

Rowan City Council Meeting October 7, 2024

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

Council present- Dale Hollman, Marcos Hurtado, Heather Baumgartner, and Virgil Park.

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

Financials/Vouchers – Hollman questions whether the mosquito bill should be paid, Groom states it is a contract we signed if they sprayed one time or 10 times. We can revisit who we contract with in the Spring. Hollman gives clerk a bill for \$8,412.50 for dumping backwash water and filling in for water testing minus the \$10 late fee he received on his water bill. Discussion about septic issues, Hollman's leech fields were found to be uphill from his distribution box. Motion by Baumgartner to approve the vouchers, 2nd by Hurtado. Approved with Hollman abstaining. Motion by Hurtado to approve the bill from Hollman, 2nd by Park. Hollman tears up the bill before it is approved.

October Expenditures – AgSource Labs (water testing) \$99.25; Alliant Energy (electric) \$1,145.57; Belmond Laundry (rugs) \$80.00; Central Waste Solutions (storm drain/septic repairs) \$8,700.00; Hawkins (additives) \$451.22; Iowa DNR (use fee) \$115.00; IPERS (pensions) \$437.22; Mosquito Control of Iowa (2024 spraying) \$1,050.00; Mountain Movers (pea rock) \$1,584.48; Off Fire (exting. inspect) \$302.00; Rowan Library (LOST) \$856.38; Sewer (transfer) \$4,315.28; T&S Sanitation (dumpster) \$20.00; Treasurer St of IA (withholding) \$45.00; USDA (loan) \$3,000.00; US Treasury (payroll taxes) \$1,787.28; VISA (hotel/parking ILOC Conf) \$633.36; WMTel (phone – 3 mo) \$87.20; Wright Co Landfill (Q2FY25) \$987.50; Aimee Frohling (City Clerk) \$1,105.67; 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) \$45.17; Mark Bruns (council) \$46.17; Tamara Hollman (mowing) \$141.67; Terri Curtis (Janitor) \$107.31; Virgil Park (council) \$69.26.

September Receipts – Property Taxes \$7,899.17; LOST \$2,569.15; Rents/Interest \$1,021.40; Road Use Tax \$1,635.61; Utilities \$7,642.70; Donation \$900.00.

Public Input – Todd Foss introduces himself as candidate for County Supervisor, lost to Ellis in the primaries and will be on the Democratic ticket, although still registered Independent. Born and raised in Belmond and recently retired from WC REC/Prairie Energy where he worked for 40 years. Jenn Peter introduces herself as the new Superintendent for the Belmond-Klemme School District, started July 1st.

Maintenance – Park replaced bulbs in entry of Comm Center, charged water softener, power washed 2 fire trucks, sprayed weeds around fire dept and playground, replaced batteries in smoke detector and is working on the Comm Center refrigerator which is having a defrosting issue. Baumgartner voices concern about when he is spraying weeds at the park, volunteers pulled most of the weeds when installing playground equipment, he states he does it early in the morning when the kids would be in school.

Debt Service CD – matures Oct 11th, bank offered renew for 6 months at 4.6% or 12 months at 4.3%. Motion by Hollman to renew for 12 months at 4.3%, 2nd by Hurtado. Approved unanimously.

Resolution 2024-07 Amending payroll resolution after changes in the water department. Motion by Hollman to approve, 2nd by Park. Approved on a roll call vote with 4 ayes and 1 absent.

City Attorney – It has been taking a long time to get resolution on some of the issues we have and sometimes hard to get a response in a timely manner. Groom and Frohling met a few Municipal attorneys at the ILOC Conference out of Des Moines and West Des Moines that would be willing to take us. Groom contacted Miller and he would not be heartbroken if we changed. It was learned at conference that there is a shortage of attorneys in the rural areas. Groom recommends Jason Palmer of Lamson Dugan & Murray LLP out of West Des Moines; the other law firms were quite large and is afraid we would get lost in the crowd. He would do it for an hourly rate without a retainer, would visit a council meeting 1-2 times per year and would be available by Zoom at other times. Will invite him to the November meeting.

Sewer parts – used the last control panel we had in stock at Hollman's house and have 3 regular pumps left and 1 Orenco pump. There are 39 pumps in town and have replaced 3 of them in the last 6 months. The pumps we had before are no longer available, similar ones were priced at \$670 and \$820, the cheaper one actually pumps faster, not sure if that would be better or worse. Motion by Hurtado to have Central Waste Solutions order one control panel and 3 of the \$670 pumps and 3 of the \$820 pumps and to track their performance, 2nd by Park.

Approved. Motion by Hollman to have Central Waste Solutions inspect all of the 39 pumps before Winter, 2nd by Baumgartner. Approved.

Water rates – Clerk provided analysis of revenues and expenses for the water department, considering changes in personnel. Would have to raise rates by \$4.73/month to break even. There are some expensive repair & maintenance items that need to be saved for in the near future and recommends adding another 10% to build up the fund. Mayor Groom also advises that she learned at the ILOC conference that most towns split the clerk wages across departments and that Frohling spends at least half of her time on the water department, with the recent property tax cuts we should also consider doing that to take some of the pressure off of the General Fund, we have more control over revenues from the water department. Hollman moves to raise the base water rate to \$32.15 and to increase 10% after 6 months and then another 10% 6 months after that and then to raise it 5% every 6 months for 5 years or until decided and amended otherwise, and to charge 10% of the clerk's wages to the water fund this year, and increase each year 10% of wages for 5 years at which time 50% of the clerk's wages are paid by the water department. Park 2nd the motion. Approved. Clerk will draft Ordinance Amendment for the November meeting.

Snow removal – motion by Hollman to put an ad in the paper to receive bids, same as in past years, 2nd by Baumgartner. Approved.

Soup Supper – will be December 7th.

Storm Drains/Tiles – tree roots were cleared from tiles along Bingham and Pesch, repairs made, etc.

Nuisance Abatement – Letters will go out about a brush pile and access to septic system and a nuisance property with cars, garbage, grass/weeds.

Building permits – Chicken permit received for 203 Elizabeth for 6 hens. Motion by Hollman to approve, 2nd by Hurtado. Approved.

Hollman moves to adjourn, 2nd by Hurtado. Adjourned.

Next regular meeting of the council will be November 4, 2024 at 7:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Aimee J Frohling - City Clerk