



CITY OF DOWNS

Regular Council Meeting
October 21, 2024 - 5:30 p.m.
715 Railroad Street
Downs, Kansas 67437

Downs City Council met in regular session on Monday October 21, 2024, 5:30 p.m., at City Hall. Council members present: Heather Hancock, Collin Jones, John Cordill, and John Bisnette. Council not present: Devin Renken. Others present: Bernita Smith, Bruce Berkley, Harry Colburn, and Miranda Robinson. Mayor Vienna Janis called the meeting to order and led in the flag salute.

Minutes

Heather moved, Collin seconded, to approve regular meeting minutes from October 7, 2024. Motion carried with 4 ayes.

Public Comment

Bernita Smith was present to talk to council about the 5-mile-wide transmission line that is proposed. She asked council members to sign a resolution opposing it.

Staff Reports

City Attorney Bruce Berkley reported a letter will be going out concerning a property on the highway that is a nuisance with junked vehicles.

In the water report, Harry Colburn submitted the EPA/KDHE required lead line report as it was due by October 16. There are 43 homes that have galvanized lines and pamphlets were sent to those homes notifying them. Homeowners are responsible for replacing the lines, not the city.

Colburn received an alarm from the water plant indicating that the sewer lift station generator kicked on because the building was without power.

City Superintendent Colburn reported that the historical society has hired outside lawn care so the city won't have to mow since they have added new landscaping. Colburn wanted to know when the council would interview applicants for the city superintendent position.

City Clerk Miranda Robinson stated that the financials were in her report for October. There are ARP funds that need to be spent by the end of December 2024. Clerk Robinson will be out of the office at the beginning of next week for continuing education courses in Wichita. She has confidence that utility billing clerk Mary will be able to run the office just fine.

Permits

Heather moved, Collin seconded, to approve building permits 2024-22 to 2024-24. Motion carried with 4 ayes.

New Business

City Attorney Berkley stated he was in contact with Phillip Murrow concerning a septic issue at 312 Hwy 24 where Coe Weis resides. Council requested bids and quotes for septic systems. ARP funds could be used for this purchase.

Councilman John Bisnette brought up the Memorial Hall rental fees and suggested looking at updating the pricing.

Resolution 2024-03 was presented to council and a letter in opposition was also brought up. This issue was tabled until more information could be found.

Collin moved, Heather seconded, to donate \$100 Downs Chamber Christmas promotion. Motion carried with 4 ayes.

Old Business

Downs Clinic building - had a virtual meeting with Stuart Porter (Schwab-Eaton) and Bruce McMillan (architect) and Tom Orazem (MEP engineer) to discuss what it would take to get the clinic building back to occupancy. Those present set a tentative date for McMillan and Orazem to come to Downs to view the building and make a plan on October 23. Heather moved, John C. seconded, to have an architect and MEP engineer to come inspect the building at 903 Morgan Avenue for recommendations. Motion carried with 4 ayes.

Council & Mayor Reports

Council and Mayor received a resignation letter from councilman Devin Renken. Mayor appointed Joyce Hake to the city council for the remainder of the term. John B. moved, John C., seconded to approve the mayor's appointment of Joyce Hake to fill the remainder of the term vacated by Devin Renken. Motion carried by 4 ayes.

Vouchers & Payroll

Heather moved, Collin seconded, to approve vouchers and payroll as presented. Motion carried with 4 ayes. With no further business, Heather moved, John B. seconded, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried with 4 ayes. Meeting adjourned at 7:11 p.m.



Vienna Janis, Mayor

ATTEST:



Miranda Robinson, City Clerk

(seal)

2147

