

1 | Hope City Council Meeting July 14th, 2021

Mayor Ryff called the July 14th, 2021 regular council meeting to order at 7:00pm and led the council in the pledge of allegiance.

The Mayor asked me to do roll call, it showed the following present: David Wendt, Fred French, Ginger Stewart were all present and Robin Moniz called in. Gordon Hunnicutt was absent.

Previous Meeting Minutes: Mayor Ryff said the first item of business is the minutes from the previous meeting. David Wendt made a motion to accept the minutes from the previous meeting from June 9th, 2021 and approve them as written. Ginger Stewart seconded the motion and the motion passed 4-0.

Appropriation Ordinance: Mayor Ryff said next is appropriation ordinance #1120. David Wendt made a motion to accept appropriation ordinance #1120, Fred French seconded the motion. The motion carried 4-0.

Treasurer Report: The mayor said the next item is the treasurers report, he said he would turn it over to Heather. Heather said there was nothing to exciting. She said that there is a COD coming up due on the 25th this month. The Mayor asked which one it was, he said he would like to have her update the interest rate on the savings account and double check some of the rates. Mayor Ryff said one thing he is happy about is that that the balance in the water fund is starting to increase, he said that was good because of the loan payment coming up. The Mayor asked if anyone had any other questions on the financial report. David Wendt made a motion to accept June's financial statement, Ginger Stewart seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-0.

New Business: Mayor Ryff said moving on into new business, he said he wanted to introduce Tom Wakefield and Jen Lynch. He said we would start off with them. Tom Wakefield said that he appreciates the Council. He explained that he had received a letter about some vehicles on one of their properties. He said that Cody was not able to be here. Tom Wakefield said that he was disappointed that he received a letter. He said he understands that sometimes you need to have a paper trail with some individuals, but he said he don't think that they are those individuals. He said that a phone call would have been cheaper and that we would have gotten the same results. A lengthy conversation with the Mayor, Council, Tom Wakefield and Jen Lynch took place. Mayor Ryff said that he would like to apologize for not handling the situation as tactfully as he could. The Mayor said, that he will say that all the issues have been resolved and that they won't hear any more from the City. He said next time he would try to handle things more tactfully. Mayor Ryff said we need to move on, the next item of business is the house demo. He said that Justin Rutz had moved in the track-hoe and all intensions are that next week the house is coming down. The Mayor said that he wants the lot down to dirt. He said that there will be quite an assessment on the property, but Justin is on track for next week. Mayor Ryff said the next item of business is the revenue neutral rate which has to do with the budget. He said he was going to have me visit with the Council about the revenue neutral rate and what it means, and then he will discuss a little bit about the budget, where we are at

and what we are looking like. I said that we had talked a little bit about it at the last meeting. I explained that the legislature had repealed the tax lid and decided to go with the revenue neutral rate. That means that the tax rate for the current tax year would generate the same property tax revenue as levied the previous year using the current tax year's total assessed valuation. It also changed the timeline that the budget will need to be published and submitted to the county clerk's office. I have to let Barbara Jones know by July 20th if we are going to exceed the RNR. After that we will have to hold a hearing for the public to attend between August 20th and September 20th. I reached out to Janelle Dockendorf about the RNR and she recommended that we exceed the limit based on the assessed valuation going down this year. Mayor Ryff said in addition to that, there are two sheets laying in front of you. He said that the financial committee met about two weeks ago, I put it in the state template and from everything he can see it looks like it should work. He explained that it was a little higher than he thought it should be but, after looking at the revenue neutral rate sheet he thinks its for the better because next year if we exceed the rate again the county will have to notify tax payers via mail or email of all taxing subdivisions exceeding the RNR. The Mayor and Council discussed the budget and RNR. Mayor Ryff said that he really does see the need to exceed the RNR. Ginger Stewart made a motion to exceed the revenue neutral rate by 2.146. Fred French seconded the motion and the motion passed 4-0. Mayor Ryff said now we would decide the hearing date. David Wendt made a motion to hold the hearing for the RNR and 2022 Budget, September 8th at 7pm and Fred French seconded the motion. The motion carried 4-0.

