

January 03, 2024

The regular meeting of the City of Bertram was held on the above date at 7:00 pm at City Hall. Mayor Scott Flaherty presided over the meeting. Council members present were Louise Hall, John Klimek, Chris Price, Bill Mulholland and Jim Unzeitig. City Attorney Kevin Shea was in attendance.

Hall made a motion to approve the agenda as posted. MSB: Klimek: Aye: Hall, Klimek, Mulholland, Price, Unzeitig. Motion passes by unanimous vote.

- Sheriff's Report – Sheriff not in attendance.
- Minutes: December 6, 2023, in the unpaid bills Louise Hall is spelled incorrectly, Chris Price payroll was \$230.88. Under Hearing for Santee Property: should be He not e. Under Tree Removal: Frank's Tree Service: 6 trees and trunk stump removal and 2 free trees pumphouse, That girl tree service: no trunk removal, Country Arborist: 6 trees no trunk removal and no trees removed at pumphouse. Signs for City Location: 3 no outlet signs, 3 Stop Ahead Signs. Under Oath of Office Louise Hall name is spelled incorrectly.
- Treasurer's Report.
- Nuisance property update: City Attorney Shea stated certified mail delivered to Hines on December 20 has until January 9th to address council. After January 9th, the council can request to move to court action.

Payee	Purpose	Amount
Alliant Energy	High Point	\$19.07
Alliant Energy	City Well	\$242.50
Alliant Energy	City Hall	\$48.85
Alliant Energy	City Park	\$19.07
Alliant Energy	Streetlights	\$511.35
Casey Business MasterCard	Snow Removal Equipment Fuel	\$122.91
Doug Kula Reimbursement	Light Replacement and Bridge sign hardware	\$117.46
Frank's Tree Service	4 Tree Removal Stump grinding 2 tree drops	\$4,000.00
Future Line Truck Bodies	Parts for Vehicles	\$898.39
Iowa Prison Industries	Road/Bridge Closed Signs	\$259.60
Jared J. Vogeler	Operations	\$480.00
Linn County Co-Op Oil Company	LP City Hall/Shop	\$220.63
Keystone Labs	Water Testing	\$15.50
Orkin	Pest Control City Hall	\$52.00
That Girl Tree Service	2 Silver Maple Removed, Elm Removed and Pruning	\$4,843.77
Tom Schmitt Reimbursement	Parts for city	\$333.23
Verizon Wireless	Internet/Phone	\$87.96
Visa-Berry	Intuit payroll fee	\$38.52
Visa-Kuehl	Water Department Stamps	\$66.00
Visa-Wilson	Credit	-\$15.33
Woodward Community Media	Publication	\$59.25
Zach Vislisel Reimbursement	Bridge Sign Hardware	\$16.66
IPERS	Payroll IPERS	\$323.06
United States Treasury	Payroll-Q4 payroll taxes	\$1,037.82
IA Dept Of Revenue	2023 Annual WET Tax Payment	\$722.17
Berry, Lisa	Payroll	\$226.55
King, Sheldon J	Payroll	\$22.37
Kuehl, Raven	Payroll	\$273.97
Kula, Doug	Payroll	\$233.07
Schmitt, Thomas	Payroll	\$344.24
Vislisel, Tony	Payroll	\$24.97
Vislisel, Zach	Payroll	\$129.08

Total Bills				\$15,774.69	
Treasurer's Report	Beg Fund Balance	Deposits	Disbursements	End Fund Balance	Total Fund Balance
General	\$666,384.78	\$16,413.72	\$0.00	\$682,798.50	\$682,798
Road Use Tax	\$222,993.56	\$3,239.93	\$30,127.46	\$196,106.03	\$196,106
LOST	\$229,062.09	\$3,774.53	\$0.00	\$232,836.62	\$232,836
Building Fund	\$17,812.22	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$17,812.22	\$17,812
Park Renovation	\$5,500.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$5,500.00	\$5,500
ARPA Fund	\$43,361.66	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$43,361.66	\$43,361
Water	\$25,497.60	\$3,793.08	\$693.86	\$28,596.82	\$28,596
Total Clerk's Balance	\$1,210,611.91	\$27,221.26	\$30,821.32	\$1,207,011.85	\$1,207,011
Total Bank Balance					\$1,207,011

Oath of Office: Chris Price: Mayor Flaherty issued the Oath of Office to Council Member Chris Price.

