**City of Allison Regular Council Meeting**

**Monday, January 8th, 2024**

Regular Meeting:

Mayor Henrichs opened the regular meeting of the Allison City Council at 5:15 p.m. The council members present were Bangasser, Galey, Henning, Heuer, Stirling. Also present: Trent Stirling, Coby Bangasser, Patty Hummel, City Engineer Zeb Stanbrough, Bailey Johnson, Joe Conlon, Deb McWhirter, Janis Cramer, Lisa Cassman, and Cassidy Courtney. Stirling made a motion to approve the agenda with a second by Bangasser. Ayes: All. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Open Forum:

The City Clerk, Alexis Wiegmann, let Council know that a patron of Allison had reached out asking about recording Council meetings and or having them posted live on Facebook so that more could have the opportunity to be involved. At this time, this is not being done, but we do encourage patrons of the City of Allison to come in and join us every 2nd and 4th Monday of the month at 5:15 p.m. at City Hall until something can be put into place.

It was also discussed that the agendas and minutes for the city website are being worked on with VC3 due to a glitch with the system. Once this is fixed, the agendas and minutes will be posted to date.

Public Works Director, Trent Stirling discussed with Council that a new tank will be needed for the water shed as the one that they have now is starting to crack and leak. The current tank that they have is gravity fed, and the new one that they are looking at would eliminate gravity fed as it would be ran by a pump. The new tank would be around $1,600 which includes the installation. This will be further looked into as an agenda item at the next Council meeting.

Public Works Assistant, Coby Bangasser, discussed with the Council the possibility of purchasing a wire welder for the shop so that they can do most of their own fabricating versus sending it somewhere else. Coby is going to gather further information and amounts for the next Council meeting.

Consent Agenda:

Motion by Henning with a second by Stirling to approve the consent agenda as follows:

Approve Minutes from the meeting held on 12/11/2023.

Approve minutes from the special meeting held on 12/28/2023.

Approve Treasurer’s Report.

Ayes: All. Nays: None. Motion Carried.

New Business:

Ambulance President, Bailey Johnson came and discussed purchasing a new scoop stretcher for the ambulance with the Council. The old one that they had needed to be thrown out due to its condition. The estimated cost for a new scoop stretcher is anywhere from $1,000 - $1,500.

Motin by Bangasser with a second by Stirling to approve the ambulance to get a new scoop stretcher in the amount of up to $1,500. Ayes: All. Nays: None. Motion Carried.

It was also discussed with the Council that the ambulance needs a hotspot, or a cell phone that stays with the ambulance for the purpose of a hotspot for their new charting system. They recently updated their charting to the state version which requires them to have access to internet while charting as they are going down the road. A hotspot would also allow them to send EKG images to receiving hospitals while they are enroute. At this time, the Council has asked Bailey to look into options and prices for this and bring the information back to another Council meeting for further discussion.

Cassidy Courtney came and discussed her business, Crafty as Cass, that will be going into main street in more detail. Cassidy started her business and has worked in a corner of her home for over a year now. Moving into the Main Street building will allow for more space and the opportunity to offer more in her store front. Last year, her gross sales exceeded $30,000 and she was able to assist and work with different committees in town for their sign and shirt needs. A few of the committees she worked with include Allison Days for signs, the Pool committee for signs, Little Lambs, and she also was able to create shirts and help raise money for a breast cancer fundraiser for a nearby family.

Her new business will feature 20 additional small businesses that will be set up in the store font that are all small businesses like hers and offer a variety of different items. With this, she is aiming to give the opportunity to other small businesses to get their name out there and allow for their products to be seen and sold. Cassidy will continue to do her custom products as normal and include these smaller businesses in the front. She is also looking to host different event nights which could include sip n’ paint, kids craft nights, movie night, and more to help get the community more involved. Her plan is to be open all day during the week and every other Saturday, with the potential of opening at the end of March.

Renovations that need to be done for her business to open include around $3,800 not including labor for the outside of the building with tin, a new window, door, etc. Other things that need to be done include updating the inside of the building with paint and shelving, redoing the bench by the front window area, having a bathroom up and running, and more. The city is currently looking into options that they can do and or budget for to offer assistance to small businesses that are starting up in town to keep them in town. One of the ideas that is being thrown around is a forgivable loan which would allow the city to help new businesses with the understanding that the business would sign a contract with the City so that they would need to be open for so many years before the loan is forgiven; and if they were to close before that time the loan would need to be repaid. The Council will be discussing a plan in more depth at the meeting on January 22nd so that there is something in place when and or if small businesses come to Council meetings and present their business plans and work with the Council for assistance.