Old Business: Mayor Ryff said next is the Agri-Trails expansion. He said in your notebook you will see an estimate from J & K Contracting that includes the waterline installation and all of the material there by. There was a discussion between the Mayor and Council. Fred French made a motion to accept the estimate from J & K Contracting of \$19895.00, David Wendt seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-0. The Mayor said for me to give Shannon a call tomorrow and let him know we are on target and looking at a September 5th date. Mayor Ryff said he would go ahead and have me tell the Council about the ARPA monies. I said I had listened to a webinar at the end of last month, then on the listserv I seen a link to apply for the funds. So, I filled it out and submitted the application. Then about a week later I finally got a confirmation that the application had been received. After that we received a letter from the Governor's office saying she was happy to inform us that we would be receiving the money at the end of the week. Then on the 7th of July we received a deposit of \$24,955.74. Mayor Ryff said that so as long as the funds are used for water and or sewer or broadband. He said he would like this treated as a separate fund when it comes to the treasurer and my bookwork. The mayor said he would like to take a step back to new business and discuss personnel evaluation and the maintenance position.

New Business: The Mayor said we might go into executive session, but he would like to discuss the maintenance position. He said that the fulltime city guy quit the last day of June. He said that we have had John Moniz being the intermin city maintenance man since the first of July. Mayor Ryff said that we have run ads in the newspapers and we are taking applications for a fulltime

3 | Hope City Council Meeting July 14th, 2021

city maintenance position. He said so far there has been three applicants. He said he really don't think we should close the application for another week or two. There was a short conversation between the Mayor and Council. David Wendt made a motion to accept applications until the end of July 31st, 2021. Fred French seconded the motion and the motion carried 3-0. Mayor Ryff said the other part of this is a personal evaluation and wage review, he said he would like to go into executive session for this part. Fred French made a motion to go into executive session for 15 minutes, Ginger Stewart seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0. Fred French made a motion to come out of executive session and David Wendt seconded the motion. The motion carried 3-0. Fred French made a motion to increase John Moniz hourly wage to \$14.50 per hour effective from the first of July. Ginger Stewart seconded the motion and the motion passed 3-0. Then Ginger Stewart motioned to give me a one dollar an hour raise effective on my anniversary date. Fred French seconded the motion, it carried 3-0. The Mayor said that we would move on to the maintenance report.

Maintenance Report: Mayor Ryff said that there was a problem with the bushhog and that John had gotten the part and got it fixed. He said that there had been two loads of asphalt brought in and was planning to order two more once they got the first two on the streets. He said moving on he would have me give the clerks updates.

Clerks Report: I listened to a webinar about how to fill out the application for the APRA monies. I looked over their check list and went to verify our SAM (System for Award Management) account was up to date. About a week later the website was up and running, the link was on the listserv and I went to the site and filled out the application. We received our first half 7/7/2021 which was \$24,955.74. Larry and I went up to the cemetery after Fred let me know that he had ordered a headstone. The area that he bought it one that has not had any recent activity and we knew it might take a bit to find a brick in order to mark it. We were right 😊 it took a while, but Larry found a brick about 100-foot North and 80-foot East. So, we just worked our way over to the area and squared it up and marked it. We had a financial committee meeting and put some numbers together. I entered the information into the template from the state. I emailed a copy to Janelle Dockendorf the county's financial director and asked if she could look it over. She did and said it looked good, she recommend that we increase it slightly over this years levy and hold the RNR hearing.

Mayors Discussion: The Mayor said that as far as getting rid of the junk vehicles that we are planning on sending out some more letters. He said that there are two that he was probably going to write ticket to, and see what happens in municipal court first and depending on how that goes he might be getting a hold of the City attorney to take care of them. The Mayor and Council had a short conversation, and no action was taken.

Fred French made a motion to adjourn, and Ginger Stewart seconded, the motion passed 3-0.

4 | Hope City Council Meeting July 14th, 2021

_____Larry Ryff, Mayor

Attest:

_____Joni Rikard, City Clerk