

Downs City Council met in regular session on Monday, April 17, 2023, 5:30 p.m., at City Hall. Mayor Vienna Janis called the meeting to order and led in the flag salute. Council members present: John Cordill, Joyce Hake, and Heather Hancock. Council not present: Devin Renken and Charlie Stevens. Others present: Sherry Knouf, Sheri Naasz, Craig Doane, Collin Jones, Bruce Berkley, Harry Colburn, and Miranda Robinson.

Joyce moved, seconded by John, to approve regular meeting minutes from April 3, 2023. Motion carried.

Librarian Sherry Knouf reported that the visitor numbers were down last month due to a lot of school activities going on. Storytelling festival is next weekend and the summer reading program will begin the first of June.

Harry Colburn stated in his water report that the gas company hit a water line in the alley by Downs News & Times. The crew had some issues finding the line and the main but it's now fixed and covered. Colburn stated that the water tower received a new paint job last past week. A new water line was installed with the boring tool on West Delay Street last week. Colburn stated he is going to try to finish the water line project on Delaware Street but will have to hire the boring due to the angle of the line. Colburn reported that he will attend a sewer meeting in Beloit next Tuesday.

City Superintendent, Harry Colburn, had spoken with Seth at North Central Kansas Tech College in Beloit and he will have students over this week or next to fix some electrical work at the library, city office, and memorial hall. Colburn stated that the Add-a-grapple arrived and they installed it.

Colburn had talked with the applicants for the summer help position, both were available to start as soon as possible on the weekends then full time once they are done with school. Joyce moved to approve, seconded by Heather to hire Lincoln Koehn and Elijah Schafer for summer mowing help starting at \$11. Motion carried.

Miranda Robinson, City Clerk, reported that she ordered items for Parks and Recreation using Marie Thomas funds to pay for them. Most items have arrived and been picked up with the exception of a few. She also reported that due to newly adopted city code that the water admin will be returning utility deposits to customers who have gone two years with less than two delinquent bills. The deposit will be applied directly to the customer's bill instead of mailing out checks on the next billing cycle, due May 15. Customers will still receive a utility bill, but it will have a credit if it covers the total amount of the bill due.

For the Fire Department review, Downs Fire Department members Collin Jones and Bruce Berkley reported they had sent a letter to the Osborne Rural Fire District #4 asking for an increase in the contract from \$15,000 to \$17,000. Craig Doane Osborne Rural Fire District #4, Board Treasurer, was present to hear discussion on this request. The District wanted to have the fire dept give them an idea of what they want to purchase in the next 5 years to justify the increase of funds. Jones stated that the department will need to purchase new wildland gear, wildland boots, flashlights, and remote nozzles). Doane stated he would discuss this with the board at their next meeting before finalizing the contract for 2023-2024.

Sheri Naasz, Cushing Insurance, was present to review the EMC Renewal with the council. Discussion was held on increase of costs/inflation on premiums. Heather moved, seconded by

John, to approve the EMC Insurance Renewal premium in the amount of \$60,529 with the changes and deletion of terrorism coverage. Carried.

Heather moved, seconded by John, to approve special use permits 23-30 to 23-32. Motion carried

Joyce moved, seconded by Heather, to approve contractor's licenses 23-32 for Ron Schlaefli, 23-33 for Knoll Building Maintenance, and 23-34 D-N-T Handyman. Motion carried.

Heather moved, seconded by John, to approve building permit #23-07; 23-08; 23-09 carried.

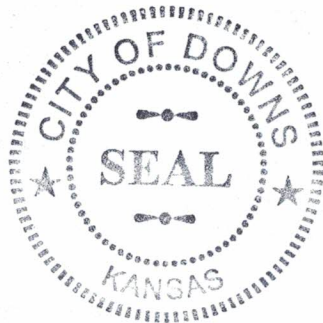
Heather moved, seconded by John, to approve large animal permits 23-01 to 23-05  
Joyce abstained. Motion carried.

In old business, the council discussed pool manager and lifeguard applications. Joyce moved, seconded by Heather, to hire Kelli Hennes as pool manager and lifeguard for \$14.50/hour. Motion carried.

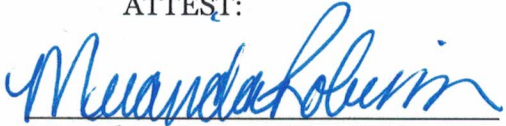
Joyce moved, seconded by John, to approve vouchers and payroll as presented. Carried.

Heather moved, seconded by Joyce, to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 7:31 p.m.

  
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Vienna Janis, Mayor



ATTEST:

  
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Miranda Robinson, City Clerk