) to locate the manhole covers so they could do the sewer clean out, he said that they hadn't finished it yet but he planned to get ahold of them to find out when they would finish. He said he met with Bud to tear down the old pump house on the Southside of town. He said they had got it all down and hauled out of town. Billy said he had put some rock down some of the alley's and filled some holes.

Clerks Report: I received an email from SAM (System for Award Management) explaining that action was required and that in order to remain eligible to do business with the federal government, I needed to renew the City's registration and I must do it every year. Received the list of transmission and serial numbers from Buddy. I started entering the information in the software. I called Sequoyah for a report that would show the information I had entered. Ran the reports that Margie with Sequoyah had showed me. Reviewed the reports to make sure the information was correct. I contacted Preston with Core & Main about a practice run on the meter reads, that Mayor Ryff had

suggested. He had me remote him in and help walk me through the steps to load the handheld device with all the information that I had entered in the software. I called Billy and he came and picked up the handheld and transmitter so he could do a practice read. Preston suggested that I call him back when Billy got done reading. When Billy brought the handheld device back, I called Preston, he showed me how to upload the information onto the computer and the reports that would show any problems. We ran a route exception report that had meter and transmission information and no addresses or tap information. So, I ran a report on Sequoyah to compare with the report from Sensus. After some checking I figured out that it was mostly the inactive accounts that was on the report from Sensus. Mayor Ryff came in and I explained what we had found, and he had me make a list of meters to padlocked and a list of meters to be removed. Preston came up and assisted on our meter read day to make sure things went smooth. Billy went out with the handheld and transmitter, he came back and I loaded the information into the Sensus software, Preston showed me some reports to run, we reviewed them and then moved the information into Sequoyah, I checked the usage reports and calculated the bills.

FYI: Mayor Ryff said we would move into the FYI section. He said technically speaking there is Wastewater Lagoon Operation and Maintenance training with the KRWA, he asked Billy if he would like to attend that on January 15th at Mound Ridge Kansas, Billy said he would. Mayor Ryff asked if the Council would like to go ahead and send Billy. The Council agreed to send him. The Mayor said the other is a Water Rate Checkup Tool Workshop, he said it was a free training opportunity and he would like to send me to. He said with the Water Project he thought it could help us to know where to set the rates once things were completed with the project. The Council agreed to send me as well. He said the last item of business under the FYI, he said I know I have discussed it with several people around town and that is nuisance properties. He said that it has been a topic for the last several years with the Hope Development as well. He said we also had North Central Regional Planning Commission come down and talk to us about the process as well. He said in last month's binder there was a flyer from Holland Municipal Services out of Abilene, they do a lot of things for small cities. One thing is we might want to look at is condemnation of these properties and then getting them tore down. Mayor Ryff asked if that was something that the Council would like for us to contact them and have them down for the next meeting. The Council thought it would be a good deal. Mayor Ryff said that he would invite the Hope Development as well. He said he really didn't have anything else except for a Certificate of Appreciation for Carol Lauxman since she was retiring from the Council. Moving on, he said was Billy Lininger's evaluation, he asked if Billy had anything to say to the Council. Billy said that he definitely has earned any money that the Council would give him, that he works hard for the City and comes in all the time, and does extra, even in the cold or heat he said I just do it to get it done. He said he feels like he should get a pretty good raise, and that he deserves it and has worked really hard for it, he said he hasn't heard any complaints about his work, people say he works hard and stays busy. Mayor Ryff said he would like to go into an executive session. David Wendt made a motion to go into executive session for 15 minutes to discuss

non-elect personnel, Carol Lauxman seconded the motion. The motion carried 3-0. Fred French made a motion to come out of executive session. David Wendt seconded the motion, the motion passed 3-0. David Wendt made a motion to increase Billy's wage to \$14.00 per hour starting January 1st, 2020. Fred French seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0. Mayor Ryff asked if they wanted to take a look at another employee's evaluation. Carol Lauxman made a motion to go into executive session for 5 minutes to discuss non-elect personnel, David Wendt seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0. Fred French made a motion to come out of executive session, David Wendt seconded the motion. The motion carried 3-0. Fred French made a motion to give me a pay increase to \$14.25 per hour effective January 1st, 2020. David Wendt seconded the motion, the motion passed 3-0.

Mayors Report: Mayor Ryff said that he appreciated them working with the employees to get their wages a little closer to reality. He said looking forward he has the school working on two flower boxes to put on Main street. He said one will be at the bank and the other one will replace whichever is in the poorest condition. He talked to Mr. Tetter's hopefully we can have the boxes built by the end of March. He said that is one item on the agenda. Mayor Ryff said that he did know that the Developmental Group has been looking at the nuisance properties, and they have been for the last couple of years. He said hopefully having the Holland group come down is the start of the addressing of that. He said if we don't like what we hear we can always move on and try and find a different way to do it, other towns get it done and we need to get it done one way or another. The Mayor said that the Water construction is winding down, he said he don't look for much activity until the end of March. With the exception of them bring in a couple of dump trucks of rock and put a little rock where they were thin on. He said once they get their rock in the City might have to get a couple a load's because the rock is thin in some of the alleys. Fred French asked about an alley on the Westside of town and the Mayor said he would look into it. A conversation among the Mayor and Council took place.

Carol Lauxman made a motion to adjourn. David Wendt seconded the motion, the motion passed 3-0.

Larry Ryff, Mayor

Attest:

Joni Rikard, Clerk