

MINUTES OF THE AKELEY CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING HELD AT AKELEY CITY HALL 6:00PM, JANUARY 10TH, 2024

The Akeley City Council met in a regular meeting Wednesday, January 10th, 2024. 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 December 13th, 2023, Work Session
- Minutes from December 13th, 2023, Regular Meeting
- Minutes from December 27th, 2023, Special Meeting
- Treasurer's Report for December
- Total disbursements including all automatic payments equaling \$176,762.10. Check numbers #21817-21900. Total receipts including all automatic deposits equaling \$316,026.79.
- Administration Finance Report for December
- December Permits Issued – 0
- **Motion by Bobbie Wosika to approve the consent agenda adding Roger Mccollough under new business for varmints in his yard, seconded by Dale Nelson, passed.**

City Hall – Kristi Kath

- Discussion on the 2024 commissioner assignments.
- **Motion by Dan Riggs to approve the 2024 commissioner assignments, seconded by Bobbie Wosika, passed.**
- Resolution 1-2024 is a resolution to adopt consignments for 2024.
- **Motion by Bobbie Wosika to approve resolution 1-2024, seconded by Dale Nelson, passed.**
- Resolution 2-2024 is a resolution for authorization approvals for signatories of all accounts at First National Bank of Walker – Akeley Branch.
- **Motion by Dan Riggs to approve resolution 2-2024, seconded by Dale Nelson, passed.**
- Resolution 3-2024 is a resolution for payments prior to council authorization.
- **Motion by Dale Nelson to approve resolution 3-2024, seconded by Bobbie Wosika, passed.**
- Resolution 4-2024 is a resolution allowing wire/automated bank payments.
- **Motion by Dan Riggs to approve resolution 4-2024, seconded by Dale Nelson, passed.**
- Resolution 5-2024 is a resolution to allow electronic funds wire transfer.
- **Motion by Bobbie Wosika to approve resolution 5-2024, seconded by Dale Nelson, passed.**
- Resolution 6-2024 is a resolution authorizing the City of Akeley to contribute funds to Hubbard County Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention Program in the amount of \$1,150.00.
- **Motion by Dan Riggs to approve resolution 6-2024 in the amount of \$1,150.00 to come from the park, seconded by Bobbie Wosika, passed.**
- The 2024 regular meeting schedule has no conflicts for the second Wednesday of every month at 6:00pm to be held at City Hall.
- **Motion by Bobbie Wosika to approve the 2024 meeting schedule, seconded by Dan Riggs, passed.**
- The 2024 milage rate is increasing from .65 cents per mile to .67 cents per mile.
- **Motion by Dan Riggs to approve the 2024 mileage rate, seconded by Dale Nelson, passed.**
- Discussion on renewing the sewer cd number 10100678. It matured and Kristi would like to know if the council would like to renew it for another 60 months with an interest rate of 3%. Discussion on the other options that have higher interest rates.

- **Motion by Dan Riggs to approve renewing the sewer cd number 10100678 to the 9-month special at a 5% interest rate, seconded by Dale Nelson, passed.**
- Discussion on what the city should use the public safety aid money for. The city received public aid for 2023 in the amount of \$18,204.00. Its eligible uses are for community violence prevention and intervention programs, community engagement, mental health crisis responses, victim services, training programs, first responder wellness, equipment related to fire, rescue, and emergency services, and to pay other personnel for equipment costs. You can not use it for to purchase an armored or tactical vehicle or substantially similar vehicle, the purchase of tear gas, chemical munitions, or substantially similar items, or the construction, reconstruction, remodeling, expansion, or improvement of a police station. It can be tabled until the council decides what it should be used for.
- **Motion by Dan Riggs to table where the public safety aid funds should go and be talked about it at the next regular meeting, seconded by Bobbie Wosika, passed.**
- Discussion on the tax forfeited building located at 15 Broadway Street E. Kristi states that she met with the Hubbard County administrator, Jeff Cadwell, he stated that if the building would be used for public use, the city would not have to pay fair market value in the city was interested in the building. She stated that the city would only have to pay for the filing fees and such. It is going on the auction in March of this year. If the city is interested in it the city would need to write a letter of interest to the Hubbard County board. At that time the property would be taken off auction and the city could start the process of the city getting that building. Kristi states that it would be less than \$10,000.00.
- **Motion by Bobbie Wosika to approve writing a letter of interest to Hubbard County for purchasing the property of 15 Broadway St E, seconded by Dale Nelson, passed with Dan Riggs abstaining.**
- Just and FYI that the auditors are coming to City Hall to do their field work on February 8th, 2024.

Police Department – Jimmy Hansen

- Jimmy states everything is going well. He states that he is just getting ready for training this year.

Liquor Store - Lacey Hitchcock

- Lacey was absent.
- Bobbie asks if there were any covid funds left over. Kristi states that they must be used by 2026. Bobbie asks if that money can be used for an addition onto the Muni. She states that she can look into it because there is a lot of paperwork that goes into using the money and its uses.
- Kristi states that the neon light at the liquor store is broken and they are starting an insurance claim on it.

Parks - Billy Krotzer

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

- Mike and Reid were absent.
- Snow in front of Muni needs to be removed from the boulevard. It can be pushed into the space between the Muni and the apartment building. Kristi states that all the handicapped accesses need to be plowed out. Not just one.

East Hubbard County Fire District –Dan Riggs/Bobbie Wosika

- Report on December minutes.
- The fire board paid the Area Excavating invoice. Looking into being able to figure out if the city can assess it to the property taxes.

Old Business

- Discussion on the park project pay order number two.
- Zach Thoma states that this is for the pavement for the parking lot and some of the concrete.
- **Motion by Bobbie Wosika to approve paying the park project pay order number two in the amount of \$66,654.72, seconded by Dan Riggs, passed.**
- Zach Thoma discusses the project update report. The DNR grant is now open, and the city could look into applying for it again. Kristi states that she does not think that the city should apply for it at this moment because of how tight the funds are.

New Business

- Discussion on a streetlight on Graceson Ave. Brian states that there is already a streetlight on the corner of 1st Street and Graceson Ave. Touch base with Reid and see if he can look into it.
- Roger McCollough was there to ask permission to get rid of coyotes that are coming into his yard. The city ordinance states that you are not allowed to discharge guns in town. He says that they have tried everything else to try and get rid of them, but they keep coming back. He is trying to protect his dogs.
- **Motion by Dan Riggs to approve Roger McCollough to discharge a firearm on his property to get rid of the coyotes, seconded by Dale Nelson, passed.**

Public Forum

- Thomas Bower asks about if the council has made any decisions on the little bus that was discussed at last months public forum. Now he says that he had an idea to turn it into a fire truck.
- Kristin Fake and Cynthia McGrath ask if the council knows that Billy Krotzer moved out of town. The council states that Billy has not addressed anything to them.
- Kristin Fake also asked about the signatures for the ATM account. The council states that she can go into City Hall at any time and ask them about the signatures.

Motion by Dan Riggs to adjourn at 7:03pm, seconded by Dale Nelson, passed.

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