

City of Columbia Council Meeting – March 6, 2024

CALL MEETING TO ORDER – 7:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL – Cara Dennert, Corey Mitchell, Trevor Meints, Emily Eichler via Zoom, Jeremy Dosch

Community: Kevin Nelson, Julie Lillis, Julie Voeller, Dana Mohr, Scott Meints, Cyndy Larson

Corey Mitchell called the meeting to order. He called for a motion to approve the agenda. Jeremy Dosch made a motion to approve the posted agenda. Trevor Meints seconded the motion. All in favor – motion carried. Corey Mitchell called for any conflict of interest on agenda items. There were no conflicts. Minutes were passed out from the July 12, 2023 meeting. Cara explained that a secretarial mistake was made and the section about the 2nd reading was left off inadvertently. It was on the back side of the minutes page. It read - ***Mayor Corey presented the 2nd reading for the street vacation of South Mill and East Townsend. Trevor Meints made a motion to approve the vacation of South Mill and East Townsend. Cole Kampa seconded the motion. All were in favor - motion carried.*** Jeremy Dosch made a motion to approve the revised minutes of the July 12, 2023 meeting. Trevor Meints seconded the motion. All were in favor – motion carried. Minutes were also passed out from the February 6th meeting. Trevor Meints made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. Emily Eichler seconded the motion. All in favor – motion carried.

Warrant Vouchers: JVT – fire prevention – 204.47; Web Water – fire prevention – 50.34; Northwestern Energy – electricity – 2190.61; Jeremy Dosch– February wages -419.99 ; Cara Dennert – February wages– 1235.25; ~~Dacotah Bank– shop supplies – 20.42; Code Enforcement– nuisance work – 385.50;~~ Stockwell Engineers, Inc. – stormwater facility plan & wastewater facility plan – 2500.00 Cara clarified that the crossed out items were listed incorrectly. Dacotah Bank was a personal expense. Code Enforcement was paid in January. Emily Eichler made a motion to accept the vouchers as amended. Jeremy Dosch seconded the motion. All in favor – motion carried.

COMMUNITY COMMENTS /CORRESPONDENCE:

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – The ballpark lease contract has been revised – next month some members of the baseball committee will be present to finalize. Mayor Corey stated that Kevin Nelson has brought a petition to vacate the alley on his block. Legal description: the alleyway between James St. and Broadway St, on plat #37, “Smith’s 1st addition to Columbia, Brown County , Dakota” with Lots 401-428, that were filed on October 2, 1882, running north and south from Fourth Avenue NW to Fifth Avenue NW. This meeting is the 1st reading of alley vacation. The 2nd reading of this petition will be March 19th at 7:00 p.m. We will send the paperwork that he has given us to Paul to publish. There will not be an election for council members– only two residents turned in petitions – Jeremy Dosch and Scott Meints. They will be automatically appointed.

Nuisances - The council received a new follow-up report from Code Enforcement Specialists. Dana Mohr was present to discuss the open pit on his property. He asked the council for an extension to fill the pit. The council extended his time to June 1st, 2024.

Streets – The streets need to be built up a bit – they aren’t draining properly. Dana said that he filled in some potholes on his street. The streets also need grading. Hard to judge when that should happen with the weather.

Parks - Emily is talking to a few people about possibly running Summer Rec. There are some new bleachers at the ball park. Corey will talk to Marty this week to make sure they are insured.

Lagoon/sewer - A flow meter is being installed – part of the wastewater study. Corey said that we will probably need to do a discharge soon.

Rubble Site – Jeremy is working with the Department of Natural Resources on the city’s burn site permit.

NEW BUSINESS - Julie Voeller was present to talk about a couple trees near her property. Cole Kampa (who is the street committee) will be notified to look into the situation. The council discussed possible dates for the equalization meeting. It was decided it will be held Tuesday, March 19th at 7:00 p.m. Corey will stop by the courthouse on the 12th to pick up the city’s packet for the meeting. Some members of the Columbia Foundation were present. Corey talked about grant information sent to the city. The Columbia Foundation is paying the remainder of Paula Jensen’s contract. Julie Lillis explained that the foundation doesn’t want to hand out a lump sum of money to the city each year, but currently they said that they would have around \$29,000 available for us. Corey talked about some of our security cameras not working great. He told us about a proposal of three separate cameras that would cover both new parks. Cyndy asked about the possibility of getting some grant funding for those cameras. Cyndy will forward information on possible grant to Corey. There was some discussion about the speed signs in town.

FINANCIAL REPORT – The Sam’s registration is complete. Cara is almost finished with the annual report. She presented bank balances. Trevor Meints made a motion to accept the financial reports as given. Jeremy Dosch seconded the motion. All were in favor – motion carried.

February 29, 2024 balances: SF - \$ 72,389.27; SF Money Market –\$ 150,714.69;
GF - \$ 156,866.38; GF Money Market - \$ 50,570.78; CD Money Market - \$ 32,271.85;
FIT - \$ 14,953.51; Cash on hand - \$0

Mayor Corey Mitchell declared the meeting adjourned.

Next Meeting – City of Columbia Equalization Meeting– March 19, 2024 7:00 p.m. This meeting will also be the 2nd reading of alleyway vacation.

Next Regular City Council Meeting – April 3, 2024 7:00 p.m.

Submitted by Cara Dennert, Finance Officer

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