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City of Prairie City

Council Meeting

December 13, 2023

4 **Attendance:**

5 Mayor Scott Officer
6 Councilor Chase McClung
7 Councilor Ed Clark
8 Councilor Jenny Shaw
9 Councilor Brook Williams
10 Councilor Candy Reagan
11 Amended * Pam Gangler
12 Shonalie Oakes, City Recorder
13 Jennifer Kingsford, City Clerk
14 Marvin Rynearson, Fire Chief
15 Chris Camarena, Public Works Director
16 Rob Gaslin, CPA

17 **Visitors:**

18 Deputy Zach Mobley
19 Mary Brown
20 Francis Preston
21 Sue Maloney
22 Fran Bunch

24 Mayor Officer opened the meeting at 6:00pm, the pledge was recited, and roll call was taken.

26 **Minutes:**

27 The minutes of November 15, 2023 council meeting were considered.

28 **MSP: To approve the minutes of November 15, 2023 council meeting. Councilor Williams/Reagan**

30 **Police Report:**

31 Undersheriff Mobley said there were 350 calls to Prairie City to date. 4 Search warrants, 4 major crimes, crimes
32 team activated, 24-hour surveillance with federal agencies involved. Mobley said if two calls come in at the same
33 time, Prairie City takes priority because we have a contract with them. The county police department is
34 experiencing staffing shortages, they are down 3 on the road, and 4 at the jail. Undersheriff Mobley has been
35 making an effort to engage with the public by being active at public events, football games etc. Active-duty police
36 officers fluctuate their schedules for their time here in Prairie City so that criminals don't know where they are
37 and can't anticipate their schedules.

38 We have been receiving positive feedback from citizens saying that they feel crime is decreased.

40 **Mary Brown:** Mary volunteers for Hope for Paws. She handed out an information packet to the Council to
41 educate them on cats. She is concerned that people in the community are killing cats. Mayor Officer said that the
42 feral cats are a public nuisance, and that they are ruining people's gardens and attacking small dogs. Mary Brown

43 wants to be allowed to continue to feed the cats. Councilor Clark expressed concerns that feeding the feral cats
44 and wildlife is becoming a larger issue. Mayor Officer said that he would reach out to Hope for Paws to try and
45 come up with a solution, and thanked Mary for her compassion for the animals and her efforts in getting them
46 spayed and neutered. Franis Preston asked the council if they play to uphold the City's ordinances and fine the
47 individuals feeding the cats.

48
49 **Power to Faiman:**

50 Solar project is on pause. OTEC quoted the City 90k to run power up to Faiman well. Discussions per power
51 company waiting on solar farm to tie in. The City needs to seal up a contract with the solar farm to pay their
52 portion before we spend the money. Solar farm is on a three-year pause. We need to get power up to Faiman
53 and cannot wait three years. Camarena asked for permission from the council to proceed forward with
54 negotiating with the solar farm. All present agreed.

55
56 **Payables:**

57 Rob Gaslin, CPA, read aloud the City's financial review, appropriations review, budget vs actual. Requested
58 council to review the check detail.
59 To Ratify payment of the bills **MSP: To pay the bills. Councilor Williams/Gangler**

60
61 **Water Rates:**

62 Rob Gaslin, CPA, presented information to the council for their review, explaining that the City transferred
63 \$489,627 from the general fund to the water fund. The City was able to do that because of the sale of the cell
64 tower. In the future the City will not have that to accommodate for the deficit or to transfer to balance the
65 budget. The water fund needs to be self-sustainable. The data Rob presented to council showed that the city
66 needed to increase water revenues by 23%. Council asked Rob to present projected revenues to them at the next
67 meeting if non-taxpayer base rates were x2, and to show how much the projected rate increase would need to
68 be for taxpayer/residential rates to make up for the remaining difference. Council requested a water rate
69 resolution be ready at the next council meeting for their consideration.

70
71 **Fire Report:**

72 Chief Marvin Rynearson said there is nothing to report.

73
74 **Museum:**

75 With great sadness Chris Camarena reported that Bob passed away that day. (Museum Director, Bob Shive)

76
77 **Mayor Officer adjourned the council meeting at 8:38 MSP: To adjourn the meeting Councilor Gangler/Williams**

78
79 Approved by the City Council this 10th day of January, 2024 and signed by the mayor:

80 
81 _____
82 Scott Officer, Mayor

83
84
85 Attested: 
86 Shonalie Oakes, City Recorder