

Ekalaka Town Council
MINUTES
Town Office, 103 N Main Street
January 8th, 2025

1) Call Regular Meeting to Order:

a) Roll Call Council: Mayor Buck Kratzer called the meeting to order at 5 pm. Andy Wright and Rex McCord were present.

b) Employees' Present: None

c) Appointed Officials Present: Carol Spencer and Kamely Harkins

2) Pledge of Allegiance

3) Public Comment/ Complaints: John Shively expressed that he would help the town with snow removal if the town hired him as a contractor.

4) Presentation on Petitions and Communications: Bar T 7 concrete for a house, Elizabeth Barth small shed:

Andy moved to approve a petition for Bar T 7 Concrete for a foundation and Elizabeth Barth's small shed. Carol seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion passed with 3 ayes and 0 nays.

5) Unfinished Business * Action Items

a) Pool update: The pool committee is waiting for the pool company to lock in the project date before demolishing the older one in case that date is after the summer season to allow the pool to remain open for a while. If it is after the summer season, the committee will apply for grants to finish the pool.

b) Update on Varner Garbage license, Information only: Chad Varner informed the mayor that they had received a license from the state to take on the garbage transferring service. The town must review the contract with G&G Garbage and get a quote from Varner's.

6) New Business * Action items

a) * Hose for Jet Truck: Andy received a quote for a \$2,416.00 jet truck hose. Andy moved to approve the price and order the hose. Carol seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion passed with 3 ayes and 0 nays.

7) Minutes from the last meeting(s): read, correct (if needed), and approve. December 4th minutes: Andy moved to approve the minutes with a spelling correction to his name; Rex seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion passed with 3 ayes and 0 nays.

8) Claims Approval: Andy moved to approve claims for Mike Coleman Construction and Great West for \$264,550.17 upon the town getting all lien releases and December claims for \$51,446.02. Carol seconded the motion. Mike Coleman was at the meeting and explained that he should have all lien releases the next day and that his foreman would be in town to fix some items on the punch list. The mayor informed Mike that the town was ensuring all lien releases were completed because some of our town businesses had been left without payment from previous contractors. There was no further discussion. The motion passed with 3 ayes and 0 nays.

9) Reports of Officers:

a) Public Works Director: The mayor received a resignation letter from the Public Works Director. The position is now open. Andy informed the council that well #4 was bad, and a new one had been ordered. He also stated that a camera down the line is needed to ensure the casing is suitable.

b) Mayor: Kenny Jespersen contacted the mayor to let him know that he would help the town with snow removal.

c) Attorney: Will be on Zoom call with DEQ and Kamely for a meeting on previous violation of wastewater monitoring discharge penalties.

d) Council: Andy is concerned about snow removal and who will take care of things since there is no longer a public works director. The council needs workdays to get some ordinances on the agenda.

10) Reports on Standing and Special Committees:

a) Administrative (Clerk/Treasurer): Kamely informed the council that the annual financial review has been completed and filed with the state. As usual, the town needs an audit and must find an audit company. The rabies clinic will be held on January 9th at Southeast Electric.

b) Law Enforcement: Dwanye Bruce informed the council that law enforcement was out and about doing traffic stops and has been giving out warnings for first offenses.

c) Library: The town received the library's claims for the month of December. They did not have a December meeting.

d) Fire Department/Committee: None

e) Parks: The ice-skating rink is up and running and the kids are playing.

f) Safety: The committee will have a meeting on February 5th.

11) Announcements: Andy has information about sludge removal and will forward it to the town's email. A special meeting for snow removal will be held on January 13th, 2025, at noon in the town office.

12) Next Meeting Date: Special Meeting January 13th, 2025, at noon & Regular Meeting February 5th, 2025, at 5:00 pm.

13) Adjourn: Carol moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:36 pm. Rex seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion passed with 3 ayes and 0 nays.

***Items up for action without discussion at a previous Council meeting may or may not be accepted for action by the Council at the Council's discretion.**