

City Council Meeting

07/22/24, 7PM

Meeting Minutes

Attendees: Mayor Brady Gragg, Ken Stringer, Kathryn Coleman, Grant Bowlin & Dan Ravenscraft.
Absent: Trent Clark

Others In Attendance: Officer Tom Moore, Anne Morrow, Andrew Hanna, Terry Ullum, Tim Stanghor

7:06pm: Mayor Brady Gragg calls the meeting to order.

Additions to Agenda:

1.) Cemetery Report via Andrew Hanna, to follow the Maintenance Report

Motion to Approve: Accept the agenda with this addition. Ravenscraft, second by Bowlin. Ayes Carried: 7:02pm

Appreciation is expressed for the highlighted effect added to the minutes.

Open to Public – N/A

ORDER OF BUSINESS

STREET SWEEPER: – (A demo was performed by Mark Schwarze earlier in the day along Ash St. members of the council were invited to see the machine in action. It also performed on the first N. Locust block.)

- Stringer asked Andrew Hanna what his impressions were – it's not perfect for the initial cleanup of our gutters but it would be good for the maintaining once we get the streets and gutters cleared. Hanna noted that the machine did pick up a little log but not the brick and feels it would work well with leaves. With all the road silt and street junk it required 3 people to dump the load and it's estimated that it would only require one person for leaves. It is conveniently small, and he had good visibility when driving it behind the Kubota tractor. Once the road gravel is under control this would allow them to not let it get out of hand and the leaves could be a one-man job.
- Bowlin noted that Schwarze would throw in a wire brush which would help break up some of the hard packed areas and another set of flaps. He feels it's not good for the initial cleanup but sees its purpose as a tool to maintain.
- Ravenscraft asked about the speed one would have to go; the answer is slow, yet once an established routine cleanup was achieved it could go a bit faster.
- Coleman noted that it looked like it struggled with the angle or slope of our roads to guttering but is better than what we are currently doing, but is it enough for the costs? Hanna mentioned that there is ability to adjust the brush angle and that with a steel bristle brush assisting in breaking the debris up more the angles could be less of a problem or if needed in the extreme location's debris could be raked or moved to a flatter area prior to a pass with the sweeper. It's not a perfect machine but would help take away the shovel time currently employed by the maintenance crew.

Ravenscraft – wished he could have seen it in action and would like to see a few more items thrown in to sweeten the deal. Looks like it would still require a lot of trips to the dump.

Bowlin – we can pay extra summer help to shovel for \$20,000. He would rather look at more infrastructure needs like the lift-station. It's not a bad idea, he just isn't sold on it.

Coleman – would like to see more options to choose from. Discussion on getting possible leaf vacuum demos or other machines to help compare.

Consensus: Desire to see more options. Thank you but will not be purchasing. 7:35pm

Financial Report – Terry Ullum, 7:36pm

- Cashed in CD's and put in the money market.
- Ravenscraft asked about our current Bonds, currently at around \$70,000 altogether. The largest being the Lagoons and still has about 20yrs on it.
- Finally able to cancel all Chase credit cards which were still under previous employees names and accounts.
- Andrew Hanna now has a business card through Vintage Bank.

Motion to Approve Financial Report: Ravenscraft, second by Coleman. Ayes Carried: 7:41pm

Police Report – Tom Moore, 7:42pm

- 3 Traffic stops all resulting in warnings.
- An elderly lady with dementia from Wichita was driving erratically and was finally stopped just outside of Whitewater.
- Was able to hand out a complaint form to a resident concerning a swimming pool/fencing issue.
- A fence panel in an alley has been painted by the property owner with an obscene gesture on it.
- The individual illegally living in the storage unit has relocated to a travel camper. This is allowed at a residence for 30 consecutive days, and locals are allowing the individual to move house to house while he does odd jobs.

Mayor's Report – Brady Gragg, 7:46pm

- Pope's Concrete finished the Phase 1 Sidewalk project, and it looks good! The mayor hopes that it will benefit the citizens of Whitewater. Ravenscraft noted that he has been able to ride his bike along the whole stretch a couple of times now.

