

CITY OF HUMBOLDT
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MINUTES
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2014 - 7:00 P.M.

The Council met in regular session on Monday, February 10, 2014, in the Community Room at City Hall. Mayor Davis called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. with the following Councilmembers present: Aikins, Crawford, Slater, Smith and Stephens. Councilmembers Evans and Shreeve were absent. Also present were: City Administrator Larry Tucker, City Clerk Jean Flores, City Attorney Fred Works, Wastewater Plant Superintendent Roger Vincent, Officer Steve Michealson, Bruce Boettcher-BG Consultants, Damaris Kunkler and Debbie Bearden-Thrive Allen County, and Cindy Holinsworth.

The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance and Councilmember Crawford gave the invocation.

Motion by Stephens, second by Crawford that the agenda be amended as follows: Table Item 7-Consider swimming pool contract amendment with USA Pools, and add Item 9-Consider contract to review City reserve funds for City financial planning, which would move Item 9 to 10 and Item 10 to 11. Motion carried unanimously.

Under Public Comments, Councilmember Stephens noted that City crews had done a good job on snow removal. He also asked that the City Limit sign on the north edge of town be moved farther north to the correct location.

Motion by Aikins, second by Slater that the Consent Agenda be approved as presented. Motion carried unanimously. The Consent Agenda consisted of the following:

- a. Approval of minutes of Regular Council Meeting January 13, 2014
- b. Warrant Ordinance No. 1789 dated January 30, 2014 in the amount of \$70,263.47 and Warrant Ordinance No. 1790 dated February 10, 2014 in the amount of \$211,159.94

Mayor Davis recommended Cindy Holinsworth to fill the unexpired vacancy as Councilmember in Ward 2, Position 3 due to Bryan Manion's resignation. Motion by Aikins, second by Crawford to accept the Mayor's recommendation. Motion carried unanimously.

City Clerk Jean Flores gave the Oath of Office to Cindy Holinsworth.

Damaris Kunkler and Debbie Bearden, representatives of Thrive Allen County, were present to share information on their Healthy Communities Initiative, in which they have received a grant to work on forming a food policy council for Allen County, their goal being that every town have access to groceries without having to travel out of town. The Mayor and Council were receptive to the idea.

Motion by Aikins, second by Slater to authorize the Mayor to negotiate the purchase of a new generator for the Wastewater Treatment Plant up to \$25,000.00. Motion carried unanimously. With the assistance of Bruce Boettcher-BG Consultants, and Wastewater Treatment Plant Superintendent Roger Vincent, it is hoped that the purchase of the new generator can be made quickly as the City must pay monthly rent on a standby generator in case of an emergency due to Kansas Department of Health & Environment regulations under the Phase I and Phase II improvements that are being made.

Motion by Stephens, second by Aikins to approve up to \$30,000 for a transfer switch, engineering services and installation charges for Phase II of the Wastewater Treatment Plant improvements. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Aikins, second by Crawford to give the Downtown Action Team authority to proceed with a grant application to do a survey of qualifying historic properties in the downtown area that might be eligible for grants and funding to improve their buildings. Motion carried unanimously.

Councilmember Aikins said the Mayor and Council would like to enlist the services of Rebecca Wood, Budget Analyst for the City of Chanute, to help the City of Humboldt with financial planning, review income and expenditures, find savings wherever possible, and find ways to rebuild its reserves. The City's auditors agreed that outside services of this type would be helpful. The Mayor explained this would be a paid position for approximately eight weeks at \$4,000.00. Motion by Aikins, second by Stephens that the City enlist the services of Rebecca Wood to review City finances and find ways to rebuild its reserves. Motion carried unanimously.

City Administrator Larry Tucker reported on the following: The Animal Vaccination Clinic will be held Saturday, February 22, from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. in the Cabin at Camp Hunter; a bandstand celebration and concert will be held April 12; City Hall Days which is sponsored by the League of Kansas Municipalities was canceled due to bad weather and rescheduled for February 19; and the Housing Action Team continues to meet to discuss ways to utilize their recent \$100,000.00 grant.

City Administrator Larry Tucker said the City was notified last week by the Kansas Municipal Gas Agency, where the City purchases gas, that natural gas prices are rising sharply and consumers are being asked to cut back on gas consumption due to a possible shortage and/or higher prices. He said that gas had spiked to over \$30.00 per unit one day this week, but had gone back down to around \$8.00 per unit. It is unknown at this time what prices will be for the City's February utility billing.

Motion by Stephens, second by Aikins to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

/s/ Nobby Davis
Mayor

ATTEST:

/s/ Jean M. Flores
City Clerk