

## 1 | Hope City Council Meeting October 11th, 2023

Mayor Ryff called the October 11th, 2023 regular council meeting to order at 7:00pm and led the council in the pledge of allegiance.

Mayor Ryff said because we have guests, and have other issues to talk about, he said he was going to have them give their presentation first so they can get back on the road to their emergencies or whatever they need to do. The Mayor said I'm going to introduce from the sheriff's department we have Jeff Vaughn is the undersheriff, Jerry Davis who is the sheriff and the fire Chief of Herington Andrew Avantagiato he said I'm not sure who will do the presenting but he would turn the floor over to them. Undersheriff Jeff Vaughn started the conversation explaining it would be a combined effort. He said that there is going to be a question on the ballot for next months election that has probably generated some discussion amongst some of the residence in Dickinson County and they wanted to come down and provide some information. The undersheriff said it is for a public safety projects. Right now, Dickinson County uses a consolidated radio network for all public safety agencies in the county fire, EMS, law enforcement, emergency management are all using the same radio network. So, an upgraded radio system is the primary goal of the public safety project. In addition to that, they need to replace two all hazardous response trucks to respond to emergencies, one located in Abilene, and one in Herington and they do respond to any incident within the county. Mr. Vaughn continued and said all responses begin with radio communication, with that, it presents the need to be able to communicate over 854 square miles throughout the county. So, the question is, why do we need to upgrade now, the current system is about 26 years old and has basically reached the end of its useful life. It does not provide the coverage needed and there are a lot of dead spots in the county. The undersheriff said one of the things he does is randomly watch some of the body cams from some of the deputies to see what they are doing and how they are handling calls. Often, he sees where they are unable to communicate with their radios at different calls that they are at, a lot of times it is due to where they are at in the county. So, now we are in the South end of the county and there is a lot of area down here a lot of times they cannot communicate with dispatch on the radio. He said if you think about it technology needs have really changed over the years, technology has just gotten a lot better. The thing with Dickinson County is that they are one of five counties that has not upgraded in the entire state of Kansas, that has not upgraded to the state 800 radio communication system. All the counties around us have already upgraded and are on it. So, basically that means that they can communicate with each other, and they can communicate with the highway patrol and anybody else that has upgraded and is on that system. So, Dickinson County is left on their own little island. The Undersheriff, Sheriff and Fire Chief continued to have a conversation with the Mayor and Council about examples of the communication problems they have with the current radio system and explained with the new system they will get two more towers and will be able to utilize existing towers in neighboring counties. They explained that the cost is going to be a quarter of one cent for the next five years. It will replace every radio and every responder. They will get more mobiles for fire, police department, local PD, sheriff's office, EMS, dispatch has already been

updated using some grant money. The undersheriff said the solution to our problems is moving to this state 800 radio system, it will require two new tower sites, one over by Herington and one South of Abilene. It will require them to replace their mobile radios as well as the car radios. He said so to pay for this they discussed a property tax increase, however that wasn't a very popular one. Grants have been looked at, unfortunately, there isn't much grant money out there. So, what was decided was, there will be a question on the ballot for a quarter percent sales tax increase. The funds will be earmarked to be used only for public safety projects. There was another conversation between the guest, Mayor and Council. Mayor Ryff asked if the Council had any more questions. The Sheriff Jerry Davis said if anyone has questions, they are welcome to call him anytime. He emphasized that this is a huge issue, and this is the only resolution they have right now. Fred French asked how soon would this system take effect. Mr. Vaughn said that the election is November 7, 2023, and if it passes, they are wanting to get started right away, they are to be up and running in June 2024. Mr. Davis asked if there were any other concerns, I mentioned the speeding on Main Street. There was a short conversation, and no action was taken. The Sheriff, Undersheriff and Fire Chief thanked the council and left. The Mayor said he wanted to continue back into the meeting.

The Mayor asked me to do roll call, it showed the following present: Fred French, Robin Moniz and Daniel Schwindt. Gordon Hunnicutt and Ginger Stewart were absent.

Previous Meeting Minutes: Mayor Ryff said the next item of business is the minutes from the previous meeting. Robin Moniz made a motion to accept the minutes as written from September 13<sup>th</sup>, 2023. Fred French seconded the motion and the motion passed 3-0.

