

Atwood City Council
October 12, 2017
Special Meeting
7:30 PM, City Hall

Atwood City Council met in **special session** October 12, 2017 at City Hall. The Honorable Mayor Tim Colgan called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM. Others present were Councilmembers Dietrich Kastens, Mark Mosley, Sandy Mulligan, Mark Vrbas; City Clerk Keri Riener; City/County Attorney Charles Peckham; Rosalie Ross of the Rawlins County Square Deal; County Commissioners Craig Cox, Wilbur Henry and Lisa Woody; Jerry Holste from Rawlins County Sanitation and Corey Castens. Councilmember Gary Fisher, Police Chief Brian Withington and City Superintendent Rick Kramer were absent.

The **Agenda** was approved as presented on motion of Councilman Dietrich Kastens, seconded by Councilwoman Sandy Mulligan, approved by all. Commissioner Wilbur Henry called the Commissioner's meeting to order in conjunction with the City Council meeting.

The purpose of the special meeting **was use of the building utilized for recycling after December 31, 2017**. Commissioner Lisa Woody read a text from retired City Clerk Janet Stice regarding the history of the recycling building. Corey Castens handed out a spreadsheet of funding sources for each of the three recycling grants. Mayor Tim Colgan stated the grant stipulations expired when the grant work was completed in 2009. City/County Attorney Charles Peckham asserted that the grant was complete in 2009 and the documents pertaining to the grant and the deed for the building were made out to the City of Atwood. He reviewed past commissioner meeting minutes regarding the recycling building.

Mayor Tim Colgan shared that Ana Vargas has been hired to fill the position left vacant when the DSNWK contract ended on September 30, 2017. She will manage the recycling operating hours through the end of December 2017.

Councilman Mark Mosley stated that city taxpayers are basically paying for recycling twice, so it's not exactly being funded 50/50 anyway. Recycling is the county's responsibility based on the requirement to have a recycling program in accordance with the county solid waste plan and state law. City taxpayers are paying more than their share for the opportunity to recycle. It may also be more efficient to have only one of the two entities (city/county) managing it. Corey Castens stated the county pays their share as well, as had been outlined in his spreadsheet. Mayor Tim Colgan asked Commissioners the value of 1 mill in the county versus 1 mill in the city. Following no response, he offered the value of 1 county mill is approximately \$37,000, while the value of 1 city mill is approximately \$7,200. His determination is that the county is required by the state to have a recycling program and the county has more resources to offer in the management of the recycling than the city.

Commissioner Henry asked if it would be possible for the County to use the building for recycling use. The county would have all the expense associated with recycling, but would like to use the current building.

Councilman Kastens stated this is a prime example of lack of historical documentation. The intent of the long-term use of the building was not outlined when it was purchased nor the reasoning of why the city and not the county was listed on the deed. There isn't an explanation of the events, but all the grants and deeds list the City of Atwood. Corey Castens stated the Rawlins County Recyclers used two bays of the first building in the late 1990's. When they outgrew that space, they wrote a grant for the new building, then later, equipment and additional storage space. The invoices came through City Hall. They didn't tie anyone to "owning" the operation. Councilman Kastens reiterated that everyone present supports the

recycling efforts by both parties. Now the decision becomes the process of moving forward and determining the most efficient and economical use of the building. The City Hall building has issues that must be addressed. Council must consider continuation of use of the building for recycling versus being a useful infrastructure component for the city for the next twenty years and beyond.

Jerry Holste of Rawlins County Sanitation added that about 2,200 tons of garbage is put in the county landfill each year; about 500-600 tons per quarter. The current big pit has lasted around ten to twelve years and probably has about one to two years left. The next pit, not yet in existence will have an estimated life of about thirty years.

Commissioner Craig Cox asked Council to vote. The state mandate dictates commissioner feelings about recycling, it's required. Can the county use the building and its contents to continue housing recycling at that location? Mayor Colgan offered that regardless of the decision about the building itself, the equipment contents can be moved to a new location for county use. The city has no need for the recycling equipment in the building. Councilman Kastens asked if there is a workable transition; if the city votes to keep the building for city use, could a timeframe be determined to assist the county in some manner to allow Commissioners to find a new location and move the equipment? This would allow recycling to continue uninterrupted for the most part. Mayor Colgan agreed that would be a viable solution. If a decision is made regarding the building, it could still be used for a specified time period while new plans are made. Councilman Kastens requested time for councilmembers to consider the options and vote on the use of the building currently used for recycling at next week's regularly scheduled council meeting. Mayor Colgan tabled the vote until the October 19th City Council meeting.

The Commissioners thanked Council for their time and consideration; adjourned their meeting and exited.

City Attorney Charles Peckham reviewed the need for Council to make a decision regarding lots at Greason Industrial Park. Councilman Kastens moved to **execute the warranty deed conveying the real estate from Lots Six (6) through Seventeen (17), Block Three (3), as re-platted in the Greason Industrial Park, First Addition, of the Original Town (now City) of Atwood, Kansas and the North 115' x 400' of Lots One (1) through Sixteen (16) of Block Four (4), of the Greason Industrial Park, First Addition to Vap Construction, Inc.** Councilman Mosley seconded, approved by Councilmembers Kastens, Mosley and Vrbas, with Councilwoman Mulligan abstaining due to a conflict of interest serving on both City Council and Economic Development Board. Abstained vote goes with majority, motion passed 4-0.

With no further business to come before Council, Councilman Vrbas moved to adjourn, seconded by Councilman Kastens. The **meeting adjourned at 8:45 PM.**

Keri Riener, City Clerk

Tim Colgan, Mayor