

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
JANUARY 3, 2023
6:00

NOTE TO PERSONS REVIEWING THIS DOCUMENT: THIS IS NOT A VERBATIM TRANSCRIPT. WHILE AN ATTEMPT HAS BEEN MADE TO DOCUMENT PERTINENT POINTS, THESE MINUTES CONTAIN ONLY A SUMMARY OF THE DISCUSSION AND VOTING

Mayor Valerie Rogers called the January 3, 2023 regular council meeting to order at 6:00 at the Community Center.

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Town Council members present were Alisha Anderson; Steven Walk, David Rafferty and Emily Thomas. Others present were Nicole and Ella Martin, Ben Merritt, Amanda Blood, Erica Warren Richard Ralidis. Brian and Diane Kooyman, Devin Billington and Cheryl Loeffler.

ACTION

Emily Thomas moved to excuse Alisha Anderson from the December 6th and the adjourned December 28th council meetings due to illness; seconded by Steven Walk. The motion was approved 3-0 with Alisha abstaining.

Nicole Martin and Ben Merritt

Nicole and Ben came to the meeting to answer the questions the council had for them. The main reason that they want to put the bench here in Fairfield is that when their daughter gets older, she will have a place to come to sit and be close to her father who was killed at the intersection of Main Street and Highway 27 in October. They would use rough-cut timbers, which are known to last a very long time and either paint or stain it. They also plan on pouring some cement so the bench would be attached to that with a chain to detour any theft. The family is very happy to maintain the upkeep and repairing of any damages of the bench at their expense. There has not been a decision for placement but they will do a walk-through as soon as they can get into the park and meet with Devin. Cheryl will contact the town's attorney about composing a maintenance contract.

Public Comments

Mayor Rogers has added this section to the agenda to allow our residents some time that they can express their thoughts, concerns, compliments or anything that they need to say. Typically, this time is set aside for subjects that are not on the agenda and do not need immediate action. Residents will be allowed two (2) minutes to talk. If more time is needed, they will have to arrange to be placed on the agenda for the next meeting.

Amanda Blood

Amanda commented that the memorial bench is a very good thing.

Old Business

Food Bank Lease

The wording about who is responsible for damages needs to be clearer. This will be worked on and presented to the council one more time before it goes to the food bank.

204 & 208 Main Street Sewer Connections

There is a possibility that the property owner would cap off two of the sewer lines that are on his property. The town has to meet our obligation to provide sewer service to each property but the capping of these two lines is possible only because the building has three individual sewer lines and would still have one remaining that services the property. An agreement will be established stating that there will be a fee charged per line for public works to cap the lines and that the property owner acknowledges that once the lines are capped, if they were to be reconnected at some time, the reconnection fee would be charged that is listed on the then current Fee Schedule.

It will be brought to his attention that there is a sewer improvement project scheduled for the alley behind town hall this summer and it might be in his best interest to wait for that so that the alley won't have to be torn up twice.

Valerie will work at putting this agreement together.

New Business

There was no new business tonight.

Department/Council Reports

Department reports will pick up again the first meeting in February with the mayor's report being first. David Rafferty will take over the street department.

Public Works

Sewer

Wastewater samples going in this week

Streets

- Bridge weight restrictions recommended 36TONS, would need to put signs up.

Due to their condition, the county has placed weight restrictions on both bridges. Most of the trucks that run over the streets in Fairfield are below the limit. Devin was advised that all the town has to do is to put signs up stating the restrictions. Once the signs are in place, the sheriff's office and Weights and Measures will enforce the restrictions.

ACTION

Steve moved to approve the purchase of four (4) traffic signs for weight restrictions to be placed on each side of both bridges in town and to remain in place year-round; seconded by Emily. The motion was approved 4-0.

- Prepping for next round of snow, servicing snow removal equipment
- More Ice melt purchased.

Parks

Water

- Bacteria sample going in this week.
- Water leak at WWTF repaired
- Water leak Prairie View

General

An Example of a Regular Task:

Free Chlorine Tests (15 Min.)

Free Chlorine tests are taken every working day in Fairfield. The process involves allowing water to run through a faucet in town for about 5 minutes, then a 10ml sample is taken out of that faucet and a chlorine reagent is added to the tap water. This will turn the water a pink color, the darker pink the more chlorine. The operator in the past would then compare shades of pink to a color wheel, with technology now we have a machine to read the parts chlorine in our water system. Fairfield is asked to keep our water supply at a minimum of 0.2mg/L up to 4.0mg/L in compliance with DOH standards. Fairfield is maintaining that standard. If you have any interest in this topic, we would be happy to discuss it further with you.

Approval of the Minutes from December 28, 2022 regular council meeting

ACTION

Steve moved and David seconded to approve the minutes of the December 28, 2022 regular council meeting that was adjourned from Dec 20th, as read. The motion was approved 3-0 with Alisha abstaining.

Approval of the January 3, 2023 Claims

Emily moved and Steve seconded to approve the January 3, 2023 claims with EFT for \$68.51 and checks # 21127-21141 for \$34,417.71 contingent on the missing Mastercard receipts are brought in or the affidavits signed within two days and the actual transactions for Rockford Auto and payroll for Johnna Horlacher that are listed on the check register are included in the pile. The motion was approved 3-1 with Alisha voting against.

	12-31-2022
Claims	\$34,417.71
Payroll	68.11
Total Paid	\$34,485.82

Signed by Steven Walk, David Rafferty and Emily Thomas

The USDA loan payment check #21126 written on 12-28-22 was destroyed in the mail so it was voided but the amount was already transferred between bank accounts. Reissued #21139 to USDA for the same amount but the \$14,032.09 was transferred between bank accounts again. That amount will be subtracted from the next transfer of funds after the council meeting on January 17th.

Other

Amanda Blood reported that the tree and lights in the park will be taken down this coming Saturday, weather and flooding permitting.

Both Mayor Rogers and Alisha Anderson will be absent from the January 17th meeting. Mayor Pro-Tem Thomas will run the meeting with a light agenda. The closing for the council vacancy will be moved to February 3rd with appointment on February 7th because of their absence.

Compliments/Complaints

Steve Walk complimented the guys for responding to the water leaks so quickly.

Dates to Remember

January 16th Office and public works closed for Martin Luther King Day

January 17th Valerie and Alisha will be gone.

ACTION

Steve moved to adjourn the council meeting; seconded by Alisha. The motion was approved.

With no further business, the mayor closed the meeting at 7:27 pm.


Valerie Rogers, Mayor

Emily Thomas, Mayor-Pro Tem


Cheryl Loeffler, Clerk/Treasurer