

City Council Meeting

04/22/24, 7PM

Meeting Minutes

Attendees: Mayor Brady Gragg, Grant Bowlin, Ken Stringer, Dan Ravenscraft, Kathryn Coleman, & Trent Clark

Others In Attendance: Officer Tom Moore, Anne Morrow, Don Berg, Andrew Hanna, Jim Fink (in-person) & Ulises Cabrera (Zoom) of Flock Safety, Matt & Jessica Pope of Pope's Concrete & Construction, and Dustin Fee

7:00pm: Mayor Brady Gragg calls the meeting to order. Mayor requests to move the Pope Estimate to occur after the Flock Camera presentation. Motion to approve the adjustment to the agenda and approve the agenda by Bowlin, second by Clark – all in favor. Approved. Motion to approve the March meeting minutes by Bowlin, second by Ravenscraft – all in favor. Approved. 7:05pm

Open to Public - N/A

Order of Business

Flock Safety 7:10pm: – Presented in person by Jim Fink and assisted by Ulises Cabrera via Zoom. Flock Cameras help supplement law enforcement for the city by license plate reading. It is a tool which the city can provide to help Butler Co. Sheriff Department eliminate criminal activity in Whitewater. These cameras are connected to the NCIC database and are not accessible by the city itself. Other cities in Butler Co. have set up flock cameras. They identify vehicle plates, color, make, model and can be set for certain criteria when there are alerts. These cameras do not clock speeds, but screen shot vehicles and are motion activated. They helped in assisting with a child abduction who was found in Abilene, KS. They help daily in Wichita in locating stolen vehicles, and recently helped locate the vehicle that stole the trailer and equipment on said trailer found in Wichita from Whitewater. The city of Douglass just recently set up cameras to help their officers. Bowlin would like to look at this financially along with the Law Enforcement contract we already have; other towns who have set up cameras usually maintain at least some law enforcement patrols within city limits. The city does not have access to the data and the data is not sold. Five recommended locations have been scouted to place cameras within the city limits of Whitewater. First year cost for cameras and implementation would be \$16,750 and the annual recurring fee is \$15,000. Contract totaling \$31,750. The council will look at this again at the same time as the Law Enforcement contract renewal. The mayor thanked the gentlemen from Flock Safety.

Pope's Concrete – Sidewalk Proposal 7:30pm: – A copy of the job break down totaling \$36,997 as well as GIS maps (provided by Ravenscraft) helped in viewing what areas were to be addressed in this Phase 1 of sidewalk repair along the westside of Main Street Whitewater. Pope's estimates were by the block dealing with trip hazards, ADA ramps and required truncated domes for certain intersections. A new sidewalk project at the Sunflower Apartments and Wheat State Manor was added to this proposal. The mayor would like to also add a ramp in front of the post office. We would like to show the public that their money is being used in positive ways to improve our city and need to communicate with them that this is only Phase 1. Can we do this financially? What is a

more visible application of the money at hand? Ullum informs the council that we can do this financially. Ravenscraft backs Pope's work and said he would help financially for the areas around his business. Communication will be key as far as communicating with individuals living along the improvements planned path. In perfect weather this project will take 3 weeks by taking it one block at a time. To accomplish the more intensive work of creating a sidewalk in front of Wheat State Manor, locates for all the sewer services and such will need to be done as well as possibly redirecting some flow. Coleman pointed out that Wheat State will have a big Anniversary June 2nd, so work must be done by then or after for the new sidewalk plans. Stringer & Coleman think it is something that needs to be done. Stringer motions that with the changes of concrete to be 4000psi and recalculations of adding a ramp in front of the post office to accept Pope's bid to begin work on Phase 1 of the Sidewalk Improvements. Coleman seconds. All in favor. Approved.

Ravenscraft will work with Pope concerning the area along RAVENSCRAFT. Pope will walk the areas with the City Superintendents and start marking the areas. As well as send an updated proposal with said revisions. Estimated start date in 3 weeks.

Leaf Vacuum's – Trent Clark 8:14pm: – Clark visited with Steve from Maximum and showed the council a brochure with 2 different leaf vacuum models that might work for our needs. One being a 29-horsepower the other being a 37-horsepower model. They are of the Billy Goat brand and have youtube videos showing their functionality. Two-man operation. cost about \$8500

Andrew Hanna has done some looking as well and investigated Victory Sweepers which is more of a pull behind street sweeper which would pick up leaves, rocks, trash, wood and more. The mayor will forward the information onto those on the Council. One-man operation. cost about \$1700

We will keep this item on the agenda as we keep investigating.

