**April 5, 2021: Regular Council Meeting**

The Argonia City Council met in regular session at 7:00 p.m. on April 5, 2021 at the Argonia Community Building. Those present, Mayor Dolley, Council members Bob Randall, Don Phillips, Felisha Noland and Terina McCurley. Also present were Tara Pierce-City Clerk, Karyn Taton, Treasurer, Michelle-Leidy Franklin, Mary & Charlie Jenkins, Scott Figg. David & Vickie Spence, Kathy Birkner, Bradly Meyers, Samantha (last name unknown), James Pierce and Shawn Drouhard.

**A quorum was present.**

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

**CONSENT AGENDA**

* **Agenda**

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

* **Minutes**

March 1, 2021 regular meeting minutes were presented**. Randall made a motion, seconded by McCurley to approve the regular meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried 4-0.**

March 5, 2021 special meeting minutes were presented. **Phillips made a motion, seconded by McCurley to approve the regular meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried 4-0.**

March 16, 2021 special meeting minutes were presented. **Noland made a motion, seconded by Phillips to approve the regular meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried 4-0.**

* **Bills**

March 2021 bills were presented**. Randall made a motion, Phillips seconded to approve January bills in the amount of $373,015.29. Motion carried 4-0.**

***Scott Jones arrived at 7:06 p.m.***

**OPEN FORUM** – Charlie Jenkins discussed drainage issue at the Cornerstone church at the intersection of Garfield/Elm. Mayor Dolley gave a brief update on concerns he had heard about the price cost during the month of February and said that he, the Council, City Clerk and Treasurer had been working many hours to take the proper steps and procedures to insure the City would be able to pay the large invoice to KMGA and also writing a letter to the Kansas League of Kansas Municipalities, KCC, KMGA and also writing a letter to the Legislation. Council opened the floor to citizens regarding the gas bills for February extreme weather event. David Spence asked council why we don’t “pre-buy” our gas during warmer weather at the lower rate and store. The Council had worked over the past two years to do a thirty- year contract at a discounted price overall and approved to move forward with the longterm contract, however the market was never favorable for KMGA and the Cities that were also working on the contract fell through because the market was never favorable for the contract to go into effect and the contract was pulled by the supplier. Mayor Dolley responded that we have been with KMGA for many years and it is set on a daily rate. These rates change throughout the year, with this February being a circumstance that was out of our hands and KMGA. The City has been happy with KMGA and are working diligently to make sure that the inflated price doesn’t ever hit our City the way it did and the same with many cities across several states had been hit as well. Council discussed lowering the late fee charges on the bills from March 2021 until March 2022 from 10% to 1%. Shawn Drouhard approached the Council with her concerns over the February event that affected her rental properties. With the landlord law in affect it could be detrimental to her if her renters were to move and leave the bill for her. She also asked if there was a way to get messages out to citizens of the city with a message that could be sent to customers via text or voice. Pierce explained she was actually working on a couple of different companies to get pricing for a type of emergency message that could be sent out to customers for emergency information or reminders that would need to notify customers immediately. Randall also mentioned he could help out on this for the City as well.

Pierce presented Resolution 2021-04; a resolution of the City of Argonia, Kansas Temporarily Lowering Utility Penalties for ONE YEAR**. Motion by Randall, seconded by Noland to pass Resolution 2021-04. Motion carried 5-0**

David Spence asked to go into executive session regarding an issue related to the Water Treatment Plant. Under law this is not a subject that can be taken into executive session. Council asked what his issue was with the Plant. His concerns were regarding dead grass around the overflow tank. He said that maybe “someone” needed to contact KDHE regarding the issue. Council said they would look into it and make sure that everything was working as needed.

Scott Figg asked if the restrooms at the River Park would be open for this season. He suggested that the restrooms be open during the hours of 8:00 a.m. until 10:00 p.m. That way the restrooms can properly be cleaned and disinfected during closed hours. He also requested that the River Park signs be placed as soon as possible the designate the entrance area at the Park. The stickers are starting to spread from the rodeo grounds into the camp ground. Council said that the Maintenance crew will start spraying them to try and get them cleaned up.

**DEPARTMENTAL BUSINESS**

* **FIRE – None**
* **POOL – None**
* **MAINTENANCE – Motion by Jones, seconded by Noland to accept the resignation of Maintenance Supervisor Robert Dolley. Motion carried 5-0. Motion by Noland, seconded by McCurley to hire Trenton Row as the Maintenance Supervisor. Motion carried 5-0.** Pay would be as discussed in the special meeting held on March 16th if position was accepted by Trenton Row.  **Motion by Noland, seconded by McCurley to hire Jake Wedman as the City Maintenance Operator. Motion carried 5-0.** Pay would be as discussed in the special meeting held on March 16th if position was accepted by Jake Wedman. The maintenance report consisted of several items reported in a hand out to Council. They included generators were scheduled to be serviced, fixed ruts made by the trash truck on the Hemberger property, getting quotes for a trash pump and a portable generator. Sewer lines were worked on. Had Mayer Specialties come out and fix a clog on Osage Street between Garfield and Mill. A spring broke on the main overhead door in the shop. Cheney door came out and replaced the springs to fix the issue. The Maintenance Department not being present Pierce told Council that the gravel roads within the City and the Cemetery needed re-rocked. Since a contract had not been secured for repaving of city streets for the season yet she suggested that these roads could use much needed attention. Pierce said that over the course of the remainder of the year rock could be purchased as needed not to exceed $10,000.00 to fix these roads. **Motion by Phillips, seconded by Jones to approve the rock needed and not to exceed $10,000.00. Motion carried 4-1 with Randall objecting to the motion.**

Bob Randall had to leave the meeting at 8:15 p.m.

* **CLERK** – Pierce discussed the new insurance premium for the City Insurance through EMC. Pierce gave an update on the KMGA update regarding the February increase on Gas for February and also the Low Interest Program update that the monies were received and deposited into the Gas Fund, and KMGA bill had been paid from the loan proceeds. A reminder deadline was sent to Council for them to review for the deadline for filing for the open positions of two council members and the Mayor.

**A motion by Noland, seconded by McCurley to enter into executive session to discuss non-elected personnel at 8:31 p.m. for 10 minutes. Motion carried 4-0.** Council came out of executive session at 8:41 stating no binding action taken. **Motion by Noland, seconded by McCurley to offer Cooper Topinka the position as Seasonal Summer Maintenance position with a .50 cent increase from last year. Motion carried 4-0.**

* **Mayor Report:** Mayor Dolley expressed to the Council a reminder regarding Dog Licenses are coming due by May 1st. If tags are not purchased by the grace period of May 10th, a $50.00 late charge will be assessed.
* **ADJOURNMENT – Council member Noland moved to adjourn the meeting**. **Council member Jones seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-0. Mayor Dolley declared the meeting adjourned at 8:58 p.m.**

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Tara Pierce Rick Dolley

City Clerk Mayor