

1 | Hope City Council Meeting June 3rd, 2019

Mayor Ryff called the June 3rd, 2019 regular council meeting to order at 7:00pm and led the council in the pledge of allegiance.

Mayor Larry Ryff asked me to do roll call, it showed the following present: Carol Lauxman, David Wendt and Fred French. Robin Moniz showed up late. Gordon Hunnicutt was absent.

Police Report: Mayor Ryff said that he was going to shift somethings and have the Sheriff's report first. The Deputy said that they were getting a new system, so he was unable to print off the report like normal. He said hopefully next month they will have things ready to go. He said that he could tell us the total hours spent in Hope was 69.25. Mayor Ryff thanked the deputy for his service, the deputy left.

Previous Meeting Minutes: Carol Lauxman motioned to dispense with the reading of the previous minutes and approve the way they were written; David Wendt seconded the motion and the motion passed 3-0.

Appropriation Ordinance: The Council reviewed the Appropriation Ordinance 1095. David Wendt made a motion to accept Ordinance 1095 and Carol Lauxman seconded the motion. The motion carried 4-0.

Financial Statement: Mayor Ryff said next, he would turn the meeting over to Heather Stackley. Heather said that things looked good, she said that we had gotten a check from the County. Heather said there was nothing to exciting. She did mention that the sewer fund was still showing a negative amount. She explained that she could correct it with a bookkeeping entry. A short conversation took place and the Council asked Heather to make the bookkeeping entry to correct the sewer fund. Mayor Ryff asked if anyone had any questions on the financial statement. There were no questions, Carol Lauxman made a motion to approve the financial statement. Fred French seconded the motion and the motion carried 4-0.

New Business: Mayor Ryff said moving on, the first item is an Ordinance to complete the legal paperwork for eminent domain for the pieces of property for our water project. He explained that we had passed a resolution last month for eminent domain, and now to complete the paperwork we would need to pass the Ordinance. After looking over the document Carol Lauxman notice that the tract information was for the wrong county and that the description was not correct. Mayor Ryff said what he would recommend was to go ahead and approve the Ordinance as long as the county and tract information was corrected. After a conversation among the Council and Mayor Fred French made a motion to approve Ordinance 2019-463 as long as the county and tract information is corrected by the attorney. David Wendt seconded the motion and the motion passed 4-0. Mayor Ryff said moving on, the next item is a Resolution 19-003, he said this will give permission to enact our first draw down for the water project. He said that if you looked at the special water project fund you would see that there is \$26,182.35, he explained that there are checks that are being signed tonight that will be coming out of that amount. He said he thinks some of the materials will be showing up next

week. Mayor Ryff said that he thinks the first of July the contracting company will probably want to be paid and the twenty-six thousand won't go very far. There was a conversation among the Council and Mayor. Mayor Ryff said he thought that the first draw should be \$400,000.00. Fred French made a motion to approve Resolution 19-003 with the first draw down amount being \$400,000.00. Robin Moniz seconded the motion. A verbal vote show Fred French -Yes, Robin Moniz – Yes, David Wendt – Yes, and Carol Lauxman – Yes. The motion passed 4-0. Mayor Ryff said next on the agenda are the minutes from the pre-construction meeting that was on May 20th, 2019. He explained that the discussion part is printed in red. He said he wanted to go over the highlights of the meeting. Under status of the contract, the contract will start on the 17th of June, contract times, substantial completion is 150-days and final completion is 180-days. He said they are planning to start on the Northside of town, basically they will do the Railroad bores and tapping tee, the highway bore, then go on by the co-op's chemical shed first. Mayor Ryff said that he did stress the need for them to communicate with us and us to be talking to the them. Construction schedule work hours will be Monday-Friday 7:30am – 5:00pm. Progress meetings will be the first Monday of the month. Pay request will be at the end of the month. Local Concerns; they will notify residents prior to service interruptions, and there will be 24 hour written notices given. CDBG/USDA Requirements; they require a sign be put up for the water project, they are planning to put the sign in the park on the Northside of town. USDA Requirements; there is a 3-year funding deadline in December, should the project extend into this time, an extension may be available.

Mayors Discussion: Mayor Ryff said first of all, last month we passed the water contract with the City of Herington and as far as he knows the contract is in effect. He said the billing from the City of Herington hasn't showed the rate increase or the meter increase as of yet. He expects the July bill to show that increase. He said once we get that bill, he wants to put some figures together because he can see the need to have a water rate increase to reflect these additional costs. Also, to get things ready for the first sixty-thousand-dollar payment for the water project. He explained that it would not be the last increase because once the project is complete, we would possibly have Rural Development come in to do a rate study so we know what we will need to pay for the water project. Mayor Ryff said while he is talking about rate increases, the sewer rates will need to be reviewed this fall. A lengthy discussion among the Council took place about the sewer rates, but no action was taken. He said next, with spring comes all kinds of problems, it has to do with four-foot tall brome yards that no one will mow. He asked me to tell the Council how many letters that I sent out so far this year. I explained, I had sent out 7 letters so far, and that you have to send them out certified which cost \$7.00. I also found out that if they don't pick-up the letter in 5 days, the post office holds it for an additional 10 days before they send it back to the sender. So, it drags out for close to a month. Mayor Ryff said some of the folks that got letters mowed their yards, but some have not. He said that because of some of them do not live in town, the city published a notice in the official newspaper, so that gives them another 10 days before the city is legally able to go onto the property and mow. Mayor Ryff explained that he feels like this mowing needs

