

REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING

August 12th, 2024

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, a regular meeting was duly held at Adams City Hall at 6:00 PM on the 12th day of August 2024.

Council present: Michael Cherney, Christopher Quale and Nick Anderson.

Council absent: Karen Ruechel

Mayor: Brian Anderson presided over the meeting.

Agenda:

Motion made by Christopher Quale, seconded by Nick Anderson, to approve the City Council meeting agenda. Votes in favor: Michael Cherney, Christopher Quale and Nick Anderson. Votes against: None Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes:

Motion made by Nick Anderson, seconded by Christopher Quale, to approve July 23rd meeting minutes as presented. Votes in favor: Michael Cherney, Christopher Quale and Nick Anderson. Votes against: None Motion carried.

Approval of Timecards:

Motion made by Nick Anderson, seconded by Christopher Quale, to approve the July timecards. Votes in favor: Michael Cherney, Christopher Quale and Nick Anderson. Votes against: None Motion carried.

Old Business:

Dave Fasbender attended the meeting to discuss his progress with a proposed Veterans Memorial for the City. He talked to Mary Schmitz about a piece of property on Hwy 56. Mrs. Schmitz seemed receptive to the idea of leasing a piece of property to the City of Adams in order to construct a Veterans Memorial. Mr. Fasbender was instructed to set up a meeting with Mrs. Schmitz, the Mayor, the City Clerk, and himself so that the City and Mary Schmitz could work some terms to put together a lease agreement for the piece of land. Mr. Fasbender also spoke about funding. He thought that the memorial could be constructed mainly through donations and possibly through grants. He felt that the City should set up an account at the bank where the money for building the memorial could reside. Mr. Fasbender wants to set up a committee to plan and design the memorial, looking for input from organizations like the Adams American Legion and other residents.

Police Report:

Sargeant Katelyn Fisher was present and reported that the Mower County Sheriff's Department patrolled the City of Adams for a total of 221 hours from July 9th to August 11th. There were 59 calls for service in the city, with traffic stops and medical calls being the main focus. Sargeant Fisher also said there have been complaints about the trees in the boulevard by Bings Liquor and RB Cabinetry. People have complained the trees obstruct their view to be able to safely turn onto State Hwy 56. The City of Adams did not want to commit to removing the trees because they weren't sure if they belonged to the State. Sargeant Fisher was going to find more information on the matter in order to resolve the issue.

Fire Department Report:

Chief Dillon Heimer reported that the Adams Fire Department responded to three calls in the month of July. He also reported that Schmitz Electric was able to move and upgrade the electrical drops in the truck bay as well as install a receptacle for the air pack compressor in the old bunk room.

Chief Heimer reported on the progress of the water tankers. He stated that we are coming in overbudget at \$95,000.00 per truck right now and we still need to get lights installed and wired on both, which could run another \$10,000.00 per truck. The clerk reported that Dillon should get a quote to install the lights and the city can take that quote to the bank to get a loan to cover the remaining amount owed to complete the trucks.

Maintenance Department Report:

The maintenance department was able to burn the brush at the treatment plant in July. The flow meters at the treatment plant were also calibrated in July. The maintenance crew had to dry out the carpet and floors at the History Center due to a plugged drain hose on the building air conditioning unit. A representative from Utility Logic met with the maintenance crew for training on the line locator and to upgrade the SIM card on the locator. Traut Companies was in town to clean out some debris from Well #5. The maintenance crew, city clerk, and mayor met with Alex Jaromin from Davy Engineering to discuss Phase II of the Well #5 project. The discussion included the design and features of the new pump house to be constructed. The maintenance department mowed 3 lawns in town where the grass had gotten too long. They also mowed and cleaned up a fallen tree in a sewer easement.

Prairie Visions Report:

Nothing new to report.

Approval of Bills:

The bills payable for July were reviewed by the City Council.

Motion made by Michael Cherney, seconded by Nick Anderson, to approve the payment of July bills. Votes in favor: Michael Cherney, Christopher Quale and Nick Anderson. Votes against: None Motion carried.

Financial Report:

The city clerk presented the June 30th, 2024 financial statements.

Motion made by Michael Cherney, seconded by Christopher Quale, to approve the financial report as presented. Votes in favor: Michael Cherney, Christopher Quale and Nick Anderson. Votes against: None Motion carried.

Building Permits:

Permits were applied for the construction of a 12' x 16' shed, a 6' High x 10' privacy fence, and a 8' x 16' deck, contingent upon the approval of a 3 foot easement to the side yard property setback by the neighbor at 14 Bergen Street, to be located at 100 1st St. NW, and a resubmission of a permit application which was approved in 2023 for a 330 sq ft. addition to connect the house to the garage at 203 4th St. NW.

Motion made by Michael Cherney, seconded by Christopher Quale, to approve building permits for 100 1st St. NW and for 203 4th St NW. Votes in favor: Michael Cherney, Christopher Quale and Nick Anderson. Votes against: None Motion carried.

Community Center Proposal:

Multiple Adams residents attended the meeting to express their concerns about the city's need for a community center. They thought that the recently vacated clinic building would be a good spot. The Mayo Clinic currently owns the building, and it is priced at \$225,000.00. The residents would like to see the city get involved and negotiate with the Mayo Clinic to acquire the building. The clerk was asked to gather details about when and how the building was sold to the Mayo Clinic by looking through past meeting minutes in order to obtain information for potential negotiations.

Another resident asked about using the meeting room in the Emergency Services Building and wondered why it couldn't be used again as it was in the past. The building was closed to the public a couple of years ago due to insurance concerns. The clerk was asked to speak to the City's insurance representative to see, from an insurance standpoint, what it would take to reopen the space as a community center.

Louise Solar Farm Representative:

Bea Perez, the Safety Site Manager with Louise Solar Farm project East of town, was present at the meeting to discuss setting up an Emergency Action Plan (EAP) with the Fire Chief, Dillon Heimer.

2025 Salary Negotiations:

The city clerk negotiated a 2.5% salary increase for the city workers, the same as last year. Motion made by Michael Cherney, seconded by Nick Anderson, to approve a 2.5% salary increase to the City Maintenance Department and City Clerk for the coming year in 2025. Votes in favor: Cherney, Christopher Quale and Nick Anderson. Votes against: None Motion carried.

Council Salaries:

Motion made by Michael Cherney, seconded by Christopher Quale, to approve the increase of the mayoral and council salaries by \$500.00 annually. Votes in favor: Cherney, Christopher Quale and Nick Anderson. Votes against: None Motion carried.

Proposed 2025/2026 Contract For Law Enforcement Services:

The monthly total for the police contract between Mower County and the City of Adams will increase from \$7228.00 in 2024 to \$7662.00 in 2025 and then from \$7662.00 in 2025 to \$7815.00 in 2026. These contract numbers are only proposed and have not yet been approved by Mower County.

Ordinance No. 201:

Motion made by Michael Cherney, seconded by Christopher Quale, to approve Ordinance No. 201, an ordinance that would change the term of mayor from 2 years to 4 years. Votes in favor: Cherney, Christopher Quale and Nick Anderson. Votes against: None Motion carried.

No further business.

Motion made by Christopher Quale, seconded by Nick Anderson, to adjourn at 8:37 PM. Votes in favor: Michael Cherney, Christopher Quale and Nick Anderson. Votes against: None Motion carried.

Jake Goodale

Clerk/ Treasurer