

Atwood City Council  
January 21, 2016  
Regular Meeting  
City Hall, 7:00 PM

Atwood City Council met in **regular session** January 21, 2016 at City Hall. The meeting was called to order by the Honorable Mayor Tim Colgan at 7:05 PM. Others present were Councilmembers Gary Fisher, Sandy Mulligan, Mark Vrbas; City Clerk Keri Riener; City Attorney Charles Peckham; Chief of Police Brian Withington; City Superintendent Rick Kramer; Rosalie Ross of the Rawlins County Square Deal. Councilmembers Dietrich Kastens and Mark Mosley were absent.

Amendments to the **Agenda** were discussed. Changes included the Order of New Business: moving the updated city fee schedule resolution to item b, newspaper designation resolution to item c and adding bank designations as item d. An Executive Session was added to the end of the agenda following Mayor's Notes. Councilman Mark Vrbas moved to **approve the amended agenda**, seconded by Councilman Gary Fisher, approved by all.

The **Minutes** of December 17, 2015 meeting were approved as circulated on motion of Councilman Fisher, seconded by Councilwoman Sandy Mulligan, approved by all.

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

**Public Comments:**

Margaret Hagler appeared before Council to propose a pavilion-like cover for the intersection area of 4<sup>th</sup> Street and Main Street. The Mayor and Council expressed gratitude for Margaret's continued dedication to dressing up the downtown area of the city. Council was in favor of looking into the idea, as the money used to design and construct the structure would be obtained through donations to Margaret's beautification fund. The next step is to design the structure with an engineer and research the cost and construction involved. She will update the Council as the project progresses.

**Appearances:**

**Kim Krebs**, representing Simplot Grower Solutions discussed the upcoming Emergency Preparedness Meeting being held at their location just east of Atwood on March 12<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 AM. There will be a tour of the facility, a notebook outlining the emergency plan and listing the hazardous chemicals that are on site in case an emergency spill ever occurs. They have four Hazmat certified employees at Simplot. There is lunch provided, so an RSVP is appreciated.

**Chris Sramek and Laury Migchelbrink** presented information on the Healthy Communities Initiative, a grassroots group from Rawlins and Cheyenne Counties that promote active lifestyles and health living. They received a grant in 2012 that focuses on improving lifestyle and the infrastructure to support those choices. This grant is being used to participate in a Summer Meal Program called Kansas Kids Table. This program is federally funded and because more than 50% of Rawlins County School Kids qualify for the reduced meal program at school, **all** children in Rawlins County less than 18 years of age will be eligible to participate. Rawlins County USD 105 is sponsoring the program, so the meals will be prepared in the elementary school kitchen. Lunch and an afternoon snack will be provided each day, with only a count being kept of the number of kids participating, no names will be recorded. 6<sup>th</sup> Grade and younger children

will be served lunch in the elementary school cafeteria, 7<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> Grade lunch meals will be transported to a location to be determined. The afternoon snack will be served at Kelley Park, if approved, to access the most children possible at that time of day. Councilwoman Mulligan moved to **allow Kansas Kids Table to serve free snacks in the afternoon in Kelley Park**, seconded by Councilman Fisher, approved by all. Council thanked Chris and Laury for the work they have put into this project and expressed satisfaction knowing healthy options will be available for area children during the summer break.

**David Blau with Miller & Associates** was not present at the meeting.

**Old Business:** none.

**New Business:**

The **2016 Holiday Schedule** was approved on motion of Councilman Fisher, seconded by Councilman Vrbas, approved by all.

**Resolution 16-01 concerning the updated City Fee Schedule** for 2016 was discussed. Councilman Vrbas moved to approve the 2016 Fee Schedule to go into effect February 1, 2016, with the updated sewer and water rates to go into effect May 1, 2016, seconded by Councilman Fisher, approved by all.

**Resolution 16-02 designating the Rawlins County Square Deal** as the official newspaper for the City of Atwood was approved on motion of Councilwoman Mulligan, seconded by Councilman Vrbas, approved by all.

**Resolution 16-03 declaring the three local banks as the financial institutions** to be used as depositories of funds for the City of Atwood was approved on motion of Councilman Fisher, seconded by Councilwoman Mulligan, approved by all.

