

Atwood City Council
June 18, 2015
Regular Meeting
City Hall, 7:00 PM

Atwood City Council met in **regular session** June 18, 2015 at City Hall. The meeting was called to order by the Honorable Mayor Tim Colgan at 7:00 PM. Others present were Councilmembers Gary Fisher, Dietrich Kastens, Mark Mosley, Mark Vrbas; City Clerk Keri Riener; City Attorney Charles Peckham; Chief of Police Brian Withington; and City Superintendent Rick Kramer. Councilwoman Sandy Mulligan and Rosalie Ross from the Rawlins County Square Deal were absent.

The **Agenda** was approved as presented on motion of Councilman Mark Vrbas, seconded by Councilman Dietrich Kastens, approved by all.

The **Minutes** of May 21, 2015 were approved as circulated on motion of Councilman Kastens, seconded by Councilman Vrbas, approved by all.

The **Bills** were approved as read on motion of Councilman Gary Fisher, seconded by Councilman Kastens, approved by all.

Public Comments: none

Appearances:

Jan Ackerman, Zoning Officer was not present to report to the council.

Vicki Hubin appeared before Council representing **Western Kansas Child Advocacy Center**. WKCAC has offices in Colby, Sublette and Scott City, assisting children that have been sexually abused or have witnessed a violent crime. They have advocates on staff to support the child and family and mobile units that provide child friendly environments. WKCAC also offers prevention education through classes or printed materials. With a staff of seven employees, they cover thirty counties in western Kansas. Five children in Atwood were served in 2014. Vicki expressed gratitude for past donations and requests continuance of funding in the 2016 budget.

Karin Leibbrant, Roger Prideaux and Tara Bowles represented the **Kelley Park Improvement Board, requesting permission to dissolve their committee**. This committee was formed at Mayor Joe Cabrinha's request as volunteers were raising substantial funds to enhance Kelley Park. The current balance of the park reserve fund is \$11,530.31. Files of purchase history and information were provided to assist with future decisions. They requested that their raised funds be used for Kelley Park specifically. Mayor Tim Colgan agreed that since people explicitly donated money for Kelley Park, it will be designated for that use. Project ideas given by the board were a new buffalo to replace "Bud" and possibly resurfacing three benches near the pool building. They will get bids for these two items to Gary Fisher, who is on the tree board that will oversee Kelley Park improvements in the future. The need for restrooms in the park was also discussed. They noted that the playground equipment company recommended an annual park walk-through to check the equipment to be sure it stays in safe condition. The board thanked City Superintendent Rick Kramer and his crew for their great work and wonderful care of the park. The council expressed appreciation for the board and their ongoing dedication to improving the condition and beauty of Kelley Park. It is an asset to the community and provides a place for families and children to enjoy playing outdoors. **City Attorney Charles Peckham will draft a**

resolution to dissolve the Kelley Park Improvement Board for council approval at the July council meeting.

David Blau with Miller & Associates presented **Invoice #15-0391 for the amount of \$2326.25**. This total covers the construction service of line that was put in from January through March, outlined in the Engineering Service Agreement. Councilman Vrbas made a motion to **pay the total due on Invoice #15-0391 in the amount of \$2326.25 for services rendered**, Councilman Mosley seconded, approved by all. The invoice will be sent to David Barber of USDA for their approval before being paid.

In a **Sewer Project Update**, David and Tyson plan to flag the area where the lift station will be located at the Columbian Hall next week. The city attorney has been communicating with Highway 25 property owners about easements. He has three more to complete. The KDOT right of way permit has not been received at city hall. David Blau will call to check the status of the permit because following its completion and USDA approval of the city attorney's property docket, documenting all the easements and permits, the bidding phase can begin. There will be two sets of plans and specs, the first will consist of lining the sewer pipes and the second will cover the construction of new piping at Greason Industrial Park and crossing Highway 25 between Blaine Street and Pearl Street. Mayor Tim Colgan commented that some settling has occurred near Prairie Plaza and in the alley near the new homes. City Superintendent Rick Kramer said he filled in the area at Prairie Plaza and plans to fill in the alley. David Blau will send a reminder to Rick prior to the end of the one year warranty on the job so they can check the locations to see if anything needs to be fixed before the warranty expiration.

Old Business: none

New Business:

Mayor Colgan suggested appointing Scott Howard to the library board. Councilman Kastens **moved to accept the Mayor's recommendation of Scott Howard to the library board**, Councilman Vrbas seconded, approved by all.

The council discussed the upcoming budget workshop, originally suggested for June 30th. Due to scheduling conflicts, the council determined to meet for the **budget workshop on Monday, July 6th at 8:15 AM** at City Hall.

Department Reports:

City Clerk Keri Riener highlighted this month's activities. Budget preparation is starting, with departments turning in their information to be included in the 2016 Budget. The clerk's office requested a new Ricoh copier, as the current copy machine is past its warranty life for replacement parts and has had a few issues in the past months. Office Works has provided a bid for the copier and accessories. Keri has also requested a bid for a new desk, as the current desk is dated and a bit inefficient in terms of space and storage. Council members were in favor of updating the copier and desk. Keri will contact Office Works to proceed with the purchases. The pool staff is successfully using the new spreadsheets, balancing their revenue from activities, pool attendance and concessions.

