

Downs City Council met in regular session on Tuesday, February 22, 2022, 5:30 p.m., at City Hall. Mayor Vienna Janis called the meeting to order and led in the flag salute. Council members present were John Cordill, Heather Hancock, Charlie Stevens, Devin Renken, and Joyce Hake. Others present were Tim Brush, Scott Sproul, Joni Heiland, Harry Colburn, Miranda Robinson, and City Attorney Bruce Berkley.

Joyce moved to approve regular meeting minutes from February 7, 2022, Charlie seconded. Motion carried. Devin abstained.

Charlie moved to approve special meeting minutes from February 9, 2022, John seconded. Motion carried. Devin and Joyce abstained.

Scott Sproul, NWKEDC, was present to speak with council about adding a tax abatement plan or joining Neighborhood Revitalization to incentivize businesses and people to move to the area. Major challenges in the rural areas at this time are housing and childcare which there are funds available at the state level for. If the City had a plan in place this would help those projects get a good start.

The council discussed coming up with a plan with the help of Scott by getting copies of the abatement or neighborhood revitalization programs from surrounding communities. The council would then need to discuss the percentage of abatement, length of time, and who it will help.

Bruce reported that he went to a grant writing workshop and he would share the information with the council. There are a lot of grants that could be applied for to help the community.

Harry Colburn, City Superintendent, reported that mosquito spraying is coming up and would like permission to purchase a 55 gallon drum of spray from Van Diest for \$4,419.25. There is some left over from last year that will also be used since it's best to use different sprays off and on.

Joyce moved to approve the purchase of mosquito spray from Van Diest, Charlie second. Carried.

Colburn mentioned the 1994 truck was a good buy and they did regular maintenance and changed oil, plugs, and belts. The crew worked at the cemetery and dug up 24 stumps, which created some uneven ground for a short time.

In the past, to spray lagoons with pesticides they've used a hand wand and use 60 gallons of spray. Colburn asked city council for permission to use the city shop to put together a tank that will attach to his polaris that holds more and sprays farther for better coverage. Council agreed.

It was suggested to get sealed bids on the 1964 Chevy dump truck. Council decided to post it on nex-tech classifieds for \$500 OBO for 30 days. If it's not purchased there then they will accept sealed bids. It was also suggested to post the State Truck on purple wave to get it sold as well.

The City Clerk reported she had calls concerning the City-wide clean-up dates. Council decided on April 3-10, 2022 and items can be taken to the mixing strip on East Delay Street during that time.

Insurance on the 1994 truck was discussed and decided on liability only.

Joyce moved to approve liability insurance only on the 1994 Chevy Kodiak, Heather second. carried.

City clerk presented the council with a GAAP Waiver in Resolution 22-01 for the year 2021, which was recommended by the auditors. This will have to be done annually.

Joyce moved to approve Resolution 22-01, Charlie seconded. Motion carried.
Chamber wrote a letter asking the council to waive the fees at Memorial Hall for Celebration as a backup for inclement weather.

Heather moved to waive the Memorial Hall fees for chamber during Celebration June 16-18, Devin second. Motion carried.

The Fire Department reported that John Cary, Dalton Remus, and Bruce Berkley went to the County Commissioners as they are having issues with the VHF repeater and asked them to repair it as the antenna/cable has cracked or created resistance.

Heather moved to approve special use permit #22-08, Devin seconded. Motion carried

Joyce moved to approve building permit #22-02, Devin seconded. Motion carried.

In old business, the council addressed the request for donations from OCCF.

Joyce moved to donate \$200 to OCCF, Heather seconded. Motion carried.


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

At 7:21 p.m. Joyce moved to adjourn the meeting, Charlie seconded. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned.



Vienna Janis, Mayor

ATTEST:



Miranda Robinson, City Clerk

