

Downs City Council met in regular session on Monday, November 20, 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: Charlie Stevens and Joyce Hake. Video-in: John Cordill. Phone-in: Devin Renken. Council not present: Heather Hancock. Others present: Sherry Knouf, John Bisnette, Collin Jones, Bruce Berkley, Harry Colburn, and Miranda Robinson.

John moved, Joyce seconded, to approve regular meeting minutes from November 6, 2023. Motion carried.

Librarian Sherry Knouf reported things are running smoothly with more kids in the afternoons after school. She has had two movies with 20 kids each and will have one December.

On behalf of Downs Arts Council Knouf requested that the council waive the fees for the use of the Downs Memorial Hall on December 2 for Treefest. Joyce moved, Charlie seconded, to waive the fees at the Memorial Hall for Downs Arts Council's Treefest event December 2nd. Motion carried.

Code Enforcement Harry Colburn reported that someone is dumping their trash in a dumpster at the roadside park and asked council if they were ok with him putting up a sign for park trash only.

City Attorney Bruce Berkley reported he had spoken with the insurance agent concerning an incident at the Memorial Hall. Joyce moved, John seconded, to allow the city attorney to settle the case for \$115, dependent on a signed general liability release. Motion carried. Berkley also mentioned that the council should really look over the lease for Memorial Hall and look into adding general liability insurance to the rental policy at the Memorial Hall.

In the water report, Harry Colburn brought up to the council about getting rid of fluoride in water since he needs to order more soon. A decision was tabled until the next meeting.

City Superintendent Harry Colburn presented a quote from Berry Tractor for parts for the street sweeper. John moved, Joyce seconded, to allow Harry to purchase the parts for the street sweeper from Berry Tractor for a total of \$5,845.87. Motion carried.

Colburn also presented a quote from Miller Welding for a new mower for the 2024 season. Joyce moved, John seconded, moved to order a mower from Miller Welding to be paid in April/May 2024. Motion carried.

Colburn has J & S Auto looking for a new truck but they haven't found anything yet that will work. Also, Colburn received a bid from Holland Paving for 3rd street from Osborne Street to Peterman Street, however it was way too high.

Colburn has been in contact with Bell Memorial concerning the stone that was turned. Harry will report back at a later meeting.

City Clerk Miranda Robinson presented the council with the engagement letter from The Loyd Group for the 2023 Audit. Charlie moved, Joyce second, to allow the Mayor to sign the engagement letter for the 2023 Audit. Motion carried.

The Fire Department reported they had a good turn out at the fundraiser held last weekend.

Osborne County Sheriff Department deputy Scott Becker was present to answer any questions council had for the sheriff's department and confirmed that the deputies are not scheduled at certain times to be in Downs but they do cover school zones in morning and afternoons and patrol when they are available to do so.

The American Red Cross requested the Memorial Hall fees be waived for a blood drive on March 13, 2024. Joyce moved, John seconded, to waive the fees for the American Red Cross blood drive on March 13, 2024 at the Memorial Hall. Motion carried.

Joyce moved, Charlie seconded, to approve demolition permit 2023-20 for Aubrey Aycock. Motion carried.

Joyce moved, John seconded to accept the donation of the bleachers from the Waconda USD 272. Motion carried.

Council held an interview with Blake Regnier for the utility maintenance position.

At 7:22 p.m. Joyce moved, John seconded, to go into executive session to discuss non-elected personnel with Council, Mayor, and City Attorney for 20 minutes. Regular meeting resumed at 7:27 p.m.


Joyce moved, Devin seconded, to have City Superintendent Harry Colburn extend the offer of employment to Blake Regnier pending a pre-employment drug screen. Motion carried.

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

Joyce moved, Charlie seconded, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

  
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Vienna Janis, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
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Miranda Robinson, City Clerk