to be contracted out. He said the city has one maintenance man and he has plenty to keep him busy especially with the water project starting. A discussion took place between the Mayor and Council about contracting the mowing out and the Council agreed that it needed to be contracted.

Old Business: Mayor Ryff said that he did skip an item and it is building permit fees. He said he was going to have me talk about it. I explained that I had dug around to see if I could not find a specific dollar amount on the actual building permit fee. Mayor Ryff said there is not an Ordinance that has a set dollar amount for a building permit fee. A discussion took place between the Council, me and the Mayor. Fred French made a motion to raise the building permit fee to \$20.00 and Robin Moniz seconded the motion. The motion carried 4-0.

Maintenance Report: Billy explained that he had finished up the city-wide clean-up, he said it had gone really well and he had lots of help from several people in the community. He said they were also able to get the old outhouse out of the cemetery too. They went to Abilene once, and made two trips to Herington to get rid of the metal. Billy said he pushed really hard on mowing. He explained that the old weed-eater stopped working and he took it to Kan-Equip they told him it was shot, so he got a new weed-eater. He said that with all the rain made it hard and he had to mow in between rains. He said he went to the cemetery to help put up flags, did banners on main street. Billy said he put the brush-hog on the tractor and had already used it twice. He said that he had to put a couple of dogs in doggy jail down at the shop.

Clerks Report: Went on a drive around with Larry and made a list of yards that needed mowed. I went to the county website to confirm the owners of the property. Reviewed Article 3-Weeds that is in the Nuisance Ordinance to find out what needed to be in the letter. I then typed up letters for all of the property owners and they had to be mailed certified. Called Blixt to come pick-up the last dumpster. Printed the resolution for eminent domain so Larry could sign it. Sorted the paperwork from the Bond Counsel Attorney. Larry and I signed the documents and I put the City's Seal on them. We went to the bank and had the Draw Down Temporary Note notarized. Put the packet in the mail to send back to Robert Perry. Made an Election sign and put up around town. Cleaned the office and got the meeting room together for the Pre-Construction meeting. Shannon Locke of J & K Contracting, Thaniel Monaco, Wesley Weishaar and Chris Becker with BG Consultants, Chelsea Morris and Randy Stone with USDA Rural Development, Emily Benedick with North Central Regional Planning Commission as well as Larry, Billy and I all attended the meeting. I reminded Larry about the Dickinson County Economic Development meeting in Abilene and he asked me to go and find out about the housing assessment study that they had done. There were four main City's that were talked about. Abilene, Chapman, Solomon and Herington. I attended the Budget Workshop put on by the state, it was rescheduled, and the location was changed due to the flooding problem. They moved it to the Public Library in Salina. I went up to the Cemetery. Larry, Billy and Billy's sons met me, and we put flags on the veteran's graves. We fixed some flag holders and picked up some limbs as well.

FYI: Mayor Ryff said that he had a couple more items he wanted to go over. He said there was a Thank You from one of the residences in town thanking the City for the clean-up opportunity. He said he wanted to commend the city employees both Billy and me, for the condition that the cemetery was in over the holiday weekend. He said that he thought it looked really good this year. He said that he thinks it is time to start replacing some of the older flags at the cemetery, the small grave marker ones and some of the big ones. Some of the ones that are on main street need to be replaced too. He said sometime in the next month or two he plans to get a purchase order together to order some new flags and flag holders and will put it in front of the Council before we order. The Mayor and Council had a conversation about flags and markers. Mayor Ryff said that there had been an ongoing dog issue. He explained that either they can't keep their dogs on their own property and or, dogs we cannot find the owners to. He said that he had been following the Ordinance the best that he can. Another conversation between the Council, Billy and the Mayor took place. Mayor Ryff said that he just wanted to let the Council be made aware of the situations. Mayor Ryff said as far as the election goes, he knew that one other person filed and that he had filed as well. So, we'd just have to see how things work out. I asked to see if we could schedule a time for a budget meeting. After a short discussion took place, it was decided to have a meeting on Wednesday the 19th at 6:30pm.

David Wendt motioned to adjourn; Robin Moniz seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-0.

_____ Larry Ryff, Mayor

Attest:

_____ Joni Rikard, Clerk