

Downs City Council met in regular session on Monday June 17, 2024, 5:30 p.m., at City Hall. Council members present: Heather Hancock, Devin Renken, Collin Jones, John Cordill, John Bisnette. Others present: Scot Loyd, Bruce Berkley, Harry Colburn, and Miranda Robinson. Mayor Vienna Janis called the meeting to order and led in the flag salute.

John C. moved, Devin seconded, to approve regular meeting minutes from June 3, 2024. 4 ayes carried the motion. Heather abstained.

Code Enforcement Harry Colburn and City Attorney Bruce Berkley both reported on illegal dumping at the compost pile and tree dump. They are going to contact those involved to prevent this from happening further.

In the water and sewer report, Harry Colburn spoke about the leak at the water plant that caused the City to conserve water last week. No one locally had a part to fix it so they had to send someone to pick it up in McPherson. He also reported that every three years the City must gather 10 water samples to send in for lead and copper testing and that has been completed. The wastewater permit expires at the end of the year so Colburn has filed for the renewal, as it now has to be filed 6 months in advance. Mike will be in Hays to take the Class I sewer prep course and test at the end of the week.

City Superintendent Harry Colburn received a bid for \$1,000 to trench and bury the electric line at the cemetery for a light to be permanently placed at the monument of the unknown soldier. The cost of a new flag and light would be additional. No decision was made.

Colburn also stated it would cost an estimated \$2,500 for sand for one volleyball pit and it would take roughly four to five days to get the old sand out and new sand in. Collin moved, Devin seconded, to purchase sand and turn the volleyball area to one court at the Roadside Park. 4 ayes carried the motion, one against.

Colburn reported they are fogging for mosquitoes as often as recommended. The wind and temperature play a major role in when they can fog.

The City Superintendent gave the council his review of Brady Pound's 90 day probationary period and asked the council to give him a raise. Preston DeBolt has started working and is doing well.

Council member Hancock brought up a broken lid that covers a water line in the street by Memorial Hall as a piece is sticking up. She asked that they find a way to cover it somehow to prevent someone from stepping into it. A new one is ordered from two different companies, however delivery is six to eight weeks away. Colburn stated they will try to find something temporary.

City Clerk Miranda Robinson's report was in the packets. She reminded the Council that the HIAC virtual meeting is tomorrow at 1 p.m. She also reported that a Parks and Rec member will be present for the July 15 council meeting to give an update.

In new business, Scot Loyd was present to discuss the budget for 2025. Discussion was held on moving forward with a capital improvement plan along with possibly repurposing non-budgeted funds.

Downs Chamber requested the City block off Railroad Street from Morgan to Kansas and Third Street from the Railroad tracks to the alleyway during Celebration. Collin approved the street closures for Celebration, Devin seconded. 5 ayes carried the motion.

Heather moved, John C. seconded, to approve contractor's licenses 2024-41. 5 ayes carried the motion.

Collin moved, Heather seconded, to approve special use permits 2024-43 to 2024-45. 5 ayes carried the motion.

Heather moved, Collin seconded, to approve building permits 2024-12 and 2024-13. 5 ayes carried the motion.

Collin moved, Devin seconded, to approve Neighborhood Exterior Maintenance Program applications 4, 5, 6, and 7; giving reimbursement of \$931 to each once the projects are completed. 5 ayes carried the motion. Applications are now closed at this point in time.

John B. moved, Heather seconded, to approve vouchers and payroll as presented. 5 ayes carried the motion.

At 6:59 p.m. Heather moved, John C. seconded, to recess into executive session for 20 minutes to discuss employee performance review pursuant to the non-elected personnel matter exception K.S.A. 75-4319 (b)(1) with Council, Mayor, and City Attorney present. The open meeting will resume in the City Hall at 7:09 p.m. 5 ayes carried the motion.

Heather moved, John B. seconded, to adjourn the meeting. 5 ayes carried the motion. Meeting adjourned at 7:18 p.m.



Vienna Janis, Mayor

ATTEST:



Miranda Robinson, City Clerk