Clerk's Report – Anne Morrow, 7:50pm

- Graber Backhoe is finishing up the sewer installation which means Morrow will be able to allow building permits for the landowners to build soon.
- AT&T has reached out to the city office to provide a detailed plan for upgrading their tower that is located just West of town in October.
- IdeaTek informed the office that the State has approved their grant and will be in touch soon concerning our agreement with them to partner in bringing highspeed and affordable internet through fiber to Whitewater and surrounding areas.
- The City has received official complaint forms (which can be found on the website) concerning a few issues around town. Some being health violations, yard violations, and other forms of noncompliance to our city codes. Because these complaints have been officially submitted, the city can therefore begin investigating the issues.
 - Discussion on what it would take to condemn a property; could be a long process, but it is doable as listed in our city codes. Bowlin asked where we left things with the Code Enforcement Service that presented at a past meeting: Response – We let them know we are starting to update our

current codes, so once we have finalized that we can circle back around to the enforcement side of things.

- An individual from Wichita asked the office if he bought a certain property in Whitewater if he could build a duplex in the place of the current house. The city clerk informed him that he would have to present his case to the Zoning Commission because those lots are not zoned for duplex living.
- The city clerk is trying to locate the owner of two lots at the corner of N Elm and 3rd.

Maintenance Report – Andrew Hanna, 8:13pm

- Was able to start out slow, which has been a good thing!
- Don has taken this month off to have some vacation time.
- Maintenance has burned the tree pile 2 more times and has finally caught up on the debris from the big storm.
- Lead Copper Surveys are still coming in, yet we still need a lot more turned in, get yours in!
- Graber Backhoe installed new water lines at Whitewater Lakes: tested, flushed and back filled. Now they are starting on the sewer and will be done soon.
- Hanna has applied for his OIT (Operator In Training), to start towards getting his water licensing.
- Pope has finished the sidewalk project, and it looks good.
- Mowing as slowed down and tree trimming is in full swing. Connor S.'s last day is Aug. 9
- His first leak was a BIG one, he has named it: *Anne's water leak of '24*, The evening of July 14 a call came in about a water leak at 424 N. Locust. Turned into a 7-hour repair, couldn't locate the valves to shut off the water in that area and the valves that were shut off only slowed the leak a little bit. They were able to get a clamp on over the broken pipe while it was still live. Back filled the hole the following day and will now follow up to manicure the area once it dries out a bit more. Total loss of an estimated 105,000 gallons.
- Fire Department is doing hydrant testing, some of the hydrants are slow to shut off so they do leak for a while.
- The City Building yard project will be started soon so it will be looking good by the Fall Festival.
- The Backhoe needs repair, leaking a lot of hydraulic fluid.
- Brandon and his family will be able to move back to Whitewater next month.
- We may need to talk more with KDHE about our classification because the tests they have Brandon taking continue to cover areas we do not deal with within our systems.

Cemetery Report – Andrew Hanna, 8:21pm

- The cemetery is looking to expand soon and wanted to inform the City that they are hoping to procure about 2.5 acres. There is no price set yet, but they have started to communicate with the landowner and the area is being surveyed. The Council expressed their appreciation on being informed.

New/Unfinished Business

- Reminder that there is a need to have better Development/Subdivision Procedures and Regulations in place. Something needs to get put into place.
- Reminder that nothing was really decided as far as the Scout House charges or updates. This needs to continue to be something to investigate. - Mr. Tim Stanghor suggested the city look into a mini-split system to help with the AC issues at the Scout House.
- An example of signage for the City Parks which state: WHITEWATER CITY PARK, Open Dawn to Dusk, NO CAMPING, City Code: 12-108 was given to the council for design approval. Coleman pointed out that we should change the City Code reference because that will be changing as we do

our code updating. It was agreed to change that part to: Per City Code. Discussion on how many signs we will need.

Motion to Purchase 6 (six) signs at \$74.00 a sign: Ravenscraft, second by Coleman. Ayes Carried: 8:41pm

Agenda Items for August 26, 2024

- Budget Hearing will be at 7pm with the Council Meeting directly after. The city clerk will publish in the newspaper prior to the Hearing.
- Much discussion rehashing the budget meeting that occurred June 26th. Both the city clerk and city treasurer provided some handouts for Ravenscraft and Bowlin to look over from the budget meeting.

Motion to adjourn the July 22, 2024 City Council Meeting. Bowlin, second by Ravenscraft. Ayes Carried: 8:52pm

Meeting Adjourned – 8:52pm