

Atwood City Council
January 19, 2017
Regular Meeting
City Hall, 7:00 PM

Atwood City Council met in **regular session** January 19, 2017 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, Mark Mosley, 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. Councilmember Dietrich Kastens was absent. Rawlins County Sheriff Ken Higley attended the meeting, arriving following Sewer Project discussion.

The **Agenda** was approved as circulated on motion of Councilman Mark Mosley, seconded by Councilwoman Sandy Mulligan, approved by all.

The **Minutes** of the regular meeting on December 15, 2016 were approved as circulated on motion of Councilman Mosley, seconded by Councilman Mark Vrbas, approved by all.

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

Public Comments: none.

Appearances:

Corey Castens appeared to inform Council about pending changes at the Recycling Center. The Prairie Development Center Representative that works with the Recycling Center has informed him that the PDC will not renew their contract upon expiration in September 2017 due to staff shortages and other issues. Castens wanted to share this with Council so a plan may be developed before that date to allow operations to continue smoothly. He expressed interest in the city and county working together to possibly open it more days of the week to allow full use of the facility. Mayor Tim Colgan stated that the city owns the building and will look into the expenses paid by both the city and county to discuss possibilities at a future meeting. However, the 2017 City Budget was adopted last year, so costs associated with the Recycling Center will need to stay within those set budget amounts. This topic will be added to the March City Council Agenda to be discussed when more data is available.

David Blau with Miller & Associates was not at the meeting. Miller & Associate's Invoice #16-0968 for the amount of \$31,582.50 was submitted for payment and covers professional services including construction observation services, lagoon structure modifications, processing pay requests and change order items for the months of October and November 2016 as outlined in the Engineering Service Agreement. Councilman Fisher moved to **pay the total due on Miller and Associate's Invoice #16-0968 in the amount of \$31,582.50**, Councilwoman Mulligan seconded, approved by all. The invoice will be reviewed by David Barber of USDA for approval before being paid.

Old Business: none.

New Business:

Mayor Tim Colgan expressed appreciation on behalf of the City of Atwood for the years of service Judge Pat Carroll provided in municipal court. Following Judge Carroll's retirement as Rawlins County Magistrate

Judge, the mayor contacted Judge Rick Ress from Colby to take on municipal court judge duties, beginning with the January court date. Councilman Mosley moved to **approve termination of Judge Pat Carroll's tenure with the City of Atwood**, seconded by Councilwoman Mulligan, approved by all. Councilman Vrbas moved to **approve Mayor Colgan's appointment of Judge Rick Ress as Atwood Municipal Judge**, seconded by Councilman Fisher, approved by all.

Resolution 17-01 concerning the updated City Fee Schedule for 2017 was discussed. Councilman Mosley moved to approve the 2017 Fee Schedule to go into effect February 1, 2017, with the updated sewer and water rates to go into effect May 1, 2017, seconded by Councilman Vrbas, approved by all.

Resolution 17-02 designating the Rawlins County Square Deal as the official newspaper and <http://www.atwoodkansas.com> as the official website of the City of Atwood was approved on motion of Councilman Vrbas, seconded by Councilwoman Mulligan, approved by all.

Resolution 17-03 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 Mosley, seconded by Councilwoman Mulligan, approved by all.

Department Reports:

City Clerk Keri Riener reported the General Fund Cash Carryover for 2016 as \$201,784.71, after the Special Street Improvement Fund transfer of \$33,026.75. Other notes of interest: The sewer fund expense budget was \$205,000, with revenues for the year of \$203,677.96 and actual expenses of \$171,767.93. The water fund expense budget was \$566,107.00, with revenues of \$566,743.55 and actual expenses of \$530,263.02. The 2016 year was closed in the computer software and 2017 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 28th – 30th. 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 reviewed his monthly activity handout. He has discussed tickets and payments with defendants on various cases and collected some bad check payments. The City won a motion to suppress on appeal and requested a trial date to be set. The City Attorney worked with tax issues concerning Greason Industrial Park. It is less expensive to pay the minimal property tax amount on the properties rather than file for a tax exemption. Since Charles has recently been sworn in as the Rawlins County Attorney, he is working on changing the worthless check policy to not prosecute checks that have been held over nine months long, as they are more difficult to track down and not cost effective.

