

**CITY OF MORO
MINUTES OF APRIL 4th, 2023
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING**

Written minutes may not contain a verbatim record of meeting events. If clarification or additional specific information is desired, please reference any available audio recording.

The Moro City Council met for a regular Council Meeting, Tuesday, April 4th, 2023; at 7:00 PM. The following were present: Council President Andy Anderson, Councilors James Alley, and Bryan Cranston. City Staff, John English- Director of Public Works (DPW), and Brittany Wood- City Administrator (CA). Citizens- Mike Harvey, Bill Harvey, Scott Belshe, and Ray Mabe. Remote Attendees: Mayor Bert Perisho, Kori S (Accuity) Jim Winterbottom (Waste Connection) 1-360-xxx-xx28. Absent: Councilor Travis West.

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

President Anderson chaired the meeting due to the Mayor's remote attendance. The council meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance and called to order at 7:05 PM.

CONSENT AGENDA-MINUTES-BILLS-FINANCIAL REPORT-

The minutes from March's Council meeting were reviewed, and a motion was made to approve the minutes as presented (**Anderson/Cranston**) **Motion Carried**. The financial report for March was reviewed for check # 13195-13215, with bills totaling \$23,332.63; a motion was made to approve bills as presented (**Cranston/ Alley**) **Motion Carried**.

COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS (Agenda items ONLY)

None heard.

VISITORS – CORRESPONDENCE –

None heard.

OLD BUSINESS-

Project Updates- There were no updates from Paul Sather or Azure (warehouse expansion or Old School.) City Staff received an update that the USDA building project was beginning to develop and it was expected that they would break ground on the project in the next month at the proposed location, 2004 1st Street.

DPW Staff Report- John English (DPW) informed the council that a leak was discovered in the reservoir. Upon review of the video from the previous inspection (Nov 22), this was not flagged as a concern at that time. MidCo Diving was contacted and a quote/ contract was engaged for \$3,800.00. DPW will continue to work with MidCo and ensure they are scheduled to inspect the leak. Councilor Cranston suggested that some money be earmarked for the possibility of a new reservoir if needed.

City Hall Staff Report- Mrs. Wood (CA) presented a calendar outlining the upcoming three months and dates that the council needed to be aware of. A discussion was held and it was decided to schedule a Moro Clean up day for June 10th, 2023. DPW English will work to secure/ schedule the big dumpsters and a trailer for scrap metal for the clean-up day, with the expectation that the scrap will be removed from the site shortly after the event is over. Mrs. Wood informed the council that the Quickbooks program is nearing the end of the support feature, and the City is up against needing to invest in a newer

program of Quickbooks Desktop. A quote will be provided for review at the May council meeting. It was also acknowledged that contractors have been present in Moro, beginning the work on ODOT's ADA ramp correction project. Additionally, it was shared that the generator for the power standby project at Cemetery Well has been received by our Public Works Department.

The final reading of ORD 274- Vacation of 3048 sq ft of Second Street- A final reading of Ordinance 274, "An ordinance vacating a 3,048 square foot portion of Second Street within the City of Moro," was reviewed and approved. A motion was made to pass Ordinance 274 **(Alley/ Cranston) Motion Carried.** Anderson requested to have his vote removed, as he was a conflict of interest on ORD 274. The motion still Carried with Anderson's vote removed, and noting his abstention.

Conclusion of McCoy/ Scot Street Alleyway discussion- Mrs. Wood shared that she received a copy of a Survey and a Bargain and Sale Deed from Mr. Steve Biagi. The documents concluded that historically, 3rd Street was vacated and the property was later sold from the Coles family to the Smoot Family. Mr. Biagi is the owner of the vacated portion of 3rd Street. After consulting with Kirk Fatland, it was determined that once a piece of land has been vacated and becomes private property, the City does not have any control over allowing or forcing the piece of land to be vacated again. Mr. Belshe informed the council that he ordered a survey and a title search on his piece of land within that vicinity, to determine if the provided information to City Hall is accurate. Mr. Belshe requested that this item would be added to next month's agenda, and he will provide the findings of his title search.

Recycling Depot Update- Mrs. Wood provided a general update on the recycling facility and information obtained from Jim Winterbottom of Waste Connections. Moro's scheduled days for the recycling depot are the 2nd Friday and Saturday of each month. The City Council is still interested in working to eliminate the "after-hour dumping" that has resulted in garbage and recycling blowing into the sewage lagoon ponds. It was agreed upon that illegal dumping and residents not sorting their recyclables are costing both the City and Waste Connections additional time and effort. If a solution is not reached, the City of Moro is considering the closure and removal of the recycling bins on City Property. Mr. Winterbottom shared that a new House Bill is set to go into effect in 2025 and the House is wanting to help rural areas, and funding/ efforts may be extended through this Bill. It was suggested to look into additional signage and the possible posting of security cameras in the area so that violators will be prosecuted.

NEW BUSINESS-

Past Due Water/ Sewer- A list of past-due water accounts was reviewed; 7 disconnect notices will be delivered on the 10th of the month if payment is not received from those customers.

Notice of intent to award Bid for CEM Well Generator - Mrs. Wood provided a report to the councilors; 3 complete bids were received by the extended deadline. A Motion was made to award the bid to Over the Bank Contracting Co. INC **(Cranston/ Alley) Motion Carried.** A motion was made to Authorize the award for contact after the protest period ends **(Cranston/ Alley) Motion Carried.** Mrs. Wood will publish the award letter once signed by the Mayor.

