

Downs City Council met in regular session on Monday, January 3, 2022, 5:30 p.m., at City Hall. Mayor Bisnette called the meeting to order and led in the flag salute. Council members present were Joyce Hake, Trish Harding, Evan Joy, Devin Renken, and Charlie Stevens. Others present were John Cordill, Vienna Janis, Heather Hancock, Hanna Janis, Ryan Swindler, Mike White, Harry Colburn, Miranda Robinson, and City Attorney Bruce Berkley.

Joyce moved to approve regular meeting minutes from December 20, 2021, Devin seconded. Trish abstained. Motion carried.

Joyce moved to approve special meeting minutes from December 30, 2021, Charlie seconded. Trish abstained. Motion carried.

New council members John Cordill and Heather Hancock were sworn in along with Mayor Vienna Janis.

Clerk and council thanked John Bisnette for his many years of service as mayor and council member, Evan Joy for his four years of service as council member, and Trish Harding for her service as council member since taking over in 2020.

Joyce nominated John Cordill as council president for 2022, Charlie seconded. John abstained. Motion Carried.

Sherry Knouf gave the library report with financials from November 2021. The library received a generous donation last month. In December the library held a Grinch party that around 20 kids attended.

City Attorney Bruce Berkley reported he received the final signed copy of the commercial lease with CenCon of Kansas for land use at the tree dump.

Harry Colburn, City Superintendent, reported he sent out the fluoride sample for testing. The last quarterly sewer sample passed. He also reported that the crew were going to be getting the Christmas decorations down as weather permits. Snow removal took a little longer than normal with getting used to the new snow plow. Colburn told council if the city orders pool chemical supplies in January through MARC there is a discount so he will have a more accurate estimate next meeting.

City Clerk reported a disengagement letter with Swindoll, Janzen, Hawk, & Loyd for the 2021 Audit and 2023 Budget was received. They are no longer handling municipality audits and budgets, however Scot Loyd has formed his own group that will perform the audit and budget prep with the same rate locked in for five years. An engagement letter from Scott Loyd with the Loyd Group for the 2021 audit was received and needed approval.

Joyce moved to accept the audit and budget bid from the Loyd Group LLC, Charlie seconded. Motion carried.

Devin moved to have the mayor sign the document of release from Swindoll, Janzen, Hawk, & Loyd. Heather seconded. Motion carried.

The clerk informed the council that the City of McLouth is purchasing 10 wreaths and will pick them up this month. Also noted was that the next regular meeting will be on Tuesday January 18 due to the holiday.

Heather moved, seconded by John, to designate the State Bank of Downs as depository for the City of Downs for 2022. Carried.

Discussion was held regarding the employee health insurance from Blue Cross Blue Shield. Joyce moved to accept the 2022 BCBS renewal rates. Devin seconded the motion. Carried.

Concrete bids from Cameron Concrete were presented to council for the parking area to the south of Stuff n Such and also the east deck of the pool. The bid for the pool can be used for future grants. Council wanted to get another bid before moving on.

In old business, Council reviewed City Code chapters 9 to 12 for recodification.

Devin moved to approve vouchers and payroll as presented, Joyce seconded. Motion carried.

At 7:13 p.m., Joyce moved to recess into executive session to discuss matters pertaining to non-elected personnel for 20 minutes, with the mayor, council, and city attorney. Devin seconded. Carried.

At 7:33 p.m. Joyce moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Devin. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned.


Vienna Janis, Mayor

ATTEST:


Miranda Robinson, City Clerk