Police Chief Brian Withington presented his report. His department worked 13 reports from December 15, 2016 to January 19, 2017. There were 4 arrests made, 37 warnings given and 6 tickets issued. Other patrol activity included 81 public relations, 17 business checks and 44 miscellaneous complaints. The police department has been addressing junk vehicles this month. If owners are home when officers are in the area, the officers are handing them a letter with violation information and a deadline to comply as well as having a discussion, answering any questions in person. Public education is a large part of their objective to enhance compliance. Officer Karla Murguia has been released from the KLETC Academy, and therefore employment with the City of Atwood. She appealed the KLETC decision, but it was denied. New officer ads have been placed in various publications and educational institutions. Councilwoman Mulligan shared that she has received many compliments about Officer Jeremiah Thompson and his involvement in community and sports activities.

City Superintendent Rick Kramer presented his report showing the areas where the city crew has spent their time since the last meeting. With recent weather conditions, the City Crew has been moving snow and ice. All ladders for the swimming pool have been buffed and waxed and are ready for the summer. The water report shows the amount of water pumped and sold for the month. There was a 6% water loss for the month of December and 8% overall water loss for the year. Considering the fluctuations with software and sewer project usage, this is a great statistic for the year. The overall water loss for 2015 was 4%. The depth to the wells has remained consistent. Rick has ordered a new pickup from CW Beamgard. When it arrives, the “old Ford” will be retired.

Council Reports:

Councilman Gary Fisher reported the Housing Authority is a smoke free premises and a new rental policy now enforces rental payment by the 5th of the month. The Tree City USA report has been submitted to the Arbor Day Foundation for the City of Atwood.

Councilman Dietrich Kastens was absent.

Councilman Mark Mosley informed Council that the Library Board has applied for a Dane G Hansen Grant for the automatic door that was discussed at last month’s meeting. The Jayhawk Theater has received a \$1000 donation and will receive Sally Hayden Memorial funds. The purchase of two lighted movie poster display cases is being discussed. The Airport Board is on the agenda for February’s City Council meeting to discuss the FAA grant program.

Councilwoman Sandy Mulligan reported that Economic Development will have a meeting next Monday at City Hall. The board plans to start holding quarterly meetings again since there is more activity.

Councilman Mark Vrbas had nothing to report.

Mayors Notes:

Mayor Colgan has been contacted by Jen Melia and she plans to return as the pool manager this summer. Her history and skill is appreciated, as the pool has run very smoothly under her direction. The pool paint situation was discussed and City Superintendent, Rick Kramer will contact the painting company before the February Council meeting to discuss when the pool is scheduled to be repainted again.

Rick also reported on the status of the Sewer Project, since that wasn’t discussed earlier. The lift station is almost complete. They are waiting for warmer weather to pour cement at the site. An 85 kW generator was specified, but is not currently available, so a 100 kW generator has been offered instead at no additional cost to the city. Shop drawing resubmittals have been provided by BSB for review by the electrical engineer prior to approving the change to the 100 kW generator. A three week timeline is planned for start-up of the new sewer lift station. The existing sewer pump station at the lagoons that is being replaced was monitored during the winter storm to be sure power was maintained, as the existing generator does not currently operate properly. The City Crew would’ve manually pumped it if necessary as purchasing replacement equipment isn’t practical with the new sewer system almost operative.

With no further business to come before Council, Councilman Mosley moved to adjourn, seconded by Councilman Vrbas. The **meeting adjourned at 8:05 PM.**

Keri Riener, City Clerk

Tim Colgan, Mayor