City Attorney Charles Peckham presented his handout to Council. He sent out letters concerning bad checks, issued a number of bench warrants and discussed tickets and payments with defendants on various cases. The number of alcohol cases has recently increased. He received the Mandate from the Supreme Court on the Pinalto case. The process for communicating delivery of court appearance paperwork has been streamlined with the city clerk's office. In a sewer project update, two easements

have been returned and one is on the way. The airport title opinion is being worked on, appraisal being conducted and Charles is coordinating with Jan Ackerman on the airport zoning. Judge Pratt has not set a hearing date on the Persinger Building Case. There is a new attorney for the defendant.

LaRue Horinek contacted Charles about donating two lots to the city. They lots have some trees and the city crew is already mowing this area, as it is next to a drainage ditch owned by the city. Councilman Kastens **moved to accept the gift of Lots 1 and 2 on Block 1, Original Town from LaRue Horinek**, Councilman Vrbas seconded, approved by all.

Charles updated the Council on the last **theater board** meeting. Unfortunately, the pretzel sales were low at Rod Run. However, Ana has expressed interest in possibly selling them at Lake Atwood Days. Summer Recreation movies begin next Thursday, June 25th at 2:00 PM. There is a great lineup of movies for the kids to enjoy in the air conditioned theater; admission is covered by Summer Recreation. The board discussed painting part of the lobby to determine if it will match the new carpet. Bike racks have been suggested to keep the entryway free of bicycles. They will most likely be on the east side of the theater.

Police Chief Brian Withington presented his report from May 21, 2015 through June 18, 2015. His department worked 19 reports. There were 8 arrests made, a number of warnings given and 23 tickets issued. Other patrol activity included 402 public relations, 45 business checks and 63 miscellaneous complaints. The police department has been running radar at busy summer areas. Since violations of driving restrictions have increased, Brian provided a handout outlining driving age restrictions and penalties.

City Superintendent Rick Kramer presented his report showing the areas where the city crew has spent their time since the last meeting. As usual this season, it has been spent mowing at the park, well field, hydrants and draws as well as cleaning the streets after rain washed sand and dirt into the streets. The water report shows the amount of water pumped and sold for the month. The depth to the wells has remained consistent. Rick also presented his equipment report, noting one tractor breakdown was fixed and everything else is in good shape. The mosquito fogger was certified last week. They are will be out this week in the evenings, as weather permits. The next time they will spray will most likely be prior to July 4th activities. Rick said Kansas Rural Water Association presented a wastewater class for area operators. It was well attended and Atwood's Wastewater Plant was toured. This was the first clinic that has been held in the area and it will count toward city crew educational credits.

Council Reports:

Councilman Gary Fisher reported that the tree board did not meet this month. The Housing Authority is planning to make an income adjustment to their policy. Their 2014 audit is complete. A tenant barbeque is being planned for July.

Councilman Dietrich Kastens reported that there were no zoning or pool meetings held this month. The Fire Department met Monday, with low attendance. The trucks were started and taken for a drive to be sure everything was in working order.

Councilman Mark Mosley reported that the library board did not have a meeting, as they did not have a quorum. Charles reported on the theater since Mark was unable to attend. The airport board met. The office roof has a leak that will be fixed by Clarence. The township has advised the airport board that their fee for maintenance will increase next year from \$400 to \$500 per month.

Councilwoman Sandy Mulligan was not present at the meeting.

Councilman Mark Vrbas reported he had planned to attend the solid waste meeting, but other activities made it impossible to be there. He suggested touring the city facilities in August to allow new council members and employees to see the infrastructure of the city.

Mayors Notes:

The mayor, city superintendent and city clerk attended an Emergency Management Meeting in Goodland last month.

Mayor Tim Colgan traveled to Stockton with Dawn Hampton and Sandy Mulligan to participate in the Extension Office's First Impressions Program. They were instructed to drive into Stockton from all directions and discuss their first five minute impression of the town. They discovered it was well groomed, with nice signage and a well maintained Main Street district. However, they noticed there were only about six vehicles on Main Street. The empty businesses were made to look inhabited with painted facades. Stockton is experiencing a housing shortage, much like Atwood, with only four houses appearing to be for sale. This activity opened participants' eyes to looking at our own city from an outside perspective. There is a lot to be excited about in Atwood, with the archway over Fourth Street, welcome signs from all four directions into town and a bustling downtown area, with both sides of the street being busy with vehicles. A second group from Atwood will visit Stockton later this month. The First Impressions group from Stockton will visit Atwood unannounced in the near future to give their opinions of our city as well.

With no further business to come before Council, Councilman Fisher moved to adjourn, seconded by Councilman Vrbas. The **meeting adjourned at 9:05 PM.**

Keri Riener, City Clerk

Tim Colgan, Mayor