

MINUTES OF THE AKELEY CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING HELD AT AKELEY CITY HALL 6:00PM, FEBRUARY 12TH, 2025

The Akeley City Council met in a regular meeting on Wednesday, February 12th, 2025. Mayor Brian Hitchcock called the meeting to order at 6:00pm.

Council members present: Brian Hitchcock, Dan Riggs, Dale Nelson, and Bobbie Wosika

Council members absent: Billy Krotzer

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by the Council and attending audience.

Consent Agenda:

- Minutes from January 8th, 2025, Regular Meeting
- Minutes from February 4th, 2025, Special Meeting
- Treasurer's Report for January
- Total disbursements including all automatic payments equaling \$155,786.31. Check numbers #22788 - #22839. Total receipts including all automatic deposits equaling \$90,082.35.
- Administration Finance Report for January
- January Permits Issued – 0
- **Motion by Bobbie Wosika to approve the consent agenda with adding the billboard under parks, fire hydrants under water and sewer, bathroom design under Akeley community projects report, and removing Akeley Ice Racers under city hall, seconded by Dan Riggs, passed.**

City Hall – Kristi Kath

- Kristi states that the auditors will be at city hall on February 25th, 2025, and that if need be, they may be here also on the 26th.

Police Department – Jimmy Hansen

- Jimmy states everything is going well, and that Audrey's Purple Dream went fantastic.
- He states that he is going through trainings.

Liquor Store - Lacey Hitchcock

- Lacey was absent.

Parks - Billy Krotzer

- Discussion on the billboard by T&M Express. Billy was in charge of getting a design made to get put up. Bobbie states that she thinks that the Paul Bunyan Days sign needs to be taken down as they did not have permission from the city to put it up. Dan states that he can get ahold of a sign designing company to get something made. Brian states that he will get ahold of Billy tomorrow.

Water/Sewer/Maintenance Report-Reid Watson/Mike Hubner

- Reid was absent.
- Discussion on the calcium chloride contract. There would be no change in what the city has been getting and not the dura blend.
- Motion by Dan Riggs to approve the calcium chloride contract in the amount of up to \$4,194.19 with the funds coming from the park, seconded by Dale Nelson, passed.
- Bobbie states that she would like the fire hydrants cleaned out so that the fire department can access them without having to walk through snow. Dale states that Reid was cleaning them out today.
- Mike discusses two lift stations that are having issues. Lift station three pump two ended up getting air locked. He thought that there were rags stuck in there and that when he looked, he couldn't see anything. Electric Pump came and pulled the pump and found some rags in it. They put the pump back

in and it is working again. Lift station three also had a bad relay that was not disengaging. A new relay was installed, and it is working again.

- Zach states that the sewer resiliency grant application that was submitted was not successful because it was scored highly on the project priority list. The city is within the fundable range on the project priority list. He states that if you apply through the project priority list, they will refer the city to rural development because they can typically fund first. Mike states that he will do a walk through with Zach and then have a formal meeting before a council meeting.
- Dan asks if the council is interested in Reid keeping up with his water license and if he needs his license. Mike states that legally he does not need to have it. He also states that the state likes to see at least two licensed water operators but since the city has a contract with Advanced Utility Solutions, they have multiple licensed water operators. Dan asks if the council would like to continue to pay for Reid's training hours to keep up with his water license. The council states that they think that if he wants to keep up with his water license, that he can do that on his own as it is not in the city's interest to invest in him having his water license when that will no longer be in his job description.
- Jimmy asks if the city could have a back up for plowing when Reid is gone. Brian states that he has been asked if Reid has a back-up. Jimmy refers to the city to possibly get in touch with Truman Crandall. Dan states that Herb helps. Reid may need to train someone how to use the skid steer when Reid is not there.

East Hubbard County Fire District –Dan Riggs/Bobbie Wosika

- Report on January minutes.

Old Business

- Discussion on the Hubbard County Highway Department invoice in the amount of \$16,216.24. Bobbie asks why there is an invoice from them. Kristi states that the county broke down the bill and that there was always a percentage match portion that the city would owe. Chuck states that there was a resolution signed by two commissioners stating that the match was to be taken from the grant money that was received. Kristi states that the Blandin Foundation money in the Community Projects account cannot be used for this and that it was discussed at a meeting that there could be overages to this project and that the park would pay for those overages.
- **Motion by Brian Hitchcock to pay the Hubbard County Highway Department in the amount of \$16,216.24 and for the funds to come from the park fund, seconded by Dan Riggs, passed.**
- Discussion on the bathroom design. Bobbie states that the design that was handed out is the design that the committee agreed on having. Bobbie states that there does not need to be a family restroom and that they are aiming for it to be more affordable. She states that Randy Vredenburg joined the committee and that they are thinking that it should be concrete poured instead of stick built because it would be cheaper. Further discussion on the building plans.
- Frank Lamb states that he would like to see the city take out a small loan to get the project finished. He also stated that he believes that Hubbard County should not be sending the city bills and instead helping pay for the project.

New Business

Public Forum

Motion by Dan Riggs to adjourn the meeting at 7:10pm, seconded Dale Nelson, passed.

**Respectfully Submitted by,
Michaella Dunham Deputy Clerk**