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Mayor Ryff called the March 1st, 2021 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: David Wendt, Fred French, Robin Moniz and Ginger Stewart. Gordon Hunnicutt was absent.

Previous Meeting Minutes: Mayor Ryff said the first item of business is the minutes from the previous meeting. Robin Moniz made a motion to accept the minutes from the previous minutes from February 1st, 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 #1116. David Wendt made a motion to accept appropriation ordinance #1116, Robin Moniz seconded the motion. The motion carried 4-0.

Police Report: Mayor Ryff said he would postpone the Treasurers report for a little bit later on in the meeting. He said he would introduce the Dickinson County Sheriff, Jerry Davis. The Mayor said that the Sheriff will present you with the police report and follow up where we left off at last month's meeting. The Sheriff introduced himself and explained that he has been with the Dickinson County Sheriff's office for thirty years, he said if there were any questions feel free to ask them. Sheriff Davis said that they had put in 72 hours for the city of Hope last month and had 16 calls. He reviewed each call and explained what the circumstances were. Sheriff Davis explained that the Undersheriff had told him there were some concerns with the new contract. He said that when he was trying to come up with the contract, he went through each line item and tried to figure out what the cost to operate per hour or unit was. Then put it into a spread sheet. He averaged the average hourly salary, and it came up to \$42.80, that includes all benefits too. The Mayor explained that he really didn't want to discuss salaries and minuet details. He said I will tell you the same thing as I did the undersheriff and that is every spring the treasurer, city clerk, and himself sit down and come up with a budget for the next year, he said generally there is a two to three percent increase over last years. Mayor Ryff said to get a Sheriff's contract in February that is 37% higher than the year before is a budget buster. The Sheriff said he knew that we had not been able to prepare for the budget. He said he just did the contract based on what it cost them to operate and that is what was presented to the city. He said even if we didn't have a contract at all, as the taxpayers of Dickinson County the Sheriff's department is still obligated to provide the services you need. Sheriff Davis said he was debating with his undersheriff, if he were a citizen of Hope, if he would even contract with the sheriff's department for law enforcement services. The Mayor said that was kind of how it was left at the last meeting. There was a discussion between the Council, Mayor and Sheriff. The Mayor said that he thought we would ride without a contract unless he called them, for now. He said if things get unruly down here and we feel like we have to have a contract we will give you a call. Sheriff Davis said don't feel like you're hurting anyones feelings because, he can't say he would make a different decision if he lived in Hope. Mayor Ryff said if we feel like we need

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something we will give him a call. The Council and Mayor thanked the Sheriff and he left.

Financial Statement: Mayor Ryff said he wanted to take a step back to look at the treasurer's financial report. The Mayor said it looked like she had a revised January statement and current version of February's. He asked if there were any questions on either statement. Ginger Stewart made a motion to accept February 1st – 28th and January 1st – 31st, 2021 financial statements. Fred French seconded the motion and it carried 4-0. The Mayor said while we are on this topic, I know we have an auditor employed to audit the city's books, he said he didn't expect that to be done until possibly late April or May timeframe. He said I know that there are some bookwork issues. He said He does know that the first Monday of the month council meeting is not working very well. He said there is no way shape and form, that we can actually produce in front of you tonight a financial report for the month of February when we have not even received the bank statement, and probably won't until the 5th or 6th, in the next one month I would like for you all to think about changing the meeting day. The Council and Mayor had a conversation about the meeting date. No action was taken.

New Business: Mayor Ryff said moving on, the first item of new business is a CMB license for Pat Coup. Fred French made a motion to approve the Cereal Malt Beverage license to Pat Coup. Robin Moniz seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-0.

Old Business: Moving on Mayor Ryff said, we talked a little bit about the tower inspection contract with Maguire Iron. Technically speaking this is the last year under this contract. The Mayor said he really didn't think they need to be doing anything on the water tower since we just had it rebuilt last July. He said we were just in the clear well by the pump house and he don't think there is any need to clean the clear well. So, he was thinking we should cancel their visit for this year. The Council agreed to skip the inspection for 2021.

