**September 7th, 2021: Regular Council Meeting**

The Argonia City Council met in regular session at 7:00 p.m. on September 7th, 2021 at the Argonia City Building. Those present, Council members Bob Randall, Don Phillips (via phone), Scott Jones, Felisha Noland and Terina McCurley. Also present were Tara Pierce-City Clerk, Karyn Taton – City Treasurer, Trent Row-Maintenance Supervisor, Scott Figg, Shawnel Drouhard and Beth Warren with Ranson Financial.

**A quorum was present.**

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

Mayor Dolley called the RNR hearing to order at 7:00 p.m**. Motion by Randall, seconded by Jones to pass resolution 2021-05 with amendments of the date. Motion carried 5-0.**

**Motion by Randall, seconded by Jones to adjourn the RNR hearing at 7:03 p.m. Motion carried 5-0.**

Mayor Rick Dolley called the Budget hearing to order at 7:04 p.m. **Motion to adopt the 2022 Budget as presented by Randall, seconded by Noland. Motion carried 5-0.**

**Motion by Noland, seconded by Jones to adjourn the budget hearing at 7:06 p.m. Motion carried 5-0.**

Phillips left the meeting at 7:06 p.m.

Mayor Dolley called the Regular Council meeting to order at 7:07 p.m.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

* **Agenda**

**Motion by Jones, seconded by Noland to accept the September agenda as presented. Motion carried 4-0.**

* **Minutes**

August 2nd regular meeting minutes were presented**. Randall made a motion, seconded by McCurley to approve the regular meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried 4-0.**

August 16th special meeting minutes were presented. **Jones made a motion, seconded by Noland to approve the special meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried 4-0.**

* **Bills**

August bills were presented**. Randall made a motion, Jones seconded to approve August bills in the amount of $63,538.61. Motion carried 4-0.**

**OPEN FORUM** – Shawnel discussed her liability as a homeowner for past due utilities on tenants that move out. The Ordinance states that all owners of properties are liable for any unpaid utilities. The City attempts three times to collect from the renter if a forwarding address is left. The landlord has to have the utilities paid in full before the property can be turned into another renter’s name. Council agreed to make changes to the Gas and Water Utility Ordinances to read that all renters will not receive their deposit back after one full year of on time payments, it will stay on the account until the renter’s move. The deposit will be applied to the account and any credit left will be returned to the renter. If the deposit does not cover the balance of the bill the landlord will still be liable to have it paid before utilities can be put into another renter. Council also agreed to change the Ordinances to change the deposit amounts on Gas from $250.00 to $300.00 and the water deposit from $50 to $100. Pierce will have an updated Ordinance for the October meeting to be adopted.

Beth Warren with Ranson Financial discussed the possibility of rewriting the water/sewer loans at a lower interest rate. The savings would depend on the timeframe that it takes to get all the numbers put together and put the loans out for bids. Warren said she would put the plan together as soon as possible and get back with the Council to see if the change in interest and the cost of re-financing would benefit the City to do so.

**DEPARTMENTAL BUSINESS**

* **FIRE – None**
* **POOL – None**
* **RIVER PARK** - Scott Figg reported how well the River Park has been doing and that we were at capacity during Labor Day weekend. Figg asked if we will be closing the park during the winter months again this year. The City Council agreed that we will close the park from November 1 through March 1. We will leave sites #1 and #2 open for the two long term campers. These sites will be wrapped with heat tape and the owners of the campers will be responsible for making sure their hoses are wrapped or use a heated hose. The bathrooms will also be closed during this period. Rates for the park were discussed along with the non-reservable sites. Council asked for a new Ordinance to be presented at the October meeting with the prices to reflect $20.00 per night for full hookups and $15.00 for sites with water and electric only. The non-reservable sites will no longer be first come first serve as these will now be reservable sites. Pierce will draft the new ordinance and have for the October meeting.

**Motion by Noland, seconded by McCurley to enter into executive session at 8:23 p.m. to discuss non-elected personal for 5 minutes with Pierce to remain. Motion carried 4-0.** Council came out of executive session at 8:28 p.m. stating no binding action taken.

* **MAINTENANCE –** Row asked Council to approve an approximate amount for salt needed for the Water Treatment Plant from Brenntag. Motion by Noland, seconded by Jones to approve an amount of $8500.00 and not to exceed. Motion carried 4-0. Row discussed equipment needed for the City in the near future. The tractor is having issues and is unable to have the power to do what is adequately needed for many of the jobs they use it for. The backhoe is leaking oil and is needing an overhaul or possibly replaced and he also stated he is looking into a street sweeper and a grinder attachment to do repairs to streets. Council asked Row to check with other Cities and/or the state and get some prices on items needed. Mayor Dolley expressed his concerns on needing to look at the possibility of drilling another well and finding a location for it. He also asked Row to look into replacing a shut off valve to the water tower.

**A motion by Noland, seconded by McCurley to enter into executive session at 9:00 p.m. for 15 minutes to discuss non-elected personnel with Pierce, Row and Taton to remain. Motion carried 4-0.** Council came out of executive session at 9:15 p.m. stating no binding action taken.

**CLERK** – CMB Special event licenses were presented for Full Moon Saloon and Sarah Jane’s Salsa for a one-day event during the annual car show & street races. **Motion by Randall, seconded by Jones to approve both applications as presented. Motion carried 4-0.** A new security system was discussed. **Motion by Jones, seconded by Noland to approve the purchase of a new security system not to exceed $13,000.00 for both the City offices, buildings and water treatment plant. Motion carried 4-0. Motion by Noland, seconded by Jones to approve the Black Hills quote for moving gas meter in the alley of 109 N. Plum for $2,388.00. Motion carried 4-0.** Pierce updated Council that Cooper & Co. has started the 2020 Audit. Pierce asked Council if they were in agreeance of the recommendations from the City Attorney on the current dog ordinance. Council agreed with the changes and Pierce is to draft a new ordinance to present at the October meeting.

* **ADJOURNMENT – Council member Randall moved to adjourn the meeting**. **Council member Noland seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-0. Mayor Dolley declared the meeting adjourned at 9:42 p.m.**

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Tara Pierce Rick Dolley

City Clerk Mayor