**Department Reports:**

**City Clerk Keri Riener** reported the General Fund Cash Carryover for 2015 as \$112,478.24 and the new Special Street Improvement Fund transfer of \$24,750.00. If this money had not been transferred, the cash carryover would have been over \$137,000.00. Councilmembers were encouraged to contact the city clerk if they would be unable to attend meetings, so a quorum is certain. The 2015 year was closed in the computer software and 2016 is now open. The W-2's and 1099's have been mailed and filed with the state and IRS. The loader payment of \$32,000 and the street sweeper payment of \$12,314.94 have been made this month. The Kansas Rural Water Conference is scheduled for March 29<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup>. Councilmembers planning to attend this year should turn their registration forms in to the city clerk by the end of February, so registration can be sent in as a group.

**City Attorney Charles Peckham** presented his handout to Council. He sent out letters concerning bad checks, issued bench warrants and discussed tickets and payments with defendants on various cases. The DUI trial set for January 15<sup>th</sup> was pled out by the defendant prior to the court date. He met with the airport board and has obtained one of the easements necessary and has talked to the new appraiser. The Persinger Building Cases have been delayed, with a new court date of May 2, 2016.

**Police Chief Brian Withington** presented his report. His department worked 32 reports from December 17, 2015 through January 21, 2016. There were 17 arrests made, 31 warnings given and 17 tickets issued. Other patrol activity included 118 public relations, 10 business checks and 97 miscellaneous complaints. Brian informed Council that Gabrielle Withington's last day with the police department will be January

31<sup>st</sup>. The Council expressed regrets that the city will be losing a good officer. Many positive comments about Gabe's public interaction and work as an officer were received while he was a city employee.

**City Superintendent Rick Kramer** presented his report showing the areas where the city crew has spent their time since the last meeting. Maintenance on well houses, the lake restrooms and equipment have been completed during the chilly days. The water report shows the amount of water pumped and sold for the month. The 2015 Year End Report shows a 4% overall water loss for the year. Only Wells #6 and #8 are currently being used. The depth to the wells has remained consistent. While Vap Construction Inc. repairs the City Fire Barn, the fire vehicles are parked in the city shop and maintenance work is being completed on them. The report for the water meter that was sent in for testing last month came back. It showed no fault in the water meter operation, so increased water usage was due to actual usage, not an error in the meter. Rick reported that all four city crew members plan to attend KRWA Conference and two of them will take the water test this year. Someone will be on call to cover the city water issues while the city crew is gone for the KRWA Conference.

#### **Council Reports:**

**Councilman Gary Fisher** reported that the Atwood's Tree City USA application has been submitted. If awarded, this will be the city's 20<sup>th</sup> year of designation. The Housing Authority will hold their annual meeting on February 1<sup>st</sup> at 10:00 AM.

**Councilwoman Sandy Mulligan** shared that some activity has been happening with Economic Development, but it is not complete at this time.

**Councilman Mark Vrbas** informed Council about an article in KRWA's publication. Stories of other cities nationwide and their struggles with water infrastructure are widespread. He commented on how fortunate the city is to have an underground water source.

#### **Mayors Notes:**

Mayor Tim Colgan updated Council on the Kelley Park Restrooms. Work will begin in the spring to complete the project. He met with the city clerk, city attorney and chief of police to discuss updated court documents to expedite the municipal court process and collection of payments. The fire barn roof repair is almost complete.

At this time, Mayor Colgan called for an executive session regarding attorney/client privilege on confidential matters. Councilman Fisher **moved to go into executive session at 8:35 PM, to not exceed 15 minutes**, seconded by Councilwoman Mulligan, approved by all. City Clerk Keri Riener was asked to attend. The regular meeting resumed at 8:50 PM. Following the executive session, Councilwoman Mulligan moved to **give City Attorney Charles Peckham permission to apply for a grant to move forward with the process to clear the VENZA Persinger and Majestic Auto Supply Properties and the settlements of those properties**, seconded by Councilman Vrbas, approved by all.

With no further business to come before Council, Councilman Fisher moved to adjourn, seconded by Councilwoman Mulligan, approved by all. The **meeting adjourned at 8:55 PM.**

Keri Riener, City Clerk

Tim Colgan, Mayor