Deb McWhirter representing the Park came and presented the Park budget. The total amount that this came to is $111,600, which is around $20,000 more than last year due to an increase in utilities from the company and the amount of electricity that will be used due to four new cabins and the new expansion. With the seasonal campers also comes an electrical payment that is due, and it was estimated that the money from both loops would bring in around $11,650 which would help offset the difference. Another change was that $11,700 was added to contractual services for the Camp host’s pay, which was not included in the prior year. The Council has agreed with the presented budget.

Patty Hummel came and presented the FY 2025 Library budget to the Council. They are asking to keep their budget around the same as last year. That being said, their total proposed budget for FY 2025 is $89,040. The City amount is $76,440 and the additional funds come from grants and state aid to make the $89,040 total.

The Council set the budget workshop date for January 29th, 2024, at 5:15 p.m.

Public Works Director, Trent Stirling, further discussed the possibility of a new employee. He presented the Council with a sheet that listed estimated mowing times for Wilder Park and the Cemetery which would make up approximately 26 hours for a new employee. The additional hours would come from other daily tasks with the new Lagoon, and other projects that need to be completed. At this time, the Council decided that they would keep this in mind and look more into it for future needs.

Mowing bids were due to City Hall by 4:00 p.m. on January 8th, 2024, and opened. The bids came in as follows. Wilder Park bids: Stirling Lawn Care $13,900/year for 2 years, Greenbelt Seeding LLC $20,000/year for 2 years. Then, for the Cemetery, the bids were: Stirling Lawn Care $575/time for 2 years, Seasonal Solutions came in at $898.80/time for 2 years.

Motion by Bangasser with a second by Heuer to approve Stirling Lawn Care for both bids, Wilder Park for $13,900/year and the Cemetery for $575/time for 2 years. Abstained: Stirling, Ayes: Bangasser, Galey, Henning, Heuer. Nays: None. Motion Carried.

Motion by Bangasser with a second by Heuer to approve Alexis Wiegmann to take City Clerk Certification classes in the amount of $208.00 from February 7th – 9th. Ayes: All. Nays: None. Motion Carried.

Motion by Henning with a second by Galey to approve Council appointments to committees for 2024. Ayes: All. Nays: None. Motion Carried.

Motion by Stirling with a second by Bangasser to approve Resolution #24-01.1 – Resolution to approve Lincoln Savings Bank as the depository for funds of the City. Ayes: All. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Henning with a second by Heuer to approve Resolution #24-01.2 – Resolution approving Alexis Wiegmann to City Clerk/Finance Officer, Shane Carlson to Fire Chief and Bailey Johnson to Ambulance President. Ayes: All. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Stirling with a second by Bangasser to approve Resolution #24-01.3 – Resolution to approve the Butler County Tribune as the official newspaper of the city. Ayes: All. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Henning with a second by Stirling to approve Resolution #24-01.4 – Resolution to approve Bruce Toenjes as City Attorney. Ayes: All. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Bangasser with a second by Heuer to approve Resolution #24-01.5 – Resolution to set the mileage reimbursement rate to be 0.67 cents/mile. Ayes: All. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Bangasser with a second by Stirling to approve Resolution #24-01.6 – Resolution to renew the Policy of City Investments. Ayes: All. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Henning with a second by Galey to approve Resolution #24-01.7 – Resolution to approve transferring $43.42 from 001-430-4730 into 200-434-6851 for the first interest payment on the new expansion loan. Ayes: All. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Bangasser left the meeting at 7:34 p.m.

Old Business:

The Council discussed the lot at the industrial park that Deuell’s are interested in and agree that it is there’s if they want it. The Deuell’s will be asked to come to the next meeting.

City Engineer, Jim Sweeney, representing Clapsaddle Garber joined via a team’s meeting, and gave an update to the Council on the Lagoon project. He said that Boomerang wrapped up the extension for the outlet for cell 1 and let them know that they are addressing a potential issue with cement that was poured. The cement that was poured out at the Lagoon was not temperature protected by the subcontractor. That being said, they are going through a 3rd party to have the cement tested to ensure that it is where it needs to be. If it comes back that it is not, CGA City engineers will work with the subcontractor to have this corrected as the contract that the city signed holds contractors responsible for anything extra due to deficiencies.

Adjournment:

Motion by Henning with a second by Stirling to adjourn at 7:54 p.m. Ayes: All. Nays: None.

Motion carried.

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Scot Henrichs – Mayor

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Attest: Alexis Wiegmann – City Clerk