

Atwood City Council
September 26, 2019
Regular Meeting
City Hall, 7:00 PM

Atwood City Council met in **regular session** September 26, 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, Dietrich Kastens, Sandy Mulligan, Mark Vrbas; City Clerk Keri Riener; City Attorney Charles Peckham; City Superintendent Rick Kramer; Rosalie Ross of the Rawlins County Square Deal. City Attorney Assistant Isaac LeBlanc also attended. Councilman Mark Mosley arrived following new business discussion, prior to the City Clerk report. Chief of Police Brian Withington was absent.

The **Agenda** was approved as circulated on motion of Councilman Gary Fisher, seconded by Councilman Mark Vrbas, approved by all.

The **Minutes** of the regular meeting on August 15, 2019 were approved as circulated on motion of Councilman Vrbas, seconded by Councilwoman Sandy Mulligan, approved by all.

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

Public Comments: None.

Appearances:

Francisco Aguilar requested a special event CMB license for a dance at the Columbian Hall on October 5th. There will be individuals at the door checking IDs as people pay to enter the event. Councilman Kastens moved to **approve the temporary CMB permit to Francisco Aguilar for a public dance at the Columbian Hall from 7:00 pm on October 5, 2019 until 2:00 am on October 6, 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:

Mayor Tim Colgan asked Council for opinions and ideas for **future plans for the old city hall building**. Councilman Fisher suggested demolition of the building so the lot can be used for parking with more handicapped stall accessibility. Councilman Kastens agreed and added that it would probably be best to keep the lot under city ownership so access on the west side of the building can be kept clear and parking can be controlled. Councilman Vrbas asked about the price of paving the lot. The cost estimate would have to be determined once the plan for the lot has been decided. Mayor Colgan asked council to ask for public opinion on the topic before the October council meeting so this can be revisited at that time.

City Clerk Keri Riener informed Council that the new city hall takes 1.5 hours for the cleaners (two people) due to the size difference compared to the old city hall, which took 1 hour to clean. Councilman Vrbas moved to **increase the cleaning fee for city hall from \$100/month to \$150/month, effective October 1, 2019**, seconded by Councilwoman Mulligan, approved by all.

Councilman Mark Mosley arrived at this time.

Department Reports:

City Clerk Keri Riener discussed activities at City Hall this month. The City Hall open house was held from 4-6 pm on Monday, August 26th. The mayor and city clerk attended the KS Department of Transportation consult meeting in Hays on August 29th. Keri has been working on a presentation for the Regional Clerk's meeting in Hays scheduled for Friday, October 4th. She submitted the 2018 audit for the annual USDA filing. Keri reported that 11 of the 14 lifeguards employed for the 2019 swim season earned the end of summer bonus. This is the second year that \$100 has been available to

lifeguards that fulfill three of five criteria set up by the pool manager, listed in the pool handbook. The police department participated in the Homecoming Parade last week. Officer Travis Bailey drove the patrol car in the parade and Officer Payton Beims constructed a “float” that he pulled behind a four-wheeler that fit the Homecoming theme. Four kids rode on the float as the band KISS and everyone really enjoyed the entry. The City Clerk presented a spreadsheet for council to review. It detailed the infrastructure improvements and larger city purchases over the past ten years. This information should assist councilmembers if they are asked budget, actual cost and timeframes for projects over the years. Many improvements have been paid with grant, fundraiser or local organization donations. A majority of past lease-purchased vehicles were paid off early with budgeted city funds.

City Attorney Charles Peckham has one case on appeal to district court that is set for a jury trial and five cases involving two individuals set for trial in October. The pre-trial motions will begin shortly for the Ratcliff properties. The City Attorney has prepared a number of journal entries, sent out letters and 30 day notices and negotiated with attorneys.

Police Chief Brian Withington was absent and did not have a report for council.

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 August showed no water loss. The depth to the water in city wells has remained consistent. The pool has been winterized and the city crew continues to trim trees.

Tyler Hillmer and David Blau with Miller and Associates Consulting Engineers, met with the Mayor, City Superintendent and City Clerk on September 16th to discuss the state of the city streets. Tyler had recently assisted St. Francis in completing a street evaluation and they currently completing a CDBG application for street paving using the evaluation as a guide to which streets have the highest priority. He shared the street maps showing the overall condition of the streets that were ranked and color coded. Everyone agreed that updating the current street evaluation map should be the first step in the discussion of a future street project. The original street study was conducted in 2008 and that data will be updated to reflect the current street conditions. Tyler scheduled a visit on September 25th to ride with Rick and gather information first hand. Tyler’s report should be available for discussion at the October council meeting.

Rick has been asked to extend pavement in Greason Industrial Park for a new home scheduled to be built this year. Two Homes, LLC will pay the city \$5,000 for the extension, as it is included in the lot price. The City Crew will start on it as soon as possible, as construction is already scheduled.

The City Superintendent has been contacted by Foley Equipment in Colby. Someone has expressed interest in the City’s grader. A new grader is budgeted for 2020, but this may be an opportunity for a higher trade in value. Rick will contact the City Clerk when he has more details to determine what down payment would be necessary for the trade and if it is a possibility in the 2019 budget.

Councilwoman Mulligan asked Rick who is responsible for the maintenance of alleys in town. Keeping an alley cleared of weeds, limbs and debris is the property owners’ responsibility. When the city contracted with Norton Correctional Facility for inmate labor, the inmates used to mow and clear the alleys from time to time, but that was a courtesy and not a requirement. However, if an alley needs maintenance work, like filling a pothole or blading it after precipitation, the property owner can call the city shop and they will fix those issues.

Council Reports:

Councilman Gary Fisher had nothing to report except that he is available if people have tree care, pruning, disease or removal questions. The tree board has open positions to fill and will be looking for new members if anyone is interested.

Councilman Dietrich Kastens noted that the city is in good shape with regard to nuisances or weeds considering the unusual rainy seasons of late.

Councilman Mark Mosley shared that the Airport Board has applied for a KDOT grant to fund the runway lighting. The grant is in progress.

Councilwoman Sandy Mulligan stated Economic Development has sent letters to Vap Construction and Chris Loeffler regarding the lift station. It is no longer property of RCED.

Councilman Mark Vrbas had nothing to report.

Mayors Notes:

Mayor Tim Colgan shared information regarding the new problem of vaping and its impact in our community. The KDOT meeting in Hays was informative and the mayor plans to attend the follow-up meeting scheduled in November. Mathew Withington is checking the definitions of connecting links to determine if that term can be applied to any Atwood roadways. The property that burned on State Street earlier this year has not been cleaned but an individual has expressed interest in purchasing it. The mayor has encouraged Jan Ackerman to move forward with action on this property in an effort to improve it. The mayor commended the Atwood Police Department on the homecoming float. Positive interaction with the community is important and a lot of people commented on their entry.

Councilman Vrbas moved to **go into executive session to discuss non-elected personnel to not exceed 20 minutes**, seconded by Councilman Fisher seconded, approved by all. City Attorney Peckham and City Clerk Keri Riener were asked to remain. Executive session began at 7:45 pm. **The regular meeting resumed at 8:05 pm with no action taken.**

With no further business to come before Council, Councilman Vrbas moved to adjourn, seconded by Councilman Mosley, approved by all. The **meeting adjourned at 8:10 PM.**

Keri Riener, City Clerk

Tim Colgan, Mayor