

Ekalaka Town Council
MINUTES
Town Office, 103 N Main Street
February 5th, 2025

1) Call Regular Meeting to Order

a) Roll Call Council: Mayor Buck Kratzer called the meeting to order at 5:05 pm. Rex McCord and Andy Wright were present.

b) Employees Present: Torey Spring

c) Appointed Officials Present: Carol Spencer, Kamely Harkins absent

2) Pledge of Allegiance

3) Public Comment/ Complaints: none

4) Presentation on Petitions and Communications: none

5) Unfinished Business * Action Item

6) New Business * Action items

a) New garbage service and dumpster rental costs: Buck presented email correspondence from Southeast Garbage LLC. Hourly costs would increase \$172/hr. G&G Garbage has an hourly fee of \$165/hr. Buck explained that each trip would be 30 minutes faster because the new company would remove and replace the town's dumpsters. Additional dumpsters would be available for rent at \$150/month. Andy noted that an extra dumpster would be helpful for the town clean-up weekend, or while another dumpster is being repaired. Carol added that an extra dumpster might be beneficial during the fair. Buck noted that for comparison, a new dumpster costs \$10,000-\$12,000. Andy stated that the current company has had too many ups and downs. Andy moved to contract Southeast Garbage, LLC for a year. Carol seconded the motion. Discussion: Buck noted that the council must talk to Southeast Garbage to determine the start date. Rex asked if the new company has all the liability insurance the town requires. Buck stated that they do. The motion passed unanimously with 3 ayes and 0 nays.

b) Advertising: individual or entity to research ownership of town streets and alleyways: The mayor talked about his previous conversation with (Wally the survey guy?) who told him that the first steps in getting the town re-surveyed was to find out who owns what. There are several alleyways and old streets that we are not sure who owns. Andy asked where someone could find that information. Buck said the county has it. Andy suggested contacting Walt Anderson, or someone with experience in this area to look into it. Carol said she thought it was worth reaching out to Walt. If he can't do it, he may know someone who would be interested. Rex volunteered to contact Walt. Buck noted that (via Wally) if the town actually owns some of the alleys, old streets, etc., that could help the town fund the survey project. If alleys have been abandoned, the property gets split down the middle and distributed to the owners of the adjacent property. Andy moved to table of advertising of ownership research and talked to Walt Anderson. Rex 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: Andy amended the minutes from the special meeting on 1/13/25 D (b) to add the word "Emergency" before employee in the first line. Carol moved to approve the minutes as amended. Andy seconded the motion. The motion passed with 3 ayes and 0 nays.

8) Claims Approval: Andy asked for clarification on the High Plains Architecture claim and asked if it was still covered by the grant or if the town is paying out of pocket. Carol moved to approve the claims with a note to

determine how much money has been dispersed to High Plains Architecture. Andy seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion passed with 3 ayes and 0 nays.

9) Reports of Officers:

a) Mayor: Buck noted that he received an email from the weed board and that the town needs to make a new agreement with the board to spray weeds. He also said that the 113 S Mormon Ave. trailer house has been removed.

b) Attorney: none

c) Council: Andy asked if there have been updates on the study (voted on). Buck and Carol said no.

10) Reports on Standing and Special Committees:

a) Administrative (Clerk/Treasurer): none

b) Public Works: Andy suggested setting a committee for hiring. Buck stated the council doesn't have actions with employees. Andy noted that he has been involved in several interviews in the past. The council doesn't make the hiring choices, but they can have input on the interviews. Buck said that might work, but it will make interviews a little harder to organize. Carol suggested scheduling interviews over the lunch hour. Buck stated that there is one applicant for the public works director position and that he would consider forming a hiring committee and setting up a time for an interview. Andy asked if Public Works Director and Administrative Clerk/Treasurer could be made into salaried positions. Buck stated that he thinks the Public Works Director should, most of the time, be able to hand the job alone and that an assistant is unnecessary. Andy noted that when he looked at the MMIA website, he noticed that if you are a town employee, having a CDL to operate machinery is unnecessary. He wondered why that was listed as a requirement on the job listing for public works director. Buck stated that it was used to ensure the qualifications of applicants. Andy asked if the current applicant could be hired to do daily well checks and other portions of the job if not chosen for the position. Buck said he thought that idea made sense. Andy suggested increasing the town clerk/treasurer pay by making her position a salaried position. Clerk/Treasurer could continue to do the water testing and other public works director responsibilities until a public works director is hired. Carol moved to table this application until the council forms a hiring committee. Andy seconded the motion—the motion to table passed with 3 ayes and 0 nays.

c) Law Enforcement: none

d) Library: The town received the library's claims for January and minutes from the November meeting.

e) Fire Department/Committee: Andy stated the fire department is meeting with ISO for the town again this week.

f) Parks: none

g) Safety: none

11) Announcements: none

12) Next Meeting Date: March 3rd, 2025

13) Adjourn: Carol moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:29 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.**

Buck Kratzer, Mayor

Attested by: _____
Kamely Harkins, Clerk/Treasurer