

Downs City Council met in regular session on Monday, February 6, 2023, 5:30 p.m., at City Hall. Mayor Vienna Janis called the meeting to order and led in the flag salute. Council members present: Charlie Stevens, Joyce Hake, John Cordill, Devin Renken and Heather Hancock. Others present: Jason Jackson, Mike White, Richard Judd, Bruce Berkley, Harry Colburn, and Miranda Robinson.

Joyce moved, seconded by Charlie, to approve regular meeting minutes from January 17, 2023. Motion carried.

Jason with LegalShield was in attendance to present to council the benefits of his company's coverage. He would contact the Clerk in the next week to see if any employee wants to sign up.

Richard Judd, Animal Control, reported he rehomed 2 cats.

City Attorney Bruce Berkley reported to council that the new codification ordinance should be ready for the next meeting to be voted on. He advised them to look it over the updated code once more and make sure that it is worded the correct way.

In the water report, Harry Colburn reported to council that the antenna to the water meter reader had quit and had to borrow one from Mankato. Colburn ordered a new antenna and charging cord.

City Superintendent Harry Colburn provided a quote to the council for purchasing pool chemicals from MARC in the amount of \$5,844.40. Heather moved, seconded by Devin, to allow the City Superintendent to order pool chemicals as quoted from MARC. Motion passed.

Colburn reported to the council that the truck from the purplewave auction he was watching was going for more than he thought the council should spend. Colburn stated that his work truck had to be repaired due to a faulty fuel pump. Also the rock truck was at Miller Welding to be repaired due to the hydraulic pump on the spreader no longer working. It would be a couple weeks to get in a new pump.

Joyce moved, seconded by Heather, to contract for 1,000 gallons of diesel and 2,000 gallons of unleaded e-10 fuel with Bob's Inc. Motion carried.

Colburn stated he had spoken with the Stockton Corrections and they are short staffed so prisoners will not be available to come to weedat this year. Colburn then requested that the council hire at least 2 summer employees.

Collin Jones entered the meeting to show the council the fire department's new bunker gear and answer any questions they had.

City Clerk Miranda Robinson reported that the 2022 Financial Report was published in the newspaper last month, and the city received tax money from Osborne County. The council received an invite to the Osborne County Conservation District meeting. Robinson also mentioned that February is Osborne County Community Foundation match month and asked the council if they wanted to donate the same amount as last year. Heather moved, seconded by John to donate \$250 to OCCF. Motion carried.

Clerk Robinson also asked council if she could start running reminder ad's in the newspaper since dog tags are due April 30 and council agreed.

Heather reported that the Parks and Recreation Committee held a meeting and were going to contact the clerk concerning the amount they have budgeted and how the purchasing would work.

Joyce moved, seconded by Devin, to approve contractor's licenses 23-29. Motion carried.

Joyce moved, seconded by Charlie, to approve building permit #23-01 for Jim Keezer. Motion carried.

American Red Cross wrote a letter asking for the fees to be waived on March 16 at Memorial Hall for a Blood Drive from 11am to 6:30 p.m. Joyce moved, seconded by Devin, to waive the fees for the American Red Cross to use the Memorial Hall on March 16, 2023. Motion carried.

The City Clerk received the 2024 Budget Engagement letter from the Loyd Group, LLC and the council reviewed it. Heather moved, seconded by John, to allow the Mayor to sign the budget engagement letter. Motion carried.

A request for a donation was received from the Lakeside After Prom Committee. John moved, seconded by Heather, to donate \$100 in Downs Chamber Bucks to the Lakeside After Prom Party. Motion carried.

In old business, pool committee members Joyce and Heather stated they would be meeting in the next week and come up with a plan for advertising, pay and job descriptions for Lifeguards and Pool Manager and would bring their ideas to the council at the next meeting. Advertising for Summer mowing help was discussed as well and Clerk Robinson stated she would get something together to post. It was decided to post the water and wastewater operator advertisement with starting pay based on experience and ability to get certified if not already.

The council held more discussion on the employee handbook and will continue working on updates.

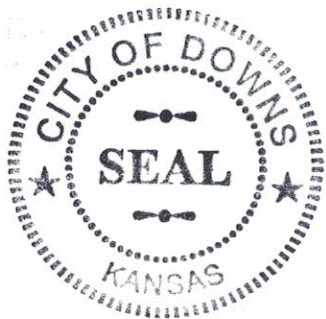
Clerk Robinson updated council on the Neighborhood Revitalization as she heard from the county stating there will be a hearing on February 27 at 10 a.m. and it will take effect May 1, 2023.

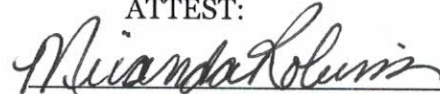
Devin moved, seconded by Heather, to approve vouchers and payroll as presented. Motion carried.

Joyce moved, seconded by John, to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 8:06 p.m.



Vienna Janis, Mayor



ATTEST:


Miranda Robinson, City Clerk