

1 City of Prairie City  
2 City Council Meeting  
3 September 11, 2024  
4

5 **Attendance:**

6 Mayor Ed Clark

7 Councilor McClung

8 Councilor Bradford

9 Councilor Gangler

10 Councilor Williams

11 Councilor Shaw

12 Shonalie Oakes, City Recorder

13 Chris Camarena, Public Works Director

14 Rob Gaslin, CPA

15 Marvin Rynearson, Fire Chief

16 **Visitors:**

17 Sue Maloney

18 Fran Bunch

19 Nancy Hitz

20 Jennifer Kingsford

21 Frances Preston

22 Mayor Clark called the meeting to order at 6:04 pm, the pledge of allegiance was  
23 recited and the roll call taken. Councilor Reagan was not present with an excused  
24 absence.

25 **Minutes:** The minutes of August 14, 2024, council meeting minutes were  
26 considered. Councilor Gangler thought the minutes were missing some details  
27 and asked to listen to the recording. Minutes were tabled for the next meeting.  
28 Sue Maloney was first on the speaker's roster, Mayor Clark gave Maloney the  
29 opportunity to ask her questions. Maloney asked for an update on the city-wide  
30 Hazmat Collection opportunity, the USDA meat processing facility, and the  
31 Sherrif's reduction in hours. Councilor Bradford said he would follow up on  
32 Hazmat Collection day. Mayor Clark said last time he spoke with Chuck regarding  
33 the meat processing facility, the business owner was very busy processing fair

34 animals and was trying to facilitate a meeting with DEQ and Public Works after  
35 things slowed down. Mayor Clark amended the agenda to include law  
36 enforcement and stated that the City has continued to pay 40 hours a week per  
37 the old contract until the new contract is in place. Mayor Clark said he was going  
38 to reach out to the Sherrif McKinley again, as the fires have died down.  
39 Councilor McClung expressed his concerns about the consequences that cutting  
40 the law enforcement hours/budget would bring, and says that we have been  
41 seeing more crime, thinks maybe police haven't been spending 40 hours a week  
42 in Prairie. Because we haven't been getting regular updates from the Sheriff's  
43 office, we really don't know the extent of their presence. Mayor Clark said that he  
44 too would like to keep law enforcement. Rob Gaslin the City's CPA, explained to  
45 the City Council that paying for law enforcement straight out of the City's general  
46 fund is not a sustainable long-term solution. Cities all over the country are  
47 struggling with paying for law enforcement services, Prairie City is not alone in  
48 this struggle. Gaslin suggested the City consider other options such as a Franchise  
49 Fee that would go out in the water and sewer bills which would go into the  
50 general fund to help pay for law enforcement services. Gaslin also suggested that  
51 the Council consider updating the City's fee schedule.

52 Councilor Pam Gangler signed up on the speakers roster to discuss the City  
53 Charter. She wanted to know why we didn't follow the City's Charter. Mayor Clark  
54 asked her what specifically in the City's Charter she believes we aren't following.  
55 She said all of it, appointed offices, personnel, filling vacancies. Mayor Clark  
56 asked what we did that didn't comply with filling the vacancies for the council  
57 and mayor. Councilor Gangler said things are not being followed. Mayor Clark  
58 asked her if there was something we didn't follow when we appointed those  
59 vacancies? Councilor Gangler said no, we followed that. Councilor Gangler says in  
60 the City Charter the Council has the authority to appoint and abolish City  
61 Employees, disagreeing with the Council Rules stating that City Council members  
62 are not to be involved in personnel and employee issues, that the City Charter  
63 supersedes the resolution put in place for City Council members regarding  
64 council rules and conduct. Mayor Clark explained to Counciler Gangler that  
65 normally the Charter would supersede a resolution. However, the City's insurance  
66 company said that there are things in the City's Charter that are no longer in  
67 compliance with State and/or Federal laws. In those instances, the sections out of

68 compliance are to be superseded by State and Federal law. Mayor Clark and the  
69 City Recorder explained to Councilor Gangler that should the City go against the  
70 legal counsel directed to them by CIS Insurance, the insurance company will not  
71 defend the City in a lawsuit should the City be sued after being thoroughly  
72 advised not to do something.

73 **Flood Development Permit Application:** The updated Flood Development  
74 Permit Application was sent to the City’s attorney for review. Shonalie Oakes City  
75 Recorder would also like for the City’s engineer to review the permit and process  
76 to make sure that we are protecting the City from any potential liabilities.

77 **Carrie Young Memorial:** Council discussed the positive things the Carrie Young  
78 Memorial does for the community and budgeted funds for donations. **MSP: To**  
79 **donate \$1000.00 to the Carrie Young Memorial Councilor Williams/Bradford.**  
80 **All present in favor.**

81 **Accounts Payable:** Gaslin read out loud the financial overview and  
82 appropriations review. The Council reviewed the check detail. **MSP: To pay the**  
83 **bills Councilor Williams/Gangler. All present approved.**

84 **Fire Report:** Fire Chief Marvin Rynearson says conditions have been very dry  
85 and that we are expecting another lightening storm, encouraging the public to be  
86 ready and be creating defensible space. Chief Rynearson expressed the need for  
87 another radio for the fire department, costing \$2600.00 which can be transferred  
88 from the Public Works Capitol Fund.

89 **Public Works:** Public Works Director Chris Camarena reported that the City  
90 applied for the Small Cities Allotment Grant. The awards for the grant should be  
91 announced this fall.

92 Camarena updated the Council on Faiman, saying that Xylem will be coming to  
93 put the electrical system in place at Faiman. The Water Meter Project is on hold  
94 until the SHIPPO gives us the okay. Camarena announced that Public Works had  
95 to help our neighbors in Canyon City with a plugged sewer line with the City’s vac  
96 truck. Public Works helped Dayville with their water emergency, fixing the water  
97 line that got ripped about by the CAT running dozer line for the impending fire  
98 toward the town. Public Works also assisted Monument with their sewer  
99 emergency using the City’s vac truck.

100 The Mayor asked if there was any public comment regarding the topics discussed  
101 on the agenda. Mayor Clark called on Frances Preston. Frances Preston asked why

102 we are helping other cities and wanted to know if we are billing those cities for  
103 our help. Frances Preston also wanted to know why Public Works hired two  
104 seasonal employees for the Water Meter Project before the City received funding?  
105 Camarena said no we aren't billing them that Canyon City has helped us with  
106 expensive leak detection, that John Day gave us water for free when we had the  
107 water emergency, that neighbors need to help neighbors. The County gave the  
108 Prairie City Fire Department a car and a water truck.

109 **Adjourn: MSP: To adjourn the meeting Councilor Williams/Shaw at 7:13 pm.**

110 **All present unanimous.**

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112 Approved by the City Council on this 16<sup>th</sup> day of October 2024 and signed by the  
113 mayor.

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Ed Clark, Mayor

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119 Attested:

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Shonalie Oakes, City Recorder