**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF DECEMBER 9, 2024**

The Governing Body of the City of Hoxie, Kansas, met in regular session on Monday, December 9, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. at the City Office. Present were:

Darrick Zerr, Mayor

Jim Erwin, Street Commissioner

Kevin Schoendaler, Water Commissioner

Janet Bainter, City Clerk

Justin Armknecht, City Superintendent

Paul Wisinger, Chief of Police

Harry Joe Pratt, City Attorney

Dawn Elliott, Mayor Elect

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Darrick Zerr at 6:00 p.m.

**Minutes**

The minutes of the regular meeting of November 4, 2024, were read and approved on a motion made by Schoendaler and a second by Erwin. Motion carried 3-0.

**Warrants**

The warrants and overtime for the month of November were reviewed, approved, and signed by the board.

**Old business**

Discussion was held regarding sharing an employee with the City of Selden. It was decided that we will not be able to share an employee at this time, due to the City being short on help. We will still be willing to help them out in case of an emergency.

**SimpleCity Annual Subscription renewal**

Bainter presented the invoice for the City’s annual software license fee and product support renewal in the amount of $9,675.00 for 2025. Due to the price increase, discussion was held on possibly switching software companies. Bainter will look into switching before 2026. Schoendaler made the motion to renew for 2025, seconded by Mayor Zerr. Motion carried 3-0.

**Ordinance 740**

Ordinance 740 pertaining to the water rate increase was signed by the Mayor and Clerk.

**Trash Exemption**

Bainter presented an application for Trash Exemption at 932 15th Street. Erwin made the motion to approve the exemption. Schoendaler seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

**Sheridan Co. Economic Development budget request**

Erwin made a motion to approve a $28,000 budget distribution to Sheridan County Economic Development for 2025. Mayor Zerr seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

**Cereal Malt Beverage License Applications**

The Board reviewed and approved the Cereal Malt Beverage Applications as presented.

**End of Year Transfers**

On a motion by Mayor Zerr and a second by Schoendaler, the board approved the following transfers:

General to Equipment Reserve $20,000

General to Capital Improvement $263,000

General to Employee Benefits $20,000

Water to Equipment Reserve $7,500

Water to Bond & Interest $17,500

Water to Capital Improvement $10,000

Sewer Maintenance to Equipment Reserve $20,000

Sewer Maintenance to Bond & Interest $99,693

ARPA to General $178,763

MIH to Bond & Interest $30,769

Motion carried 3-0.

**2025 Blue Cross Blue Shield Renewal**

Bainter reviewed the health insurance rates for 2025 with the Commission. The monthly premium for 2025 increased 8.07% from $577.81 per employee in 2024 to $624.45 per employee in 2025. Erwin made a motion to renew the City’s Blue Cross Blue Shield policy for 2025. Schoendaler seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

**Airport Board**

Mayor Zerr made a motion to appoint Kevin Schoendaler to the Hoxie City/Sheridan County Airport Board. Erwin seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

**City Depositories**

On a motion by Erwin, the First State Bank, Equity Bank, and Outdoor Bank were named as the City Depositories. Schoendaler seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

**Holiday Hours**

The City Office will close at noon on Christmas Eve and at 1:00 p.m. with no lunch break on New Year’s Eve.

**Chief of Police Business**

Wisinger informed the Commission that the ad to sell the 2020 Dodge Ram pickup was on Purple Wave. The ad ends on December 17th.

**City Superintendents business**

Armknecht stated that he received a price of $2194.00 plus shipping for the plastic culvert that was discussed at the November city meeting. He was asked to talk to Kyle William to see if he would help pay for it. Armknecht also stated that he priced 4 – 4’ x 5’ sheet metal panels for shoring. Mayor Zerr made a motion, seconded by Schoendaler to the purchase of the sheet metal panels. Motion carried 3-0. Armknecht informed the Commissioners that he attended a County meeting to ask if they would help pay for new tornado sirens. The County stated that they would be willing to help but wanted to see how much grant money we could get towards them first. Armknecht stated that Kansas Emergency Management was working on a grant that would pay 100% towards the purchase of new sirens.

**Executive Session**

At 6:40 p.m. on a motion made by Mayor Zerr and a second by Schoendaler, the Commissioners entered into executive session for a period of 10 minutes to discuss matters related to non-elected personnel. Present were the board and Chief Wisinger. The board exited at 6:50 p.m. with no motions being made.

**Annual Pay Increases**

Erwin made a motion to approve employee pay increases for 2025. Schoendaler seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

**Adjournment**

With no further business, Mayor Zerr made a motion to adjourn. Erwin seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Janet Bainter, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

City Clerk Darrick Zerr, Mayor

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Jim Erwin, Street Commissioner

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Kevin Schoendaler, Water Commissioner