

MEETING MINUTES EMMONS CITY COUNCIL

Date: March 11, 2024

Time: 7:00 PM

Meeting called to order by: Paul Henschel, Mayor

IN ATTENDANCE

Council Members: Imogene Opdahl, Eleanor Bauman, Neal Honsey, Gary Sorbo,
City Clerk, Lorry Zasada
Guests:

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes to reflect that the meeting suggested to take place with Danny Christenson and Bolton & Menk to review camera footage did not take place. Motion made with correction by Neal to approve the Minutes from February 12th meeting and workshop of February 15, seconded by Gary. Motion carried.

PAYING THE BILLS

Bills to be paid were reviewed by the council. Motion made to pay the bills, including the Master Plumbing bill for the Senior Center meter install by Neal and seconded by Eleanor. Motion carried.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Financial reports were reviewed by the council, motion made by Imogene seconded by Gary. Motion carried.

BUSINESS DISCUSSED

- Need to finalize land agreement with Dave Bosma. Paul will reach out to Dave and confirm pricing and obtain a pending approval of the Proposal with the City Attorney for 35 acres at \$12,500/acre. There could be additional costs to fix any drainage issues caused by construction of the project.
- Council discussed next steps in choosing the Engineering firm to construct the project. USDA required the city to obtain Request for Qualifications from at least 3 firms. All firms have submitted their RFQs prior to the council meeting for review. Lorry will contact the engineers and setup interviews for Thursday, Friday or beginning of the next week. Once interviews have been conducted a special meeting will be announced for making the firm selection.
- Continuous issues with GWorks were discussed. Billing and customer account changes have ongoing issues that have not been addressed by customer service. Several open tickets have been submitted without anyone addressing the problems. Lorry has asked the League members to recommend a better software

provider with excellent customer service, several people are recommending Banyon Data Solutions. Lorry will ask for a demo and pricing and will update the council at the April meeting.

- Discussion on the new Cannabis legislation was tabled until Nicole Eckstrom is in attendance.
- Council has agreed that the City should move forward with a website and a Facebook page to help keep citizens informed of city meeting, ordinances, forms etc. Municipal Impact who is affiliated with Rural Water has provided a good solution for municipal websites for small towns at a reasonable price of \$665/yr. The website will also provide citizens with the ability to pay for their utility bills online for a fee. Motion was to proceed with digital media resources by Gary, seconded by Imogene. Motion carried.
- AAA State of Play sent an updated quote for the Adventure Horizon set to include installation cost of \$7,299 bringing the total for this set to \$18,315.
 - AAA State of Play sent a few optional playground sets for consideration that can be setup with stakes in the ground rather than the larger sets requiring posts set with concrete. These could be installed with some local volunteers. Pricing on these were still \$9000 to \$12000 for kids 2-5 yrs. Insurance is only offering us \$7750. Concern is durability of these sets with weather events and bigger kids that could cause damage. No decision was made, to be discussed again at next meeting.

OTHER TOPICS:

- Large garbage day is set for Saturday, May 11th. Letters should be sent out for this and various other town clean up tasks i.e. yard clean up, sump pumps need to go out to the street, parking regulations. When switching billing provider, go to Statement Billing so messages can be added to bills.
- Motion made to allocate Funds from 4M Savings for future projects for the Park (Tree Removal) - \$40000; Streets (paving alleyways/Arrowhead Rd) - \$100,000; A Community Promotion Fund - \$20000, by Imogene, seconded by Gary. Motion carried. 2024 Budget to be modified to reflect these allocations.
- Council wants door tags placed on customer doors within 5 days after due dates, notifying customers of the amount due and shutoff date stating they will be charged a \$100 reconnect fee if shutoff.
- Complaints have been received regarding dogs running off leash in the park when children and other families with dogs are walking in the park. Ordinance needed to address dog leash policy.

ADJOURNMENT

- Motion to adjourn was made by Gary and seconded by Eleanor. Motion carried.
Meeting adjourned at 9:26 PM

NEXT MEETING

Next meeting will be April 8th at 7:00 PM

Respectfully Submitted By:

Clerk/Treasurer