Appropriation Ordinance: Mayor Ryff said next is appropriation ordinance #1146 He said if there are any questions please ask. Daniel Schwindt made a motion to approve appropriation ordinance #1146, Fred French seconded the motion. The motion carried 3-0.

Treasurers Report: The mayor said the next item of business is the Treasurer's report. Mayor Ryff asked if there were any questions on the financial statement. Fred French made a motion to approve the September 1<sup>st</sup> – September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023, treasurers report. Daniel Schwindt seconded the motion and it passed 3-0.

New Business: Mayor Ryff said under new business basically they were here to talk about the quarter percent sales tax presentation and that is done. The next item of business is the demo estimate, this is for the house that is just West of the mini park. He said that he called two people to get estimates and the price quotes are in the notebooks. Rutz Construction came in at \$11,000.00 and Feist Property Maintenance was \$11,500.00. There was a conversation between the Council and Mayor. Fred French made a motion to accept the bid for \$11,000.00, for the house removal on second avenue, from Rutz Construction, Daniel Schwindt seconded the motion. The motion carried

3-0. The Mayor said now we are ready for item C. We are basically looking at John Moniz's yearly evaluation. He said he evaluates John as pretty darn good help. With that, I don't know if you have any questions for John, but I will let him talk a little bit later in the meeting about what he has been doing for the maintenance department. But John was wanting to know if he could get a pay raise is the long and short of it. There was a conversation between John, the Mayor and Council. Fred French made a motion to give John a four percent raise. Daniel Schwindt seconded the motion and the motion passed 3-0.

Maintenance Report: Mayor Ryff said John isn't normally at the meetings and normally he don't request him to come to the meetings. The Mayor said he would let John give the maintenance report. John said he would like to know if there is anything he could do to improve things. He said he knows they have issues with people throwing their limbs in the ditches he said he has been going there and picking them up. He said he can help the older people when they can't make it out to the burn pit he can help. There was a conversation with John, the Council and Mayor. No action was taken.

Clerks Update: I sent the 2024 budget paperwork along with the RNR resolution paperwork to the County Clerk's office. Went over to the bank and got the Jumbo CD paperwork out of the deposit box and had them cash that CD and move it into the special 11-month CD. I called the register of deeds about the City's legal description and asked what all would be required for her to process the resolution and the actual written description. She explained that she would have to have the original papers to process the information. I let Larry know and took the paperwork to Abilene to the register of deeds office. I also contacted KDOT to send the information to the transportation engineer's office, they gave me an email to send it to and I did, then I received an email back saying it was being processed. Larry asked me to reach out to our city attorney Brian Bina and set up a conference call to discuss a possible contract with interested parties wanting to build on the city's properties. We talked with Brian, and he said that he would put something together for us to look over. Called and talked to Sequoyah about adding some account numbers for the digital sign expense and digital sign income. We also added the information for the new special 11-month CD.

Mayor's Discussion: Mayor Ryff asked if there were any questions, He said he had a couple more things to go over. The Mayor said one of the items that did occur last Wednesday, was we did have a conference call with Brian Bina the city attorney. He said he wanted to get some paperwork ironed out on these idle and abandoned properties that the city bought from the tax sale. So, he discussed with Brian the idea of having some sort of a contract and how the paperwork would work. Brian said that he would get the paperwork together for the next council meeting. Mayor Ryff said moving on sometime over the next 30 days the American Legion Auxiliary building will be transferred into the City of Hope's name. He said the next thing that he would like to do is have a couple

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of council members sit in with him, with a couple of the library board members and iron out how exactly things are going to work between the library and the City. There was a conversation between the Mayor and Council. Fred French, Daniel Schwindt and Robin Moniz said that they would attend the meeting to work out the details with the library. The Mayor said the other item, there was a picture of a dead tree in the notebooks sitting on the property on second Avenue. He said the tree is too tall for the City to handle and we are hiring Todd Elliott to take the tree down and wanted to let the council know.

Fred French made a motion to adjourn, and Daniel Schwint seconded the motion. The motion carried 3-0.

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Larry Ryff, Mayor

Attested:

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Joni Rikard, Clerk