

September 3, 2013

Pawnee Rock City Council Minutes

7:00PM

Mayor Gary Adams called the meeting to order at 7:00pm

Those in attendance were Mayor Gary Adams, Council persons Barry Jack, Joyce Epperson, Vickie Alsup, Nickolle Parret, and City Clerk John Henderson

Galen Zortman, active member of the volunteer fire department, also attended and was addressed during the meeting

Council reviewed the minutes from the August 5th City Council Meeting, August 5th Public Budget Hearing, and August 11th Special Meeting

MOTION 1: Joyce motioned to accept the minutes from August 5th Council Meeting, August 5th Public Budget Hearing, and August 11th Special Meeting with noted changes. Vickie second. Carried 4-0

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Check 2655 – Utility Service Co (Water Tower)

Motion 1: Nickolle motioned to approve check 2655. Joyce second. Carried 4-0

B. Fire Department Returning Tanker and Addressing First Responder Service

The discussion opened with Joyce and Vickie noting the Fire Department currently does not have the budget to maintain the tanker nor does it have the qualified personnel to justify continuing the first responder service.

Nickolle noted that without the first responder service, the closest emergency response units are Great Bend and Larned.

Barry noted there are individuals who are certified in basic life-saving practices such as CPR, although not every individual in the fire department is certified.

Gary noted there are pro's and con's to keeping the tanker and first responder service active. If all of the potential issues are addressed, keeping both would likely be net-beneficial.

Barry noted that if the City gets rid of the tanker, there are certain residences which may be too far from street to reach with the hose on the pumper.

Gary responded there should be enough hose if the correct hydrant is used.

Gary asked Galen Zortman if he had any feelings on the tanker or first responder issues. Galen noted it might be less expensive in the long run to purchase a used 5 ton truck which could handle the current tanker. He also noted that if we returned the tanker truck to the Forestry Service there was little chance we would get another one in the near future.

This issue is tabled until council meeting in October. The fire department holds a monthly meeting on the second Tuesday of every month. Several council members noted they would like to attend to see what the state of the fire department is. It will also give members of the fire department an opportunity to address the issues brought up by the council and provide feedback and/or input.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Burning of Fully Upright Residences Under the Supervision of the Volunteer Fire Department

Vickie and Joyce noted the risk of burning a fully upright residence carries a significant liability risk for the city. If any property next to the burned building is damaged, it would be the responsibility of the city to replace or repair it. Additionally the current level of moisture or lack thereof, increases the risk even further.

Barry noted the burning of fully upright residences provides a valuable training opportunity for the volunteer fire department.

There was also some discussion about partially tearing down the residences before burning them to minimize risk while still providing a training opportunity.

This issue is tabled until such time the liability risk has diminished due to cooler temperature and more moisture.

B. Address Reported Incidences of Overcharging Residents

A resident noted they were being overcharged \$2 per month for trash bin rentals. A letter was sent asking them to attend the council meeting as only the council can approve reimbursements. The resident did not attend. Furthermore, the council noted if overcharges occur the city is only required to reimburse residents an amount equal to or less than the total amount being charged for the previous 12 months. Documentation of the overcharges must be provided by the resident for the request to be considered by the council.

C. Road Work – Filling in Holes/Adding Dirt or Sand

Barry and Gary both noted several areas of road within the town which could benefit from filling in holes with dirt or sand. Gary added that until the large trucks and grain trailers are done driving on the streets during the harvest season there is no benefit of adding dirt or sand. Joyce suggested the City Clerk look at current ordinances to see if any exist which may apply to this situation.

D. Temporarily Increasing Availability of Burn Pit

Gary noted the burn pit does not allow public vehicles to enter it and dump items at-will. This is due to KDHE requirements.

E. Send Out Letters to Certain Residents Pertaining to Lawn Maintenance

Need up to update list. No way to enforce the letters.

F. Fix Fire Page

Still a problem but there is no money in the budget to make the necessary repairs.

MONTHLY DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Treasurer's Report

Motion 3: Joyce motioned to accept the Treasurer's Report. Vickie second. Carried 4-0

Motion 4: Joyce motioned to approved checks 2671-2680 plus an additional \$75 for the LKM invoice. Vickie second. Carried 4-0

Maintenance Report

Discussed water tower maintenance, getting rid of ground hogs at the lagoons, road repairs, and lawn care.

Clerk's Report

Discussed past due accounts, website updates, and digitizing the office.

Fire Department Report

Discussed previous month's runs. There were 4 first responder runs and 2 fire calls in August.

Meeting adjourned at 7:45 pm