

MINUTES OF THE AKELEY CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING HELD AT AKELEY CITY HALL 6:00PM, AUGUST 14TH, 2024

The Akeley City Council met in a regular meeting Wednesday, August 14th, 2024. 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 July 10th, 2024, Regular Meeting
- Treasurer's Report for July
- Total disbursements including all automatic payments equaling \$303,594.04. Check numbers #22311 - #22411. Total receipts including all automatic deposits equaling \$458,108.08.
- Administration Finance Report for July
- July Permits Issued – 1
- **Motion by Bobbie Wosika to approve the consent agenda with the addition of adding the walkway at Paul's Patio under Parks, seconded by Dan Riggs, passed.**

City Hall – Kristi Kath

- Resolution 14-2024 is a resolution acknowledging the donations from T&M Express, North Country Repair, First National Bank North, Eastern Hubbard County Fire District, Akeley Regional Community Center, Red River Event Center, Akeley Veterans Community Outreach, and Anonymous, for the Akeley National Night Out event.
- **Motion by Dan Riggs to approve resolution 14-2024, seconded by Dale Nelson, passed.**
- Discussion on the LAC propane contract. It is the same amount per gallon as last year at \$1.50. Kristi feels confident that 5,000 gallons would be enough for this year as the city still has 2,365.8 gallons left from last year's contract.
- **Motion by Dan Riggs to approve the LAC propane contract for 5000 gallons at \$1.50 per gallon in the amount of \$7,500.00, seconded by Bobbie Wosika, passed.**
- Discussion on the monies received from small city assist in the amount of \$11,958.50. Kristi suggests putting these funds from the general account into savings account 2731364 for capital improvements for roads.
- **Motion by Bobbie Wosika to approve the funds in the amount of \$11,958.50 be moved from the general account to savings account number 2731364, seconded by Dale Nelson, passed.**
- Krisit received a letter from Hubbard County Environmental Services about the McGregor Campground and that they did not follow the necessary steps and that their operations need to cease and desist until they complete all steps needed to run the business. The county asked the city if the water could be shut off. The council does not think that the water should be shut off, which would make this letter just an FYI as the rest will be handled through the county.
- Discussion on when the budget meeting should be. Krisit suggests September 4th, 2024, as it needs to happen before the September regular meeting.
- **Motion by Bobbie Wosika to set a budget meeting work session for September 4th, 2024, at 6:00pm, seconded by Dan Riggs, passed.**

Police Department – Jimmy Hansen

- Jimmy states that the Audrey’s Purple Dream Fund Run went well. He also states that National Night Out also went well. He thanks all the donors that donated.

Liquor Store - Lacey Hitchcock

- Lacey was absent.

Parks - Billy Krotzer

- Discussion on the walkway to Paul’s Patio. The wood walkway really needs to be replaced.
- **Motion by Brian Hitchcock to approve getting some bids for replacing the walkway at Paul’s Patio, seconded by Dan Riggs, passed.**
- Dan states that the covers for the Kubota and golf cart for the campground came in.

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

- Update on water meter replacements. There is only a couple that are left to be installed. Dan states that when all the old meters get stripped down. He will bring them in for scrap. He estimates that the city will get around \$1,200.00 for scrap metal.
- Discussion on gWorks software. Kristi states that in 2022 Softline Data was bought out by a company called gWorks. As of October 31st, 2024, all Softline Data customers will have to be switched to the gWorks cloud base. It will cost \$1,920.00 a year for the software. Kristi states that she looked into a couple other software companies and there were many mixed reviews. The costs would also be higher.
- **Motion by Dan Riggs to approve contract with gWorks with the annual amount of \$1,920.00, seconded by Bobbie Wosika, passed.**
- Discussion on the Midco Quote. It is more of an FYI to budget for it as a routine every 3-5 years. Cleaning and inspection would cost \$7,752.00.
- Discussion on the pipe break on Pleasant Ave from last winter. The city cannot prove that it could have been broken from the road work and the construction companies can’t prove that it was already broken before the road work. It will cost around \$8,000 and the bill would be split in half between the city and Young Excavating.

East Hubbard County Fire District –Dan Riggs/Bobbie Wosika

- Report on July minutes.
- The parking lot issue is still being worked on.
- They are getting mock-ups for new signage.
- They have two new fire fighters.

Old Business

- Discussion on the Blue Ox building next to City Hall that the city had shown interest in. Bobbie asks if any of the council members have walked through there. She states that it is full of black mold. Brian would like to not take any action on it due to Billy not being at the meeting.
- **Motion by Brian Hitchcock to table this until next month, seconded by Dan Riggs, passed.**
- The Akeley Community Project Committee received a \$100,000.00 grant for the trailhead project from the Blandin Foundation. Kristi states that \$50,000.00 was already received and was deposited into the community projects account.

New Business

- Noah Kramer wants to fix up the Veterans’ Memorial at Paul’s Patio for his Eagle Scout project as his dad, Scott Kramer, is originally the one that built it. It would need a beneficiary which would be the City of Akeley. It will just be a little bit of paperwork.
- **Motion by Dan Riggs to approve Noah Kramer to fix the Veterans’ Memorial at Paul’s Patio for his Eagle Scout project, seconded by Dale Nelson, passed.**

- Robert Burnett discusses that he has a nuisance neighbor and would like to know if a sign for no access could be put up where the sewer main access is. He states that the neighbors are running four wheelers through that access all through the night. Dale states that a sign possibly could be put up that states it is for city use only.
- **Motion by Dan Riggs to table until further research is done to see what can and cannot be done, second by Bobbie Wosika, passed.**

Public Forum

- Skylar Fynboh asked what the council was going to do about police accountability. Dan states that there is no money in the budget for body cams and that there is already a policy in place that states where he can take the cruiser.
- A few people from the board of the ARCC and Emergency Shelter state that they are very appreciative of the work that Jimmy Hansen has been doing for the community.
- Chuck Andres asked if anyone from the Paul Bunyan Day committee has asked the city about additional power at Paul's Patio. When they work on the new bathrooms it could possibly be worked into that.

Motion by Dan Riggs to adjourn the meeting at 7:14pm, seconded by Dale Nelson, passed.

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