



Downs City Council met in regular session on Monday July 1, 2024, 5:30 p.m., at City Hall. Council members present: Heather Hancock, Devin Renken, Collin Jones, John Cordill, John Bisnette (via video). Others present: Sherry Knouf, Bruce Berkley, Harry Colburn, and Miranda Robinson. Mayor Vienna Janis called the meeting to order and led in the flag salute.

Minutes

Heather moved, John C. seconded, to approve regular meeting minutes from June 17, 2024. Motion carried - 5 ayes.

Staff Reports

Librarian Sherry Knouf gave the council the latest library report. She stated that around 35 kids have been attending summer reading. A few young adults and junior high kids have been helping out along with Matt Alfred. She mentioned the numbers of books being checked out has increased along with new families in town checking out the library. Knouf asked that the mayor appoint a replacement for Janice Goheen on the library board for the remainder of her term. Vienna Janis, Mayor, appointed Mary Rotman to the Library Board. Heather moved, Devin seconded, to approve the mayor's appointment. 5 ayes carried. Knouf also asked that council waive the pool party fees for the end of summer reading pool party to be held on July 22. Devin moved, John C. seconded, to waive the pool party fees (library will pay the lifeguards). 5 ayes carried the motion.

City Attorney Bruce Berkley reported he attended Senator Marshall's Osborne Town Hall last week, and discussion was held on the EPA's ruling of the lead and copper.

In the water report, Harry Colburn stated he is waiting on phone calls to see how the city needs to go about removing the fluoride from the water treatment.

In the sewer report, Kingsbury Septic was in town last week sewer jetting on the north side of town including Circle Drive. A sewer line needs to be repaired by the school parking lot, Harry is waiting for information from a company that rebuilds the pipes underground.

City Superintendent Harry Colburn can't find chip rock to do a street to show Brady how to do it.

The City Office received a call from the clinic last week and they have a room with a lot of moisture and mold growing even with two dehumidifiers running. Lamunyon is coming July 3 to do an inspection. Since we are part of their emergency plan, the inspection won't cost however testing will cost. Once the results are back, we can then make a plan on how to proceed.

City Clerk Miranda Robinson's report was in council packets. In preparing the 2025 budget, the City Clerk received the Revenue Neutral Rate from the Osborne County Clerk. She recommended at the next regular meeting, the council state their intent to exceed and set the hearings. Robinson is waiting to hear how to proceed setting up the capital improvement plan.

Heather moved, Collin seconded, to pay the remaining \$750 to Miranda Robinson, City Clerk for the OCCF Grant work. 5 ayes carried.

The Fire Department contract with Osborne Rural Fire District #4 will stay the same amount as last year. John C. moved, Heather seconded, to approve the annual fire contract with Osborne Rural Fire District #4 in the amount of \$16,500. 5 ayes carried.

Permits

Heather moved, Collin seconded, to approve contractor's licenses 2024-42 and 2024-43. 4 ayes carried the motion.

Collin moved, Devin seconded, to approve a special use permit 2024-46. 4 ayes carried the motion.

New Business

Amy Doane was present to talk to council about a mural project that Downs Community Connection wants to pursue on the old state building at the roadside park. Funding will be through the grant from rural prosperity and matching funds. Heather moved, Collin seconded, to allow Downs Community Connection to use the old State Building at Roadside Park as a mural. 5 ayes carried the motion.

Sypulski Trust funds request from Downs Community Connection \$700 toward a 14-foot-tall Christmas Tree light for Railroad Park. Heather moved, John C. seconded, to approve the funds request for Downs Community Connection from the Sypulski Funds. 4 ayes carried.

Vouchers & Payroll

Devin moved, Heather seconded, to approve vouchers and payroll as presented. 4 ayes carried the motion.

With no further business, Devin moved, Heather seconded, to adjourn the meeting. 4 ayes carried the motion. Meeting adjourned at 6:31 p.m.


Vienna Janis, Mayor

ATTEST:


Miranda Robinson, City Clerk

