

June 15, 2022

Mayor Wentz called to order the regular meeting of the Rockwell City Council at 7:00 p.m. All Council members were present. Also present were Star Pralle, Tim Nuehring and Zach Laudner.

Meyer moved to approve the minutes of the previous meeting. Motion seconded by Morrison, carried unanimously.

Worley moved to approve the Library report. Motion seconded by Emhoff, carried unanimously.

Tim Nuehring was present on behalf of the Rockwell Lions Club. Nuehring thanked the Council for their support for the last thirteen years. Nuehring stated that the volunteers and community should also be proud as the event here won the Grand National pull of the year! Nuehring noted they have moved the event to August 4th, 5th and 6th with five sessions during those days. Nuehring asked to have the noise ordinance waived and allow for the pullers to use their ATV-UTV's. Koob moved to waive the noise ordinance until 1:00 a.m. from Thursday August 4th to Sunday August 7th. Motion seconded by Emhoff, carried unanimously. Koob moved to waive the ordinance for the ATV-UTV use by the pullers from Thursday to Sunday. Motion seconded by Worley, carried unanimously. Nuehring thanked the Council as he left the meeting.

At 7:05 p.m. Koob opened the public hearing for the amendment of the 2021-2022 budget amendment. Motion seconded by Worley, carried unanimously. Following discussion, Koob moved to close the public hearing at 7:07 p.m. Motion seconded by Emhoff, carried unanimously.

Worley moved by Resolution 2022-5 to approve the 2021-2022 budget amendment. Motion seconded by Meyer. Roll call vote: Ayes: Koob, Worley, Meyer, Morrison and Emhoff. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Wentz presented the contract renewal rates with Absolute Waste Removal. With discussion, Koob moved to approve the rates with Absolute Waste Removal with a full contract for the next meeting clarifying the fuel surcharge. Motion seconded by Morrison, carried unanimously.

Weier noted that Absolute Waste Removal had given information on yard waste removal, allowing a dumpster here and the rates for dumping and landfill charges. Council did not feel this was a viable option for yard waste.

Mayor Wentz stated that we have by code a utility rate increase of two percent annually. Koob asked about this not covering the rate increase from Absolute Waste Removal for garbage service. Following discussion, Meyer moved to raise the garbage rates \$3.00 per container starting July 1, 2022. Motion seconded by Worley, carried unanimously. Koob moved to raise all utility rates by two percent starting July 1, 2022. Motion seconded by Emhoff, carried unanimously.

Wentz stated he has the preliminary employee evaluations done but with scheduling has not finished, but will prior to the month ending, but would recommend a three percent raise for all employees. Council reviewed and discussed the employee salaries and increases. Meyer moved to give all employees a four percent increase for the 2022-2023 fiscal year, making the following rate increases: Brunstein \$1.22, Laudner .72, Siefken \$1.05 and Weier .90. Motion seconded by Worley, carried unanimously.

Mayor Wentz stated he had a message from the dog owner, which was banned, that they needed to stay in their home with the high heat. Koob asked that we contact the City Attorney about the ramifications of not following the ban.

Meyer stated that he had just received a service agreement with WHKS to have a professional inspection of the nuisance buildings on Main Street at a cost of \$2,400.00. Meyer noted that we would have to contact the owners to get access to the interiors of the buildings. Council will follow up with this at the next meeting.

Worley noted another property that needs to be taken care of. Emhoff also questioned the nuisance prior that is listed for sale. Koob stated that the owners as of June 1st were still responsible for the issues. Morrison also noted a property that needs to be mowed. Letters will be sent.

Koob reported that work is continuing on the playground, they are waiting on a few parts, and will try to have Noss Landscaping do some of the ground work, Nuehring Concrete will do the curb work.

Emhoff noted that the Landfill will be voting on membership with areas of Hancock County.

Meyer stated that the ash trees are dying at an alarming rate in town. Koob felt we may need to set up a process of tree removal, we will need to get bids for this.

Koob noted a street sign that was damaged over the weekend, also noting we should start replacing street signs.

Emhoff noted the lack of sidewalks on Fourth Street and residents walk on the street. Koob feels a sidewalk improvement plan would be a positive improvement for our town.

Koob asked about meter reading and the cost effectiveness of having our guys take time to read meters vs radio reads. Koob felt this would be a good thing to budget for.

Mayor Wentz reported that Siefken had received a quote from Truex Electric to get power to the Quonset at a cost of \$3,500. Koob asked to get another quote for the work.

With no further business, Koob moved to adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded by Emhoff, carried unanimously.

Larry Wentz, Mayor

Lorna Weier, City Clerk