

Mayor Ryff called the June 14th, 2023 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: Fred French, Gordon Hunnicutt, Robin Moniz, Ginger Stewart and Daniel Schwindt.

Mayor Ryff said that he was going to cut to the chase and introduce Gail Pilcher she is with the ladies American Legion Auxiliary. He explained that Gail had another meeting to attend so he was going to let her visit with the Council. Gail said what she was here for was to kind of to get your minds some food for thought type thing. She said you probably have heard that the legion had closed almost a year ago, she said there are just not enough active members, she said there are like 4 active members. Gail said that they would like to offer the building to the City if we are interested. She said that a couple of weeks ago there was a hailstorm that came through town, she turned in a claim and the building will be getting a new roof and new siding. There is a little bit of work needing to be done on the front porch. There was a discussion between the Council, Gail and the Mayor. The Council is interested in buying the building as a possible new location for the library. The Mayor asked Gail to come back to next month's meeting with a dollar amount and let the Council think it over. Gail left to go to her other meeting.

Previous Meeting Minutes: Mayor Ryff said the next item of business is the minutes from the previous meeting. Gordon Hunnicutt made a motion to accept the minutes from May 14th, 2023, as written. Fred French seconded the motion and the motion passed 5-0.

Appropriation Ordinance: Mayor Ryff said next is appropriation ordinance #1143 He said if there are any questions please ask. Gordon Hunnicutt made a motion to approve appropriation ordinance #1143, Robin Moniz 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 asked if there were any questions. Mayor Ryff said that he would entertain a motion to approve the statement. Gordon Hunnicutt made a motion to approve the financial statement for May 1st – 31st 2023, Fred French seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0. Mayor Ryff said that he wanted to talk about a new used maintenance truck. He asked Gordon if he had any prospects. Gordon said that he thought it would run between 25 - 30 for a decent truck. He said he talked to an individual and was waiting for them to get back to him. Mayor Ryff said that was a project that he wanted to see get done. He said that my desk has been starting to fall apart and that was going to be brought up a little bit later. He said he would like to see the house that the City bought torn down too. The Mayor said that he is hoping as we tear down these houses that we can get someone interested in building hopefully it will balance out and help pay back our water project loan. He said moving on to new business.

New Business: Mayor Ryff said the first item of new business is the maintenance position. He said there is a resignation letter in the notebooks, he said he was sorry to have to bring this up and he really didn't want to see it at all, but John has been advised by his doctors that he needs to resign. The Mayor said that he had talked with John and that John isn't planning on just leaving us with no one to take his place. He said that we have got John some good summer help, he said that he had talked to John about a part-time job depending on how he gets along. So, the next step is for me to advertise the position in the newspapers. There was a conversation between the Council and Mayor. Gordon Hunnicutt made a motion to accept John's resignation letter, Daniel Schwindt seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0.

Old Business: Mayor Ryff said that the County is having a delinquent tax sale on the 27th of June at the Court house in Abilene. He said basically there are two properties that the City has paid to remove the houses and they are on the sale. One of the properties the City has invested over fifteen thousand dollars by removing the run-down house. He said the other property is on 2nd avenue on the way to the school and the City has invested around ten thousand dollars in removing the house and garage. He asked if the Council would be interested in having a say in what happens with the properties, they have invested in. The Mayor explained that if the Council was interested in having them he would be glad to go to the sale and purchase them then sell them back to the City at the same dollar, he just needed to know what dollar amount the Council was thinking of. There was a conversation between the Council and Mayor. Gordon Hunnicutt made a motion to spend \$3,500.00 on each property, Daniel Schwindt seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-0. Gordon Hunnicutt left the meeting. Mayor Ryff said moving on the next item is the digital sign update. He said we visited about the sign at the developmental group meeting this afternoon. He said it sounds like they have a considerable amount of financing for the sign, he thinks over 50%. Last month we talked about funding for the sign, and about purchasing the sign through the City to help cut the sales tax on it. We also talked about contributing money for the sign. The Mayor said basically we are thinking about the City contributing \$7500.00 towards the sign, they want the City to manage it and we will pay the electric bill and have it added to the insurance policy. He said that they are trying to get it organized so there will be some kind of committee that will oversee what is put on the sign, they are going to set up what the ads will cost also. There was a conversation between the Mayor and Council. Fred French made a motion to approve paying the electric bill for the sign, making a donation of \$7500.00 for the sign and make the down payment of \$16,628.00. Ginger Stewart seconded the motion, and the motion passed 4-0. Mayor Ryff said we will set that plan in motion. Next on the agenda is the legal description of the City of Hope, Mayor Ryff said he wasn't expecting to do anything tonight, he really just wanted to get the information out to them so they can review it at home some evening. He said that he had not had the time to look it over good yet, but the map looked pretty accurate. The Council and Mayor had a discussion about the map and description. The Mayor asked the Council to look it over real close and that we would bring it back up next month.

Clerks Update: I called Bri Beck with the North Central Regional Planning Commission and talked with her about grants or funds that might be available to help with the new sign. I emailed her the estimated amount for the sign. Then I sent Kent Campbell an email to see if he would be interested in helping us to apply for the grants that we might qualify for. I received a work compensation audit report form and filled it out and emailed it back to Accident Fund Insurance. I used the Cemetery map and made a new map of all the veterans at the Cemetery to try and make it easier to read. Visited with Larry about the meter reading for the Co-op Chemical building. Larry and I went to the Chemical building and talked to Dave Wendt. Then went to the meter and read it manually to try to figure out why it was reading backwards. I called Preston with Core and Main and explained what had happened. He walked John through making a 30-day report. I imported it and sent it to Preston so he could figure out what was wrong. I met Larry, Terry, John and Parker at the Cemetery and we put the medallions and flags out on the Veteran's graves for Memorial Day. We met back at the Cemetery and gathered the medallions and flags and brought them back to the office. I took them apart and put them away. Received an email from Brian Westberg with BG Consultants with the legal description attached. He told us to let him know if there were any questions. I received an email from Kent Campbell, and he said he would look into what the application entails.

Mayor Ryff said while I gave my report it gave him a chance to think, he said he had missed some stuff. In front of you, we talked earlier about Joni's desk falling apart, this is the price quote from Narvats. He said he was hoping that the Council would consider approving it. Fred French made a motion to get the two units that Navrat's sent price quotes for. Daniel Schwindt seconded the motion and it carried 4-0. I Thanked the Council and let them know I appreciated it. The Mayor said that finishes that up and Daniel had some comments to make. Daniel said he knows that the meeting was running late tonight but he felt like it was a timely topic. He said that since Larry was heading out, it kinda bothered him that the Mayor position is some people are willing to do but it kinda has to be a labor of love. He said what he is trying to say that he feels like we should pay the Mayor position significantly more. He said maybe the Mayor in the past didn't really do anything and maybe it depends on the Mayor. There was a lengthy conversation between the Mayor and Council. The Council asked me to do some research and check on listserv to what types of policies other towns have when it comes to paying the Mayor and Council for their services. The Mayor asked if anybody had anything else, I said that we needed to plan for a budget committee meeting before the end of the month, if possible. We discussed a date and time and decided to meet on Tuesday at 1pm. Fred French made a motion to adjourn, Daniel Schwindt seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-0.

_____ Larry Ryff, Mayor

Attested

_____ Joni Rikard, Clerk