Water Rates – Anne Morrow 8:21pm: – Morrow informed the council that the last Water Rate Increase was in 2017/2018. With inflation we should increase our rates by 3.5% - Stringer asked what Potwin was charging us for water back in 2017/2018 compared to now so that we don't increase our fees beyond what is needed. Morrow & Ullum will have to look for that information. This item is tabled until that information can be presented.

Financial Report – Terry Ullum, 8:24pm

- Presented a Quarterly Report per request of the Mayor
- 2 CD's in the first quarter have increased more than \$4000
- Ullum will attend an online class April 23, 9am-Noon to learn more about Municipality Finances and to assist in prep for Budgeting and Auditors expectations.

Police Report – Tom Moore, 8:34pm

- Complaints concerning youth in dirt bikes, go carts, 4-wheelers, etc. driving within the city limits as well as causing destruction to ballfields. Officer Moore was able to track down some of these youths and talk with their parents. Many informed the Officer that this is "a small town" to justify their actions. Officer Moore informed them that it is a safety issue for everyone.
- Complaints about baseball/softball kids flying through town following practices and games. Some of which seem to be going 60-70mph and driving erratically. Officer Moore spoke to the coaches and School leadership who in turn stated they would talk to their players. It seems to be 3 primary vehicles. Tickets will be going out if laws are not followed.

Clerk's Report – Anne Morrow, 8:41pm

- Ullum and Morrow have been working with the Llyod Group in preparation for the Onsite Audit set for May 14th. Many documents required have already been submitted via an online portal.
- Provided other cities start wages for their summer hires; it is decided to start ours at \$12.00 an hour for 2024.
- City Code/Ordinance Updates – two proposals: 1.) Ranson Citycode about \$4000 2.) American Legal Publishing about \$8000 -- Morrow explained that much of the city ordinances are outdated and may not even be State Compliant: example being the Landlord Utility situation she ran into when she first started. Having updated codes will help stay compliant with the State, find answers for the public when asked about city codes and set a standard to move forward confidently. Codes will be digitized, and citizens can view the codes for themselves. Morrow recommends the council look at other cities listed in each proposal to see how those cities have implemented the services. Tabled for next month.
- Computers for the Water Tower as well as City Billing have been upgraded. However, once they got updated the present obsolete copy machine no longer would communicate with them. It can still make copies but cannot communicate with any computers to print from devices other than a flash drive. A service call was placed to help with the situation. A week later we were contacted, and they provided no good solutions. It became evident it was time to move towards a new machine. A new 1-Toshiba e-Studio 4525ac machine through CPI will be in the office before March. This has created a delay in printing utility bills this month but only by a few days.

Mayor's Report – Brady Gragg, 9:04pm

- Asked about the water tower computer, Don Berg told him the tech who looked at the old computer told him it was disintegrating. Within days, the new computer was installed and working, and the whole maintenance staff learned about the water tower software functions. All for just \$750
- The mayor had nothing else.

Maintenance Report – Don Berg, 9:06pm

- No Water Leaks this month.
- Andrew Hanna started April 2 and is doing a great job learning.
- Baseball and Softball are in full swing.
- Bitty Baseball has started and will go until mid-July
- Got a new computer to monitor the water tower telemetry. Via Com-Tronix
- South Central Sealing had no issues with the slurry project that started April 10th and finished the 13th
- The crack seal on Poplar and Cottonwood will start sometime this week.
- On the 17th Folly Equipment performed an annual maintenance check on the generator at the lift station. - no issues, all is normal
- Water tower maintenance (reseal/coating the interior) has been pushed back due to timing issues and weather – it will be on the ground 14 days when being serviced.

Unfinished/Other Business

- Ravenscraft asked about the Bulletin Board and mentioned that we could put it over at the Pizza place – Per last month's meeting Morrow showed them 4 possible locations around the library. Everyone agreed on a location and Morrow will order it ASAP.
- Ravenscraft – water standing along the South Elm Street location along the drainage ditch – needs to be investigated before it destroys the roadbed. The City Supers will look into what can be done.

- Discussion on when to move the May meeting due to Memorial Day, Ravenscraft motions to move the meeting to May 20, 2024. Clark seconds. Stringer opposes, others agree. Approved.

Next Month's Meeting – May 20, 2024

- Leaf Vacuum/Street Sweeper
- Water Rate Charges
- City Ordinance/Code Updating

Bowlin moves to bring the meeting to an end, Stringer seconds, all agree, passed.

9:25pm - Meeting Adjourned