

AGENDA
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
March 5th, 2019 / 6:00 pm

- **CALL TO ORDER**
- **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
- **ROLL CALL – Feuerhelm, Spanjers, Bissen, Pfiffner, Walsh**
- **ACTION TO CHANGE AGENDA**

- Addition of 8.4 Liquor licenses and 8.5 Tables for City Center

Consent Agenda Motion Spanjers, 2nd Bissen, unanimous.

1.1 Minutes:
February 5th, 2019

1.2 Bills Payable Through: February 28th, 2019

1.3 Consolidated Balance Sheet: February 28th, 2019 (None)

1. Water/Waste Water/City Engineer

Plant has been running good.

2. Police Dept./City Attorney

2.1 Flood update

Bob was able to get in touch with Jeremy Miller, forwarded the plan from the engineer. Greg Davids had some questions on some of it, but has not heard anymore back. Bob got in touch with Olivia, Houston County Emergency Management, and she sent out letters to Greg Davids and Jeremy Miller. Trying to get copies to everyone regarding the plan. Bob sent Greg notice about the council meeting hoping he had something to share with us, but has not heard back. Just have to hope for a slow melt, because all that is holding the water is what is there. Legislation is in session until April. Anyone that has any spare time, and we also have to reach out to the governor's office, we need to push the same buttons to try to get something into bill. Pfiffner asked if the major concern is the million dollar bill, only \$200,000 qualifies for the 75/25, so \$800,000 is possibly what Hokah is liable for. The City of Hokah will need support to find funds for the rest of the \$800,000. Hoping that community members could send letters to help get more support from the state.

2.2 Lease agreements

All lease agreements are back, not signed up, but Skip has them. Ed is not current on his rent, currently, he has not been around. Ron's agreement had to be changed to include a minimum of three hours a week based on MPCA.

2.3 Curb Stop Policy

Still working on this currently.

3. Streets / Maintenance

Question has been talked about what we do when it snows. City does have a snowplow policy that was approved in 2009 about prioritization of how it should be done. Matt provided a copy to everyone on the council. Feuerhelm stated the snow should be removed from main street, because if it melts, it backs up on the sidewalk and who is responsible for that because the business owners shouldn't have to do it. If we don't keep the snow off the gutters. Feuerhelm stated he had been receiving calls regarding downtown, and the post office as far as snow removal. If you can, hit main street, then head up town? If nothing is moved by 9 o'clock in the morning, people will complain. Streets, alleys and then parking lots should be done first. State plows Main Street. Spanjers stated this is an exceptional year. Mayor Walsh stated that it was piled on the drains, and we had to be careful. Bissen's main concern is the city parking lots don't get cleared soon enough. When Oliver was here, Bissen also went round and round with him as well, but that the parking lots need to be done better. Bissen stated as far as Main Street he felt that a pretty good job has been done this year with the amount of snow. Bissen doesn't mind going out and pushing the snow in piles. Concern was brought up about piles causing reduction in sign when turning from City Hall when snow is piled up. Spanjers asked if there was a way to prioritize because our City workers cannot be everywhere at once, and we need to determine where the need is first. Streets, alleys, get people off to work, then go up town. Spanjers questioned Smokey what had been done, is the roads, and the lots were secondary. Mayor Walsh extended a thank you to Matt, Tom, Donny and Tommy for the job they have been doing. Spanjers believe that it is great that everyone is working together, if they are having an issue, go to Matt and Tom and communicate with one another to get along rather than complain. Spanjers doesn't believe on an average year this discussion will happen, and doesn't want to reinvent the wheel.

4. Library Board

Performer coming on April 14th, and working on getting baskets to raffle off at the Euchre Tournament for fundraising.

5. Recreation Board

Nothing

6. **Planning Commission / Zoning**

Nothing.

7. **New Business:**

8.1 **Matt Vetsch-Probationary discussion**

Motion to take probationary period off of Matt's employment.
Mayor Walsh, 2nd Spanjers. Unanimous.

8.2 **Frozen pipe/water billing discussion**

Last winter the pencil drip to run their water to avoid freezing. Matt has been receiving people coming in stating their water bill is higher because they run it, so it won't freeze. If it is a one-time deal, maybe. Vetsch asked if the city is responsible for leaks if they knew about it and didn't maintain it. Spanjers mentioned that people are modifying their water bill based on what they think, because they had to run water or whatever, so wonder why it is the city's problem? Spanjers didn't understand the logic of using the water, and then grossly underpaying for the usage of the sewer. Question was asked what happens to that part of the bill, and Spanjers stated it just has to be taken of, which isn't right. Vetsch stated the system has a comment section to be able to type in what the reason was for the bill adjustment to look back, but some don't have a reason. A bill is a bill, no more adjustment. Summer exception would be filling a pool, watering grass, or if a pipe that broke to be reasonable. Spanjers asked If there is an adjustment, how to go about doing that? Vetsch has contacted council members to see what they think. Vetsch also mentioned that if citizens think there is an issue, contact the city workers and they can check it out.

8.3 **Personnel Committee Update**

Interviews will be done 3/9 starting at noon. 10 applicants, 4 interviews. A point system was assigned to the applicants, and to the interviews, they will be asked questions and given a point value based on their answers, the committee will then make a decision together. Bob asked for permission to run background checks on the top candidates starting after the interviews, then suggested a special meeting to get a person hired. Attorney Wieser recommended we post the special meeting three days before. Special meeting scheduled for Wednesday, March 13th at 6 pm.

8.4 **Liquor licenses**

Kwik Trip, Hummers, Main Street liquor license renewal.
Motion 1st by Pfiffner, 2nd Spanjers, Bissen abstained, unanimous by others.

8.5 **Tables for City Center**

Hokah Forever have purchased 12 tables, 96 chairs, so as to not have to move from other city buildings, wondering if the city would like to donate. Hokah Forever group received \$1000 anonymous donation and Jerry Martell donated \$500.

8. **Old Business**

10.1 Curb Stop Policy City Attorney Wieser is still working on this.

9. **Council Member's Comments/Community Input**

Don Bissen-six or eight weeks ago Don was approached by Wes Haslet interested in renting the bank building to start a business. When they were talking Wes mentioned he had a baseball business, and was looking for a big building to do the baseball program. He took a look at the City Center gym. Matt and Tom showed the City Center, and Wes contacted Don back to say that it didn't seem that the city was interested in renting. Don received an email regarding the gym, occasional use of the kitchen and use of an extra classroom for storage. Spanjers questioned whether if anything else could be done in the building if he did rent it. Vetsch had talked to him three weeks previous, gave him the rental paperwork to take to council approval, and he has not heard back on that. Haslet has some questions about the cost and whether or not he could have a classroom, but since he was not at the meeting, he was unsure exactly what was truly needed. This would be an excellent opportunity for the city, so would have to consider how much money we are talking about. He is looking at the 107 room, possibly \$75 a month for that. Still waiting on the paperwork from Haslet to determine if he is still interested. This would be more of a kids thing, rather than a money maker. Bissen suggested \$300 a month, all year round, the classroom for storage and use of the kitchen.

Cindy-Went to new council member training, and think it was great. You can go to the website and look up things as well.

10. **Mayor's Comments**

Didn't make it to meet the Mayor this past month.

11. **Staff Correspondence**

12. **Correspondence Received**

13. **Announcements Next Council Meeting** April 2nd, 2019

14. **Items for next Agenda**

Curbstop

Baseball option

Hopefully a new clerk

15. Adjournment Motion Bissen, second Spanjers, unanimous.