

McFarland City Council Minutes September 9th, 2024

At 6:00 pm Mayor Ron Nehring called the regular monthly meeting to order with the following city council members present: Darrin Dillingham, Joel Green, Lori Senne, and Spencer Parker. City officials present were City Clerk Larry Senne, City Treasurer Tracy Logan, and City Attorney Tim Liesmann. Public attending the meeting were Johnna Nehring, Avery Trecek, and Ron & Kate Nolan. Everyone stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Nehring opened the meeting with comments or questions from the public. There were none. Johnna Nehring gave an update on TEAM activities which include a fund raiser on Sept. 20 – 21 with breakfast and lunch. On the 25th, there will be senior portraits taken at no cost at the Senior Center for those wanting photos (the Senior Center will front the cost). On the 30th, Superintendent Pitch of USD 329 will hold a question-and-answer forum. TEAM will also send a thank you to instructor John Graham of Washburn Tech for his part in painting the Tot playground equipment for the City park.

City Attorney Tim Liesmann reported that there is Municipal Court scheduled for September 27 at 11:30 a.m. for delinquent dog taxes. Liesmann also reported that he has contacted a cousin of Joe Tornado, Jr., Liesmann stated he is close to finding the whereabouts of Tornado; the hope is to be able to send him the legal notices for his property at 605 Main Street. City council heard discussion turned on the other court case from last week which was cancelled due to the 48-hour compliance. Attorney Liesmann commented he is unsure of the County Appraisal and the possible reassessment of the property at 509 Main Street. He stated he continues to pursue this for the City.

City Superintendent Jeff Osif gave his monthly maintenance report-

Gas: Have spoken with Russell Torrey about the gas project at the trailer park, need to get a start date with City of Alma for moving the gas line. Torrey will pay the invoice for the project not the city.

Water: Nothing new at the water plant. We will be meeting with certified engineer Matt Steele on Sept. 10th, 2024 at 12:30 to discuss the city's water well No. 5 and we will review his proposal and the steps needed to bring this well into production.

Sewer: Nothing new at the lift station. There was no discharge at the lagoons this month. Will be discussing a mini split system for heating and cooling the lift station as well as insulating the building.

Retention Dam: Ron Nehring mowed the retention dam this last week. The south drainage ditch has retained standing water in places the entire summer making it impossible to mow the barrow. The drainage ditch needs to be re-shaped allowing drainage from Main Street to Paw-Paw Creek. It is approximately 12 City blocks long.

Streets: Will be starting crack sealing the remainder of city streets this week.

Park: Nothing new.

Equipment: I have a discussion list of items wanting to purchase which include UTV, truck storage boxes, snow plow, and security cameras.

Misc.: City fireworks have been given over to the city for storage; they are locked in freezers and stored in a locked garage. The new markers for the additional blocks in the cemetery, along the South fence, have arrived and I will map them out and place them this week or next. End of Report.

The minutes of the previous meeting held on August 12th, 2024 were read. Council member Lori Senne made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Seconded by Darrin Dillingham, motion carried with all voting yes. The monthly Treasurer's Report was reviewed. Council member Joel Green made a motion to approve the report. Seconded by Spencer Parker, motion carried with all voting yes. The monthly bills were reviewed. Council member Lori Senne made a motion to pay the bills presented. Seconded by Darrin Dillingham, motion carried with all voting yes.

In Old Business; the city council heard discussion on security cameras with Superintendent Jeff Osif. Two bids on a total of 14 camera locations were presented for discussion, from the ADT bid of \$30-40,000 and WTC's "everything package" bid of \$1,305 a month with a 36 month contract. Osif is recommending a third option the "anywhere cam" would cost \$3,088 for cameras approx... \$237 each, at 14 locations with a monitor located in the superintendent's office, cell phones can be configured to also get videos and pictures when activated. We have purchased one camera for testing; it's on a pole outside of city hall. We are tweaking the placement of it. These cameras have a SD card and also include cloud storage. The city would own these cameras, they are powered by solar panels and the monthly operating charge for all 14 would be \$280 for the Bluetooth connections. These cameras however, will not read license plates. Mayor Nehring asked the city council after discussion for authorization to purchase these cameras upon Osif's recommendation. Council member Darrin Dillingham brought up for further discussion warranty on the cameras and the life span of these cameras and solar panels and what kind of online reviews are on these cameras. Osif looked at the website and noted that they have a one year warranty and have "5- star reviews". Council member Darrin Dillingham questioned getting all 14 cameras at once and suggested getting 4 to start with and test them out first. Mayor Nehring commented that because this is a public safety concern that ARPA money can be used to pay for the security cameras. Council member Lori Senne made a motion to purchase 4 security cameras from Anywhere Cams using ARPA funds for payment. Seconded by Spencer Parker, motion carried with all voting yes.

