

Atwood City Council
January 17, 2019
Regular Meeting
City Hall, 7:00 PM

Atwood City Council met in **regular session** January 17, 2019 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, 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.

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

The **Minutes** of the regular meeting on December 20, 2018 were approved as circulated on motion of Councilman Mark Vrbas, seconded by Councilwoman Mulligan, approved by all.

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

Public Comments: None.

Appearances:

Francisco Aguilar requested a special event CMB license for a dance at the Columbian Hall on February 23rd. There will be individuals at the door checking IDs as people pay to enter the event. Councilman Vrbas moved to **approve the temporary CMB permit to Francisco Aguilar for a public dance at the Columbian Hall from 7:00 pm until 2:00 am on February 23, 2019**, seconded by Councilwoman Mulligan, approved by all. A CMB permit form has been completed. There will be a \$25 fee for the permit.

Old Business: None.

New Business:

Resolution 19-01 concerning the updated City Fee Schedule for 2018 was discussed. Mayor Colgan reminded Council that the water savings fund balance is stable and 2019 income would be maintainable with a reduced rate increase or no increase at all. The sewer fund rate should be increased 5%, as the sewer project has just concluded and a few years of building up the sewer savings fund is recommended. Councilwoman Mulligan **moved to approve the 2019 Fee Schedule effective February 1, 2019, with the 5% sewer rate increase effective May 1, 2019 and no water rate increase for 2019**. Councilman Fisher seconded, approved by all.

Resolution 19-02 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 Councilwoman Mulligan, seconded by Councilman Fisher, approved by all.

Resolution 19-03 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 approved on motion of Councilwoman Mulligan, seconded by Councilman Fisher, approved by all.

Department Reports:

City Clerk Keri Riener reported the General Fund Cash Carryover for 2018 as \$452,817.84, after the Special Street Improvement Fund transfer of \$50,000.00. This amount includes the pool sales tax balance received from the county. Other notes of interest: The sewer fund expense budget was \$326,445.00, with revenues for the year of \$217,889.09 and actual expenses of \$172,392.80. The water fund expense budget was \$830,586.00, with revenues of \$594,082.06 and actual expenses of \$638,054.47. The 2018 year was closed in the computer software and 2019 is now open. The W-2's and 1099's have been mailed and will be filed with the state and IRS next week. The final loader payment of \$17,038.19

was made this month. The Kansas Rural Water Conference is scheduled for March 26th – 28th. 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 shared his activities for the month. He worked with the zoning officer regarding blighted structures and nuisances, prepared journal entries and talked to defendants. Charles continued to research the updates to the Cereal Malt Beverage Ordinance. He will draft an ordinance to send to Council for review prior to the next meeting. The new state statute goes into effect April 1, 2019. Mayor Colgan requested that Charles also look into the annual railroad right of way charges that are paid on an annual basis. If there isn't an operating train on the tracks, it seems questionable to pay the fee. Charles reported that the theater is considering applying for grant funding to purchase and install lights to on the floor inside the theater area to increase visibility of a floor incline. The marquee is still having some issues with transformers, causing the sides to remain unlit.

Police Chief Brian Withington presented his report. His department worked 7 reports from December 20, 2018 to January 17, 2019. There were 2 custodial arrests made, 3 non-custodial arrests, 26 warnings given and 14 tickets issued. Other patrol activity included 301 public relations, 14 business checks and 24 miscellaneous complaints. Payton Beims has been training with the police department for about four weeks and is doing very well.

City Superintendent Rick Kramer presented his report showing the areas where the city crew has spent their time since the last meeting. The water report shows the amount of water pumped and sold for the month. The month of December showed a loss of 17%. The overall water loss for the year was 9%, which is below the state average. The depth to the water in city wells has remained consistent. The pool ladders have been moved to the city shop to be waxed and maintained for the next season. Christmas decorations were taken down. Equipment maintenance is happening during cold weather. Both Rick and the Mayor received a letter from Kansas Rural Water regarding recently failed sewer sample tests. Sewer lagoon samples have been sent in during the summer season in past years, causing them to be impacted by the algae bloom. Winter samples were recommended and the first sample submitted passed so that will be the timing goal in the future. It was also suggested to consider pumping onto the land adjacent to the lagoon area. If wastewater is pumped onto land instead of discharged into a water source, samples are not necessary. The pump required costs approximately \$6,000, but this cost would be offset over the years with avoided sample fees which are \$300-400. The pump would also allow water to be transferred from one pond to the other, which would assist with avoiding an algae bloom. The final consideration for a pump is in preparation in case the state prohibits dumping into water sources in the future. Rick will investigate the matter further and report to the council for a decision at a future meeting.

Council Reports:

Councilman Gary Fisher had nothing to report for the Housing Authority. The Tree City USA report has been submitted. Arbor Day has been scheduled for May 3, 2019.

Councilman Dietrich Kastens was absent.

Councilman Mark Mosley was absent.

Councilwoman Sandy Mulligan stated the previously interested buyer of the Greason Industrial lot has decided not to purchase it.

Councilman Mark Vrbas had nothing to report.

Mayors Notes:

Mayor Colgan extended an invitation for the K-Tracks meeting regarding the opioid crisis grant project that will be held at Redeemer Lutheran Church on January 22nd from 12:00-1:30 pm. He also reported that the City Hall Renovation is underway. The concrete has been cut out and the outside walls are framed. The Town and Country Guild may attend the February Council meeting to request opening the Kelley Park restrooms year round. With no further business to come before Council, Councilman Vrbas moved to adjourn, seconded by Councilman Fisher. **The meeting adjourned at 7:45 PM.**

Keri Riener, City Clerk

Tim Colgan, Mayor