

Downs City Council met in regular session on Monday, June 19, 2023, 5:30 p.m., at City Hall. Council members present: John Cordill, Joyce Hake, Heather Hancock, Devin Renken, and Charlie Stevens. Others present: Scot Loyd, Sherri Naasz, Sherry Knouf, Bruce Berkley, Harry Colburn, and Miranda Robinson.

Mayor Vienna Janis called the meeting to order and led in the flag salute.

John moved, Devin seconded to approve regular meeting minutes from June 5, 2023. Motion carried.

In staff reports, Librarian Sherry Knouf presented the council with the latest financials and attendance records. She stated that the summer reading program is another hit thanks to Mr. Matt from Cawker City. Knouf has the reader feeder back out for those looking for free books. Knouf asked council to waive the pool party fees for the library's annual end of summer summer reading pool party and added they will pay the lifeguards. Heather moved, Joyce seconded to waive the pool party for Downs library. Motion carried.

Code Enforcement Harry Colburn reported that six certified letters were sent to property owners concerning nuisance yards and he made three phone calls about other yards.

City Attorney Bruce Berkley mentioned to the council that they need to take a look at the water and sewer rates as they prepare the 2024 Budget.

Harry Colburn stated that sewer jetting was done last week by Kingsbury mainly in the southwest part of town and Peterman St with some alleys on the west side of town. Colburn reported that due to storms over the weekend the electricity went out at the lift station and at the pool pump house. They are all back up and running.

City Superintendent Harry Colburn reported on the rock he had agreed to purchase from Cencon of Kansas. The company's rock crushing plant went down and can't crush rock with no idea of when he will be able to start again. Cencon brought rock for the city down from Nebraska. Colburn stated this rock is mostly sand and will take a lot more to do the streets once the oil is received next month.

City Clerk Miranda Robinson reported that the City received the county tax distributions. She was approached by Downs Enterprises who asked about receiving industrial promotion tax money from the City. Council decided to get in touch with Downs Enterprises to have someone come update them on their projects.

Robinson stated there were 42 delinquent letters mailed out at the end of last week for past due water bills. A representative from INA Alert will be here June 28 to do a walk thru and quote on security cameras on city properties.

In new business, Scot Loyd, CPA, presented a draft copy of the 2024 Budget to go over with council members. Council held discussions with Loyd concerning the revenue neutral rate. Clerk will send an email with changes to the Loyd Group to get another draft budget before deciding on a budget hearing date. The council is planning on exceeding the revenue neutral rate again this year.

Sheri Naasz, on behalf of Cushing Insurance Agency, and EMC Insurance, presented the city a dividend check from the Kansas Municipality Safety Group Program.

Joyce moved, Devin seconded, to approve building permit 23-13. Motion carried.

Heather moved, Devin seconded, to approve solid waste contractor licenses 23-37 for Dunstan Waste Solutions. Motion carried.

Heather moved, John seconded, to approve special use permits 23-38 and 23-39. Motion carried.

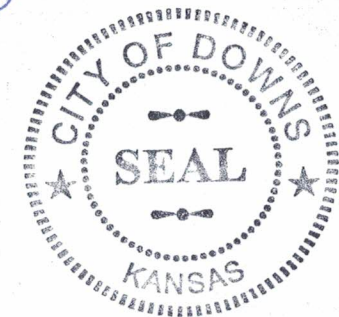
The American Red Cross wanted to host a blood drive on July 5th at the Memorial Hall, and they requested the fees to be waived. Joyce moved, Devin seconded, to waive the rental fees but require security and key deposit for the American Red Cross Blood Drive on July 5. Motion carried.

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

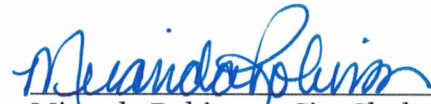
Devin moved, Charlie seconded, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:42 p.m.



Vienna Janis, Mayor



ATTEST:



Miranda Robinson, City Clerk