Accuity Audit Review presentation- Kori S., a representative from Accuity, presented an audit recap to discuss FY 22-23's findings with the council. The three items noted were 1)there needs to be a review of the reserve funds during the budget hearing for FY 23-24, 2) there was limited control of items reviewed by City Staff (typical for small towns/ offices) and 3) there were minimal adjustments to the ledger. Kori informed the council that CA Wood worked diligently to get the requested information back to Accuity in a timely manner and did great answering to the 3 representatives who were running the Audit and asking for further information throughout the process.

Nuisance Concern Follow up The council members met prior to the council meeting, and generated a list

of potential nuisance properties within City Limits. The list included properties that had poor clearance in the alleyways, multiple vehicles on properties, ignoring property lines, and general hazards that needed to be noted. The council authorized CA Wood to send out ordinance review letters to the properties that were on the provided list.

City of Moro City Council Long-Term Plan - Councilors discussed how the SIP funding for 2023 would be dedicated to specific projects and funds. A motion was made to appoint \$36,000 to the sewer fund for collection system upgrades, \$14,000.00 to the equipment to add to the existing funds for a dump truck, and the remaining \$50,000.00 for well and reservoir projects/ improvements. (Cranston/ Alley)

Motion carried. Other ideas to note were to begin thinking about beginning to secure funds for the rock production (last round, roughly \$88,000.00 was used for production efforts.) Funds were discussed for the Jetter Trailer that the Public Works Department is working to secure co-ownership with the City of Wasco. It was determined that when that purchase is made, funds can be pulled from the street fund in addition to the sewer fund; as the jetter trailer will be used for culvert exploration as well as sewer pipes.

FY 23-24 Budget Work- It was published that there were 2 budget committee vacancies which generated 4 letters of interest from community members who were willing to serve on the budget committee. All 4 applicants were qualified to serve on the committee, after checking with the County Clerk to ensure established residence and registered voters for 12 months minimum. The present council members voted by a paper scoring system and a motion was made to elect the two highest scores, Janet Pinkerton and Tammy Bartlett to serve on the Budget Committee. **(Cranston/ Alley)**

Motion carried. The Budget Calendar was presented to the council and was approved for use during the 23-24 budget season. The CPI was presented for council review and it was determined that in 2022 the year ended at a 6.2% inflation rate. A 6.2% rate increase on the current \$115.80 rate would be \$122.98. With the suggestion to work with round numbers, the Water rate will be \$60.45 per month, per EDU and the Sewer rate will be \$62.55 per month, per EDU. A motion was made that the water sewer bills starting in July of 2023 will increase to \$123.00 per month, per EDU for water and sewer users; an increase of \$7.20 per month. (Cranston/Alley) Motion Carried.

Employee Cola/Merit Raise- Historically The City of Moro has elected to mirror the COLA raises that Sherman County provided to its employees. A motion was made to offer a 4% COLA raise to City employees for the next fiscal year **(Alley/ Cranston) Motion Carried.** Upon further discussion, DPW English requested further compensation for his assistant, to bring his wage into a competitive position with the market. Additionally, Councilors Cranston and Alley acknowledged that DPW English had not requested a merit raise in previous years, and they felt he deserved a merit increase this year as well, as he nears his 20-year mark of being a City Employee. Discussion ensued, and it was shared that CA Wood received an increase in wage at her 6-month evaluation, and she was comfortable accepting that as her merit increase for the year. A motion was made to adjust hourly wages accordingly; DPW English \$36.00, Maintenance Assistant (Isaac) \$21.00, and CA Wood \$28.60. (Cranston/Alley) Anderson opposed. Motion Carried.

SEI Ethics Filing Due by April 15th- A reminder was given to the council to complete their SEI filing, to avoid any fees for delinquent attention. CA Wood will make sure that all email addresses in the database are accurate.

Water System Master Plan/ Contract Documents- A document had been received that the grant application for a water system study had been approved. A motion was made to allow Mayor Perisho to sign the document, after reviewing the forms. **(Alley/ Cranston) Motion Carried.**

Pre-Application form- Harvey- Bill Harvey completed the pre-approval packet, as he plans to remove a 10x12 shed on his property and has secured a 10x20 shed to place in a similar location. Upon review of the packet, a motion was made to allow Mr. Harvey to continue with his proposal **(Cranston/Alley)**

Anderson Abstain. Motion Carried.

COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS CONCERNING ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA-

Ray Mabe- Informed the council of his plans to put in a single-family dwelling located between his house and MCP and wanted to talk about the possible placement of a driveway and utility lines. It was requested that this will be added to the May agenda, to allow further discussion. Ray was provided with the building in Moro planning packet.

GOOD OF THE ORDER-


Bryan Cranston- Shared that he appreciates what the city employees are doing and that is the justification behind the raises.

John English- Gave thanks to Brittany for the energy put into the generator project and for picking up that extra responsibility and the work to gather the Bids, and also noted the additional effort it took to get through the audit.

ADJOURNMENT-

A motion was made to adjourn the Meeting at 8:50 PM (Cranston/ Alley) Motion Carried.

Next Council Meeting is scheduled for May 2nd, 2023 @ 7:00 p.m.

 _____ Date May 2 2023
Bert Perisho, Mayor

ATTEST: Brittany Wodd _____ Date 5/2/2023
Brittany Wodd, City Administrator