**March 6th, 2023: Regular Council Meeting**

The Argonia City Council met in regular session at 7:00 p.m. on March 6th, 2023 at the Argonia City Building. Those present, Council members Don Phillips, Felisha Noland and Terina McCurley. Also present were Tara Pierce-City Clerk, Jonathan Meyer, Maintenance, Jake Callaway, Maintenance, Travis Mounts from TS News, Payson & Justice Hedlund and Christopher Schiller, Interim Police Chief.

**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 3-0.**

* **Minutes**

February 6th, 2023 regular meeting minutes were presented**. Noland made a motion, seconded by McCurley to approve the regular meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried 3-0.**

* **Bills**

February bills were presented**. Noland made a motion, Phillips seconded to approve February bills in the amount of $70,404.47. Motion carried 3-0.**

**OPEN FORUM** – Justice & Payson Hedlund spoke to Council about using the rodeo grounds for barrel racing that could be held a couple times a month from Spring to Fall. They presented to Council that they would also like to possibly add in calf roping. Each entrant would pay a fee and the City would be given what they call the “office fee” to the City to compensate for the use of the grounds. Council held discussion and talked with the Maintenance Department about the condition of the grounds. The Council agreed to look into allowing this after an inspection of the grounds by Maintenance and the group wanting to put on the events and report back to Council.

Scott Jones arrived at 7:00 p.m.

**DEPARTMENTAL BUSINESS**

* **Pool** – **Motion by Phillips, seconded by Jones to hire Natalie Shirley as the season pool manager for the 2023 season. Motion carried 4-0.** Natalie gave a list to Maintenance to have done for the upcoming season. **Motion by Jones, seconded by McCurley to pay the lifeguards back for the certification as the season before. Half of the cost after the first year, half of the cost after the second year. Motion carried 4-0.**  Natalie asked Council about possibly putting in a small air conditioner at the concession stand. She stated that on some days it is extremely hot and the concessions area doesn’t have good air flow. She said it would help the staff to cool down in between shifts on extremely hot days. **Motion by Noland, seconded by Jones to enter into executive session at 7:50 p.m. for 10 minutes with Natalie Shirley and Tara Pierce to remain. Motion carried 4-0. Council came out of executive session at 8:00 p.m. stating no binding action taken. Motion by Jones, seconded by Noland to hire Grace Bender at the wage discussed for the 2023 Pool Season. Grace will be the Assistant Pool Manager and Lifeguard.**
* **Chief of Police** –**Motion by Noland, seconded by McCurley, motion carried 4-0 to name Christopher Schiller the Interim Chief of Police.**
* **Maintenance** – Meyer presented an invoice from South Central Sealing in the amount of $2,603.50. **Motion by Jones, seconded by Phillips to pay the invoice as presented. Motion carried 4-0.** A quote from Ricke’s for picnic tables at the River Park was presented to Council in the amount of $300.00 each. **Motion by Jones to purchase two picnic tables, seconded by Noland, motion carried 4-0.** Meyer asked Council about running an ad for the Summer Mowing position. Council told Meyer to run an ad. Meyer asked Council about needing Microsoft Office for his computer. Council said to get with Bob Randall on it. A property owner at High and Vine was asking permission to tear out the broken sidewalk that ran through their property and a curb that needed to come out. Council did agree it was ok for them to remove the sidewalk but they were not permitted to take out the curb.
* **Clerk** – Pierce updated Council on a letter that was received from KMGA on a notice from the Attorney General on the inflated gas price action suit. Pierce told Council that the KCC and Black Hills Mock Emergency Drill will take place on April 6th beginning at 9:00 a.m. at the Community Building and then the actual drill will take place in the 200 Block of South Main. Pierce asked any Council members to attend if they’d like as it was very informative and a great learning workshop for not only utility workers but other essential workers involved. Pierce also asked Council if they would help with expenses with feeding breakfast to the attendees. Motion by Noland, seconded by Jones to allow a $300.00 expense for the food. Motion carried 4-0. Discussion was held on the Gas & Water Utility Ordinances. The Council agreed that all utility customers must pay the shut off and/or turn on fees per the Ordinances. This included homeowners, rental properties and businesses unless it is an emergency to have their gas turned off for maintenance. The City does have a landlord agreement that can be signed that includes free turn on and turn offs. Pierce stated the Lead and Copper surveys had gone out and had received about 45 back so far. The goal is 100% but anything that comes back will help. Pierce updated Council on the Motorola Camera for the cop car and Certificates of Deposits. Pierce talked to Council about Argonia Days. No decision was permanently made however Pierce will reach out to a few businesses that it would effect more discussion at the April meeting will be discussed.
* **Motion by Noland, seconded by Jones to enter into executive session at 9:35 p.m. for 10 minutes for personnel matters of non-elected personnel with Meyer, Callaway and Pierce to remain. Motion carried 4-0.** Council came out of executive session at 9:45 p.m. stating no binding action taken.
* **Motion by Noland, seconded by Jones to enter into executive session at 9:45 p.m. for 1 hour for personnel matters of non-elected personnel. Motion carried 4-0.** Council came out of executive session at 10:45 p.m. stating no binding action taken.

**ADJOURNMENT – Council member Noland moved to adjourn the meeting**. **Council member McCurley seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0. Mayor Dolley declared the meeting adjourned at 11:00 p.m.**

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Tara Pierce Rick Dolley

City Clerk Mayor