- Hilltop Rd Right of Way Issues: Chad Dummermuth lives at the top of Hilltop Road, trees were being cut down by Ashley Tree Service per Council approval, Chad put a stop to it. Chad stated he used GIS database and is bringing up the same argument he brought to the council in 2013 and 2018, road is not plotted off where it is supposed to be by Sundberg. Leo Bonifazi stated that GIS database does not always have accurate plotting, stated they surveyed Hilltop Road, and it was a wagon road so it had public use and the rights to a public road are grandfathered. Dummermuth would like to know where the road is to be. Bonifazi stated for Sundberg he can go back and look at aerial views and look into how the road was determined. Hall stated she can check with County and see what information is available for the road. Dummermuth wants to know if the road is on his property what liability is there. City Attorney Shea stated that since the road has been there for 40 plus years and usage as a public road the liability should not be on Dummermuth. Shea suggested that Bonifazi and himself sit down and do their best guestimate for the road. Dummermuth would just like it fixed. Bonifazi suggested a signed Tree Agreement that says the property owner will take responsibility for the trees, which would include any liability if the tree fell and its damage. Price stated if a tree falls and is in the right of way the city will be responsible for removing it. Right of Way Ordinance stipulates to not have inanimate objects in the right of way. If a tree falls in the right of way call the city to remove, eventually the city will probably remove all trees in the right of way. Dummermuth would like markers to be placed so he can see what all is in the right of way. Bonifazi suggested landscape Tpost spike, could use steel rebar pins, or 12-inch-long landscape spike.
- Discussion – Leo Bonifazi Survey Hilltop Rd.- Sundberg Ln.
 - Price makes motion to move R10 to R4: MSB: Unzeitig. Aye: Hall, Klimek, Mulholland, Price, Unzeitig. Motion passed by unanimous vote.
 - Klimek makes motion to approve Leo Bonifazi survey. MSB: Hall Aye: Hall, Klimek, Mulholland, Price, Unzeitig. Motion passed by unanimous vote.
- Tree Trimming future services – Discussion: Ashley from That Girl Tree Service would go around town with Mayor Wilson and identify trees to be taken down and quote them. City

Treasurer Berry stated that the insurance money is to focus on trees around city structures first. Looking up the spending limit for Mayor without full council approval. Tree removal service on Hilltop will be suspended until Bonifazi Survey is complete and reviewed.

- Discussion – Resolutions Green St & Easy Alley St. Dummermuth is using Greene, other residents are using Green. Hall stated a resolution can change the street from Greene to Green. Price wants to know what the legal issues, issue with mail being delivered or emergency vehicles not being able to get to residents with the different spellings? Hall not a legal issue or issue with services but working to make the Street Signs in town current, correct and accurate. Price not sure it is worth changing if there is no legal precedent. Hall to change the name will be a \$15 fee at the recorders office vs \$500 for having the street signs replaced to be accurate. Price suggested to wait to see if a grant to update signs becomes available, understands and appreciates trying to make the signs better for the city. Bonifazi stated Greene might be spelled this way for a historic figure. Treasurer Berry stated a street name change would not be a resolution but a city ordinance requiring public hearing. Easy Alley is listed as Easy Alley but the sign says Easy Alley Street. City Attorney Shea stated would need to find out where this came from. City Attorney Shea will look into Easy Alley and report back at the February meeting.
- Second Reading Water Rate Ordinance: Mayor Flaherty read the Water Rate Ordinance.
 - Hall makes motion to approve 2nd Reading of Water Rate Ordinance. MSB: Klimek. Hall: Aye Klimek: Aye Mulholland: Aye Price: Aye Unzeitig: Aye. Motion passed by unanimous Vote.
- Linn County 911 Commission: Previously Council Member John Klimek was representative but is no longer able.
 - Price makes motion to nominate Bill Mulholland as Linn County 911 Commission Representative for Bertram. MSB: Hall. Aye: Hall, Klimek, Mulholland, Price, Unzeitig. Motion passed by unanimous vote.
- Financial Resolution – Scott/Steve Mayor Flaherty read Resolution.
 - Klimek Makes motion to approve Financial Resolution R-1-2024. MSB: Hall Hall: Aye Klimek: Aye Mulholland: Aye Price: Aye Unzeitig: Aye. Motion passed by unanimous Vote.
- City Hall Security Light: Hall since the tree was removed at the back of City Hall parking lot, 3 residents across the railroad tracks are not happy with the security light that shines on city Hall Parking lot when it is on, stating that the light is shining in their windows causing them migraines. Can the lumens be lowered, move the light, have dimmer that is motion sensor? Klimek will look into the cost of diming light or moving it.
- City Truck Equipment: Tabled till February.
- Street Sign Update: Tabled till February.
- Ordinance City Council meeting second Wednesday – Discussion: keep the meeting at the first Wednesday of the Month. Tabled to next meeting.
- January 2022 to December 2023 Minutes Corrections: Hall would like to review the minutes and make corrections and have posted to city website. Treasurer Berry stated the minutes are approved at the next meeting and corrections noted in the minutes they were approved in.

Wants to know if they are typos or if the corrections take away from the context of the minutes.
Tabled.

- Budget workshop scheduled for January 11, 2024 at 7 pm.
- Price Makes motion to adjourn. MSB:Klimek Aye: Hall, Klimek, Mulholland, Price, Unzeitig.
Motion passed at 8:40 pm.

Raven Kuehl, City Clerk