**March 7th, 2022: Regular Council Meeting**

The Argonia City Council met in regular session at 7:00 p.m. on March 7th, 2022 at the Argonia City Building. Those present were Mayor Rick Dolley, Council members Bob Randall, Don Phillips, Scott Jones, Felisha Noland and Terina McCurley. Also present were Tara Pierce-City Clerk, Paul Conklin-Fire Chief, Travis Goekan and Travis Mounts.

**A quorum was present.**

Mayor Rick Dolley called the Regular Council Meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

* **Agenda**

**Motion by Noland, seconded by McCurley to accept the March agenda as presented. Motion carried 5-0.**

* **Minutes**

February 7th regular meeting minutes were presented**. Jones made a motion, seconded by McCurley to approve the regular meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried 5-0.**

February 9th special meeting minutes were presented. **Randall made a motion, seconded by Noland to approve the special meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried 5-0.**

February 16th special meeting minutes were presented. **Randall made a motion, seconded by Noland to approve the special meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried 5-0.**

* **Bills**

February bills were presented**. Jones made a motion, Randall seconded to approve February bills in the amount of $66,179.89. Motion carried 5-0.**

**OPEN FORUM** – Travis Goeken with Murphy Tractor and Equipment presented a couple of bids for a back hoe. Council thanked Goeken for speaking with the Council and for his presentation.

Travis Mounts with TS News spoke with Council about the Progress addition that goes out to subscribers and available in various locations around the area. It is an addition to promote/advertise activities and businesses in town. Travis said the Council had time to think about what they wanted to promote or advertise and that the cost to the City would be $600.00 for a two-page color ad or $300.00 for one page ad. Travis said they’d like to have the project wrapped up by June.

**DEPARTMENTAL BUSINESS**

* **FIRE DEPARTMENT–** Fire Chief Paul Conklin presented an invoice for Emergency Fire and Equipment in the amount of $653.64 from Emergency Fire for repairs and labor to the City fire truck. **Motion by Jones, seconded by Noland to pay the invoice as presented. Motion carried 5-0.** Conklin also talked to Council about looking for a grant to help fund a new battery powered Jaws of Life. Pierce will look for a grant to help fund the cost. During the report from Chief Conklin, Pierce presented an invoice from American AED for the Council to approve due to the amount being a little higher than what they approved to not exceed at the February meeting. **A motion by Phillips, seconded by McCurley to pay the invoice to American AED for the defibrillator unit in the amount of $1,646.00. Motion carried 5-0.**
* **RIVER PARK -** Scott Figg told Council he was getting close to moving his camper back at the River Park. New picnic tables were discussed. Figg thought around six tables were needed. Council thanked Figg for all the hard work he had put into cutting firewood for campers.
* **MAINTENANCE-** Row talked to Council about a mower quote. Council agreed to look at the proposal but asked Row to get another quote to compare and then they would discuss it at the next meeting. Pool Vacuum quotes were given to Council to look over**. A motion by Noland, seconded by McCurley, motion carried 5-0 to purchase the pool vacuum for $1,149.00 from Leslie’s.** Trent talked to Council about the electrical work needed at the Fire Station, Community Building and City Hall. He presented two quotes. **Motion by Noland, seconded by McCurley to award the bid to Darnell Electric in the amount of $3,790.00. Motion carried 5-0.**  More discussions were held on the backhoe quotes and tractor repairs. The Council stuck with the decision and quote that was accepted at the February meeting. **A motion by Phillips, seconded by McCurley to accept the quote from Schmidt Diesel in the amount not to exceed $5,000.00 to repair the John Deere tractor. Motion carried 5-0.** The Mayor told Council about a few trucks that he had checked into for replacement of the current City pickup. The Mayor asked Council to approve and not to exceed $22,000.00 for the purchase of a truck for the City. **Motion by Jones, seconded by Phillips, motion failed when Noland, Randall and McCurley voted nay against the motion making the vote 2-3.**  Those members of Council would rather see a vehicle and the history about it before approving any purchase of a vehicle.

**A motion by Noland, seconded by Phillips to enter into executive session at 8:40 p.m. for 10 minutes to discuss non-elected personnel with Row to stay. Motion carried 5-0.** Council came out of executive session at 8:50 stating no binding action taken.

* **CLERK** – Pierce discussed the Cemetery rates for open and closing for resident and non-resident. Prices were discussed amongst the Council however, Council would like to see more price comparisons before making any decisions. Pierce told Council that we would be seeing an increase from Waste Connections of 2%. Starting in April. Pierce said that the 2% increase was in the contract and we already had an ordinance to adjust the 2% each year. Pierce also talked with Council about the upcoming interest rate that was changed due to the extreme weather event back in February for the City utility late fee charge. Currently the rate is at 1% to help citizens pay back the high cost of gas. Pierce told Council that most citizens had paid those bills off and there were a few that we still paying towards that bill. The resolution (#2021-04) will expire on March 31, 2022 and when the April bills are calculated around the 15th of April, the resolution states that the late fee will go back to 10%. Pierce and Council discussed how they would like to move forward with the rate. Several percentages were discussed and Council tabled the amount to be changed or stay the same until the April meeting.

**A motion by Noland, seconded by McCurley to enter into executive session at 10:05 p.m. for 10 minutes to discuss non-elected personnel with Pierce to remain. Motion carried 5-0**. Council came out of executive session at 10:15 p.m. stating no binding action taken.

**ADJOURNMENT – Council member Noland moved to adjourn the meeting**. **Council member Jones seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0. Mayor Dolley declared the meeting adjourned at 10:24 p.m.**

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Tara Pierce Rick Dolley

City Clerk Mayor