

Bennington City Council
Regular Minutes
07/10/2023

The meeting was brought to order at 7:00 p.m. with a motion by Dennis Kelley, second by Brian Davidson. Motion Carried.

Addition to the agenda was CD's.

Motion by Laura Bowers, second by Jeff Scheele to approve the printed list of bills and the minutes as written. Motion Carried.

Present at the meeting were Judith Swagerty, Brian Davidson, Jeff Scheele, Laura Bowers, and Dennis Kelley. Mayor Ward Stockamp was absent. Adrienne Luthi was also present. Visitors were Dustin Murk, Carla Grund, Mark Walker, Mike, and Amy Livengood (left at 8:05), Leanna Stanton, Barry Blake, Brady Blake (left at 8:05), Chris Rose and Linda Wilson (left at 8:05) Tyler VanCovern (arrived at 7:50 left at 8:05).

Jeff Scheele updated the council on current violations and building permit applications.

Revenue Neutral Rate was discussed. Motion by Brian Davidson, second by Dennis Kelley to approve exceeding the Revenue Neutral Rate with a proposed mill levy rate of 33.003. Motion Carried.

The ads for the city operations position were discussed. Adrienne Luthi has posted the position on the Kansas League of Municipalities website, on the Kansas Rural Water website, on face book, on the City of Bennington website and sent out a text caster announcing the vacancy.

Central Valley Ag's annual propane pre-buy contract was discussed. Motion by Laura Bowers, second by Brian Davidson to approve the CVA pre-buy contract for \$4461.60, paying the total amount up front. Motion Carried.

Leanna Stanton, Barry Blake and Brady Blake discussed their yard issues with the council. The council stated that the City of Bennington will not be responsible for any cost related to any work that Mrs. Stanton does to comply with the ordinances of the City of Bennington. Brian Davidson and Mike Livengood volunteered to go and shoot grade and do the dirt work for the area that connects the homes of Kit and Linda Wilson and Mrs. Stanton. All parties will be responsible for planting grass and any other landscaping after the dirt work is complete. Motion by Brian Davidson, second by Laura Bowers to waive the \$40.00 building permit fee for the fence Leanna Stanton is putting up, the permit will still be required and must be approved by Jeff Scheele, and the City of Bennington will drop the current court case against Mrs. Stanton to which she was to appear on July 11th. Motion Carried.

Adrienne Luthi discussed the City's CDs with the council. A new program called CDARS is currently offering municipalities an opportunity to avoid penalties for early withdrawal by combining all CD's and reinvesting them into one CD with a current 12-month interest rate of 4%. All of the City's current CDs are making 1% or under. Adrienne would like to combine these and reinvest the \$62,903.82 total.

Motion by Dennis Kelley, second by Brian Davidson to close out all 5 CDs and combine them into one with the CDARS program. Motion Carried.

Dustin discussed the plumbing in two residences in the city causing our lead and copper results to be high, causing us to report every six months instead of the normal three-year reporting schedule. Until these homes have been totally replumbed, the problems will remain and the rules the state have will cause us to have to hire an engineer. It would be cheaper in the long run for the city to pay for the plumbing to all be replaced. The council wants both Chris Rose and Bob Ward to get an estimate from their chosen plumber on the job, then they will discuss it after this is done at a future meeting. Dustin will talk to Bob Ward about this. Chris Rose was at the meeting and agrees to get an estimate.

Motion by Dennis Kelley, second by Brian Davidson to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 p.m. Motion Carried.