Mayor's Discussion: Mayor Ryff said he had a couple of things he wanted to talk about before he talked about street repair. He said we had some rough weather the last 3-4 weeks, the water testing in the water facilities in town did really well during the cold snap. The retrosetters have taken care of the issues like what kind of sinks the customer has, getting access when he needs too, it has cleared all that up. He said that they had ran into problems in the last two weeks, that we really need to revisit. One, is the heater in the shop, the heater was 35 years old when it was put in the shop. It has a bad regulator, Zack Krause is not sure he can get a regulator or how much it would cost. He is planning to come over in the morning and visit with Pat and him about looking into replacing the heater. He said the heater at the north water shed also needs a heater. He said the little electric heaters from Clark's just doesn't handle it when it is minus twenty out. Pat said that the water lines had froze in the pumphouse and he spend two days with Larry's heater trying to get them thawed out. Pat said he wanted to let them all know that the bathrooms in the park actually froze, he said nothing had broken though. He said he had taken some pictures of it, he said it had formed ice on the walls of the

bathrooms like three foot off the floor on the inside. Pat said he turned the heaters to full blast and they just wouldn't keep up with the weather, so he did baby sit some frozen stuff trying to get it thawed out for the city. The Mayor said, so we are putting you on watch and notice that we will be bringing in some bid proposals for heaters. One for the city shop and one for the North water shed, some where in the next 60 days. He said it doesn't have to happen immediately, but for long term purposes it needs to be done. The Mayor said this is where we are headed on the heater situation. He said the next question he has, is it is getting to be that time of year we need to decide weather or not we are doing any major street improvements this year, and what the Council has in mind. He said he would let Pat talk to them and let them know what he thinks should be done with the streets to fix them. Mayor Ryff, the Council and Pat had a lengthy conversation about the condition of the streets and what it will take to get them fixed. The Mayor said what he would have Pat work on in the next month is getting some prices together, He said the first thing would be to get a hold of Dickinson County Highway and see if they still provide that service to small towns, and if they would be available to do it this year sometime in August. Then you can talk to Ben Smith about hauling the rock and check the prices for him hauling the rock and check with the rock quarry on the price on the rock. He said I would have a company in the file and let him know where to check on the price of oil. Pat said, he would check with the asphalt companies to see what the cost of the asphalt will cost. Mayor Ryff said next he would turn it over to the two departments, and since Pat is here, he would let him start.

Maintenance Report: The Mayor said if you all look in the back of your notebook's you'll see some pretty pictures. He said J & K came in and fixed your sewer main. They did it in about six hours and did it for the amount of the bid. So that issue is laid to rest. He said there is a sewer manhole cap that needs to be redone and that will happen sometime in April or May when the weather is good. Pat said that there are two in the backyard of the Andrews and one out by the sewer lagoon. Mayor Ryff said things are improving, he asked if Pat had anything else to add. Pat said he wanted to tell them that he is going to take his water and wastewater certification test March 31st at El Dorado. Mayor Ryff said he also wanted the Council to know that as of March 1st Brian Shippy is no longer our Certified Water Operator, and that Pat is now the operator in training. He said there will no longer be checks to Brian Shippy on the appropriation ordinance, he said that Pat will be the one receiving those checks on a monthly bases.

City Clerk: I called Gail Banker to let her know that the Council had approved her building permit. Then I called Chad Lorson and told him to go ahead and order the LED Christmas lights for us. I emailed DKEDC about the Council appointing Kevin Morgan to represent the Hope community. They responded and let me know they would be having a meeting February 11th at 5pm at the DKEDC conference room. I called and let Kevin Morgan know the Council had officially appointed him and gave him the details about the up-coming meeting in Abilene. I emailed Shannon with J & K Contracting to let them know that the Council had approved the quote they had submitted and asked them to let us know the schedule once they figured it out. Also, I emailed Blixt

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Construction & Demo to see if they could give us an estimate on how their timeline was looking on demoing the condemned house. They explained that their excavator had been in the shop having some work done on it and they would have to get back with me. Typed up a hydrant list with hydrant numbers and addresses to go with the maps the Pat had updated. Spoke with Pat about the shop heater and bathroom, park bathrooms and pumphouse. I received several phone calls from residence in town that had frozen pipes from the sub-zero temperatures. I did work orders for the ones needing their water shut off until they were able to get a plumber out to fix the pipes. J & K Contracting showed up to repair the sewer line and didn't have the report from Mayer Sewer Cleaning. So, Pat called, and I dug the report out and made a copy for Pat to give to them.

The Mayor asked if anyone had any questions for me and they didn't. He said he had another item that he wanted to discuss. He said first of all the house that the City condemned, he is going to call Blixt to see if they are going to get down hear and get it done or what is going on. Or maybe we need to see if we can find someone else to do it. He said that the Sheriff's department called him Sunday afternoon, they said that some guy was tearing apart the old salvage house, the house does not belong to the City of Hope. He said he told the Sheriff as far as he was concerned the guy was trespassing, do whatever they need to do. So today Pat put up a No Trespassing sign. He said the other problem, is the news of an electric cord across the street. He said folks, if you see something like that take a picture and give it to the Mayor. He said you just cannot be doing that. The Council and Mayor had a discussion. No action was taken.

Fred French made a motion to adjourn, Robin Moniz seconded the motion. The motion carried 4-0.

_____ Larry Ryff, Mayor

Attest:

_____ Joni Rikard, Clerk