Also in Old Business, Superintendent Osif shared with the city council two bids for insulating the sewer lift station, Coaltrain Insulation at \$4,672 and a \$7,070 bid from Green Factor Insulation. Avery Trecek was asked and discussed the bid for a mini split system for heating and cooling from Flint Hills HVAC at \$4,690 for a 24,000 BTU system and the specs depending on insulation and temps for electronic operations. City council heard discussion from council member Darrin Dillingham suggesting just insulating the building this year only. City Clerk Larry Senne stated that payment for the cost of insulating the building would come out of Sewer Reserve Fund and the spending is available if agreed upon. Osif commented then that he would only request insulating the building this year and monitor the temps going forward and table the HVAC for the lift station at this time. Council member Spencer Parker made a motion to accept the bid from Coaltrain Insulation for \$4,672 to insulate the sewer lift station. Seconded by Joel Green, motion carried with all voting yes.

Superintendent Osif requested funding to purchase a UTV and presented two options, a Kawasaki 4WD mule for \$10,500 and a mule from Massimo for \$9,344. City council heard discussion from Osif on the convenience and uses for a "mule/UTV". City Attorney reminded the city council that unless the city has an ordinance allowing UTV/ATV's, the city would need to have in place such an ordinance allowing UTV's on city streets. After continued discussion on the purchase of equipment and the funding for the purchase, city clerk cautioned this kind of spending coming into the 4th quarter of the year especially utilizing the general fund and

reviewed the remaining budget totals for all funds. Council member Darrin Dillingham made the motion to buy the Kawasaki UTV for \$10,895 (without the snow plow option). Seconded by Spencer Parker, motion carried with all voting yes. City Clerk commented the purchase would be a 4-way split between general fund, gas, water, and sewer funds.

Osif also requested funding for the purchase of a snowplow for the city truck. City council heard discussion on two bids for snow plows from Caldwell \$5,959 and American Equipment at \$7,616. There was discussion regarding the specifics on the bids. Both equipment companies are in Kansas City; Jeff stated he will make a venture to KC and check out the specifics brought up by the Council. Osif reminded City council they approved funding earlier this year, for the purchase of an equipment trailer for \$6,000; since then it has been decided not to use the funding for a trailer but he would like to purchase instead two rail and a cross box tool chests for the bed of the city truck. Council member Joel Green made a motion to approve the purchase of the tool chests for the city truck. Seconded by Darrin Dillingham, motion carried with all voting yes. The city council agreed to table the purchase of a snow plow at this time. The city council heard a brief discussion regarding sidewalk/curbing and the removal of trees for the project. Mayor Nehring commented that “there are 21 trees on Main Street on the city right-of-way disrupting and affecting the sidewalks. City council agreed to table the matter, Osif agreed to look into the cost of tree removal.

In New Business: Mayor Nehring presented Ordinance No. 278 “Every Franchise Fee”. This is a 20 year 3% franchise fee to the City on gross receipts from the sale of electric energy within the city limits. Council member Lori Senne made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 278; seconded by Joel Green, motion carried with all voting yes. The City council tabled the penalty section of dog Ordinance No. 262, as noted next on the agenda, until next meeting. The adjusted late fine was earlier agreed by Council to continue until the end of the year. City Clerk reported that 76 dog tags have been sold this year and all known dogs are current on their tags, with the exception of the resident at 513 Main Street, whose Municipal Court date is 9/27/24.

Under Property Concerns: Council member/Compliance officer Lori Senne reported that the property at 609 Main Street has complied with their nuisance ordinance violations and showed photos to the council she had taken during the process. This resulted in the court date being suspended. Mrs. Senne reviewed the outstanding violation letters, noting that some residents certified mail has been unclaimed and returned to the city. She will review these and asked Mr. Liesmann for a Municipal Court date in October 2024.

At 7:55 p.m. Council member Joel Green made a motion to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Darrin Dillingham, motion carried with all voting yes.

Larry Senne
City Clerk