

Rowan City Council Meeting January 4, 2024

Mayor Lennea Groom opened the meeting at 7:00 PM.

Council present- Mark Bruns, Dale Hollman, Heather Baumgartner, and Marcos Hurtado.

Minutes of the December meeting were approved with a motion by Hollman, 2nd by Hurtado. Approved unanimously.

Financials/Vouchers – Motion by Bruns to approve, 2nd by Hollman. Approved unanimously.

January Expenditures – AgSource Labs (water testing) \$52.50; Alliant Energy (electric) \$1,098.24; Brown's Landscaping (trimming) \$90.00; Frontier (phone) \$99.95; IPERS (pensions) \$355.05; Mort's Water (service calls) \$402.00; Nationwide (bonding) \$100.00; Rowan Library (1/3 LOST) \$476.47; Sewer (transfer) \$3,412.51; T&S Sanitation (dumpster) \$20.00; Treasurer – State of IA (WET) \$1,392.83 (WH) \$15.00 (Sales) \$400.40; USDA (loan) \$3,000.00; USPS (box rent) \$82.00; US Treasury (payroll taxes) \$1,266.08; VISA (postage) \$396.00; W&H Cooperative (propane) \$650.36; Wright Co Conservation (loan pmt) \$2,050.00; Wright Co Landfill (Q3FY24) \$987.50; Aimee Frohling (City Clerk) \$778.19; Alex Frohling (Water assist) \$129.08; Dale Hollman (council) \$69.26; Gene Frohling (Water super) \$602.42; Heather Baumgartner (council) \$69.19; Lennea Groom (Mayor) \$92.26; Marcos Hurtado (council) \$69.26; Mark Bruns (fire chief, council) \$346.31; Terri Curtis (Janitor) \$150.22; Virgil Park (council) \$23.09.

December Receipts – Property Taxes \$3,108.12; LOST \$1,429.41; Rents \$65.00; Road Use Tax \$1,240.05; Utilities \$5,636.40; Sales \$2,001.00; Fundraising \$6,251.70.

Public Input – None.

Maintenance – Park absent. Hollman reports the North filter in the water dept isn't working correctly, a septic pump was replaced at a residence, Bruns talked to Mort's and the pumps we are using are water pumps, not effluent pumps, one solution might be to raise the pumps up higher, has a call into the engineer.

Mayoral Appointments – Mayor appoints Marcos Hurtado as Mayor Pro-Tem, appoints Dale Hollman to serve on the Landfill Board.

Outdoor Classroom Plan – Nancy Beyer presents, project was started when the old library was torn down, prep work has been completed by volunteers and grass began to grow in the Fall. A grant was applied for and \$2,000 was received for landscape design services. Brown's Landscaping was hired to create the design with input from the committee, residents, and Wright Co Conservation. Beyer handed out a preliminary plan that includes shelter and seating areas, walkways, and areas for birds, insects, and butterflies, would like to incorporate some plaques with historical facts about Rowan and some bricks from buildings that have been torn down. Would like approval from Council to proceed before they start fundraising and grant writing. There was Q&A among the committee, the council, members of the public, Donna Brown, and Eric Rector. Hollman made a motion to support the project, 2nd by Bruns. Approved.

Library Annual Report and Budget – Josephine Miller presented the budget to the council, it has not been officially approved by the Library Board yet, as their meeting is next week, however doesn't expect any major changes. Summarized activities from the last several months, since she took the Director position in September. Had a good turnout for Pulled Pork fundraiser, had an adult program with an Esthetician, had 31 days of Halloween books and movies, Rivetter is delivering drink orders for patrons every 2 weeks and has been a hit, has "Board Game Fridays" with the teenagers as well as after school snacks. Attended a BOS meeting regarding library funding and will know by the end of January amount approved for Rowan. Would like to have a gardening unit during the Summer Reading Program and do some planting on the West side of the building.

Fire Board Annual Report and Budget – Mark Pluff summarized the last years activities, the first Fire Board of Trustees meeting was held on August 3, 2023 with 5 members consisting of Les Andrews, Al Bailey, Dale Hollman, Dale Arends and Mark Pluff. Officers were elected – Pluff – President, Hollman – Vice President and Secretary, and Arends – Treasurer. It was a year of organizing governance and guidelines with an objective to lessen the burden on the Fire Chief by assisting in decisions and sharing accountability. Monies were invested in CD's and planning was started for upgrading trucks and equipment. This coming year they are pursuing a lead on a 2005 Fire Truck that comes fully equipped and looking into signage for the Fire Station and Street Parking. Exploring better training programs and establishing a Constitution and Bylaws for the Trustees. They will work

towards steady progress with baby steps, as this is a volunteer organization and changes won't happen overnight, don't want to overwhelm anyone. Hopes that everyone in the room will roll up their sleeves and pitch in when fundraisers are planned so we may work together to make our Fire Dept better. Pluff hands the budget portion over the Chief Bruns and the council reviewed. Motion by Baumgartner to approve the budget, 2nd by Hurtado. Hollman and Bruns both abstained from voting, Mayor declares the budget approved.

Fire Board Recommendation for Fire Chief – There were 2 firemen running for Fire Chief, being Chief Bruns and Volunteer Fire fighter Joe West. The committee is recommending Mark Bruns to continue to be the Fire Chief, and would like to use Joe's talents in another capacity. Motion by Hollman to accept the recommendation and appoint Bruns as Chief, 2nd by Baumgartner. Approved with Bruns abstaining.

Resolution 2024-01 Mileage Reimbursement – Motion by Hollman to keep it at the 62.5 cent rate, 2nd by Bruns. Approved unanimously.

Resolution 2024-02 COLA and Payroll – Motion by Bruns to keep all wages the same and adopt the resolution, 2nd by Hurtado. Approved unanimously.

Rowan Events Center IRP Contract discussion – The Mayor and Fire Chief toured the building and the main recommendation was to require some type of emergency lighting that would work during a power outage to direct people toward exits in the event of a fire. Contract will be reviewed and wording will be added to that effect. IRP will present at the February meeting.

Fence at Church – Mayor recommends that the fence be replaced with something more stable in the Spring. A suggestion was made that boulders could be used instead of a fence, spaced so that cars can not get through, but a lawnmower could still get around them.

Building permits – none.

Oath of Office was taken by Lennea Groom as Mayor, Mark Bruns and Heather Baumgartner as Council members.

Bruns moves to adjourn. Adjourned.

Next regular meeting of the council will be February 5, 2024 at 7:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Aimee J Frohling - City Clerk