

**City of Durant**  
**City Council Meeting Minutes 04/22/2024**

Meeting was called to order by Mayor Pro Tem Dan Sterner. Mayor Scott Spengler was absent. Roll call of members present: Mundt, Quiram, Daufeldt, Ostofi, and Sterner. City Operations Officer/Clerk requested council consider adding renewal of publication for the community center to the agenda. Member Quiram motioned, seconded by Member Mundt, to approve the agenda with addition, city bills and minutes from 04/08/2024 council meeting. Ayes: Quiram, Mundt, Daufeldt, Ostofi, Sterner Nays: None Motion carried.

Public Input: Citizens Lori Booth and Terry Buhman were present to inquire about the plan to move the former Feldhahn snack shack building to the east water tower site. The concern was some residents wanted the area to remain as green space. Member Sterner explained this was an idea currently being explored. It is a good building and city needs storage; it would most likely store mowing equipment for that area and Feldhahn park. Terry Buhman asked why it wasn't on the agenda; Clerk reported at this time there is no information for the council to consider to make a decision. Terry Buhman asked for council to consider public input for the building location.

It was also explained that the city would convert the building into a garage with new siding. The city will be starting the swale project and in the next year or two, housing will be going up on the acres the city owns.

Public Hearing for FY 2025 Budget: Member Mundt motioned, seconded by Member Ostofi, to open the public hearing for the Fiscal Year 2025 Budget. Ayes: All Nays: None Motion carried.

Clerk reported to have received no comments concerning the budget. With no discussion Member Mundt motioned, seconded by Member Daufeldt, to close the public hearing. Ayes: All Nays: None Motion carried. Discuss/Consider Res. 2024-25 Approval for FY 2025 Budget: Member Quiram motioned, seconded by Member Daufeldt, to approve Res. 2024-25 Fiscal Year 2025 Budget. Tax levy shall be \$16.26529/\$1,000. Ayes: Mundt, Ostofi, Quiram, Daufeldt, Sterner Nays: None Motion carried.

Public Hearing for dissolution of Community Center Board Motion : Member Mundt motioned, seconded by Member Ostofi, to open the public hearing to consider dissolution of the Community Center Board. Ayes: All Nays: None Motion carried. With no comments received, Member Mundt motioned, seconded by Member Quiram, to close the public hearing. Ayes: All Nays: None Motion carried.

Consider first reading of Ordinance 2024-04 dissolution of Community Center Board: Member Quiram motioned, seconded by Member Mundt to approve the first reading of Ordinance Amendment 2024-04 dissolving the Community Center Board. Ayes: Ostofi, Daufeldt, Mundt, Quiram, Sterner Nays: None Motion carried. Consider Res. 2024-23 setting public hearing for FY 2024 Budget amendment: Member Mundt motioned, seconded by Member Daufeldt to approve Res. 2024-23 setting the public hearing for the FY 2024 budget amendment for Monday May 13<sup>th</sup>, 2024, at 6:00p.m. at city hall. Ayes: Quiram, Ostofi, Daufeldt, Mundt, Sterner Nays: None Motion carried.

Consider approval of Fireworks permit for DHS graduation : Clerk reported the application and proof of insurance has been received. Member Quiram motioned, seconded by Member Daufeldt, to approve the Fireworks Permit for Durant High School graduation on May 18<sup>th</sup> 2024 at the school. Ayes: Mundt, Quiram, Ostofi, Daufeldt, Sterner Nays: None Motion carried.

Park Board: Consider approval for agreement with Martin-Whitacre for pickleball court design and entering into agreement for project: Mike Janacek, Martin-Whitacre, was present to explain the concept plans for replacing the tennis courts with 4 pickleball courts. His firm has recently completed pickleball courts at Taylor Park, Muscatine, Iowa. There were two concepts presented to park board. 1.) Four courts in a row 2.) two courts stacked on 2 courts. The cost is estimated at \$198,560 and \$187,030 respectively. These estimates do not include lighting. Member Quiram inquired about the surface and Member Sterner inquired about the maintenance. Mike explained it is an asphalt surface with acrylic over the top; the courts would not need any real maintenance for about ten to twenty years. Discussion followed with how much council would consider committing at this time and for the purpose for Dir. Smith to begin grant applications for the project. Member Mundt motioned, seconded by Member Daufeldt, to approve the agreement with Martin-Whitacre at \$25,000 cost ( design, bidding, construction) and an additional

\$25,000 for the project, funded from the Joey Gehrls Memorial Fund. Ayes: Ostofi, Daufeldt, Mundt, Quiram, Sterner Nays: None Motion carried.

Public Works: Consider approval for purchase of used zero turn mower: Dir. Semsch provided information for a used 2015 zero turn mower from Cove Equipment, asking price \$4,000. The zero turn allows for easier maneuvering for employee that has come back from medical leave but cannot place weight on the right leg yet. Initially, the idea to lease a mower was considered, but with the Cove willing to work with payment plan with the city, it would be more efficient to purchase out right. The clerk confirmed there is budgeted money left in roads, parks and sewer that could fund the mower. Member Quiram asked about current mower. Dir. Semsch explained it is a larger hydro-state mower, 2015, and planned to be replaced in 2026. Discussion of the driving the mowers to and from the parks, causes wear and tear on the equipment. After further discussion, Member Mundt motioned, seconded by Member Ostofi to approve the purchase from Cove Equipment for \$4,000. Ayes: Quiram, Mundt, Daufeldt, Ostofi, Sterner Nays: None Motion carried.

Consider approval for seeding of berm at Waste Water Treatment facility: Scheckel Seeding provided a quote for \$2,800 for native grass seeding, mulching, and regular seeding of berm along the Waste Water Treatment Plant, 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue Storm water project, and south side along road. Clerk reported IDALS representative visited the site in early April. IDALS does not recommend any trees be planted on the berms because of the flood plain and the fact that the berms are manmade, the trees would struggle for nutrients to grow. The grass was the best option. After discussion Member Quiram motioned, seconded by Member Mundt, to approve the seeding quote with the project funded from the sewer fund. Ayes: Daufeldt, Ostofi, Mundt, Quiram, Sterner Nays: None Motion carried.

Consider approval for Res. 2024-24 discretionary pay increase for public works employee passing Grade 3 testing: Clerk reported Ryan Tappendorf has passed his Grade 3 Sewer Operator test. The clerk explained the calculation of the wage increase based on what the city had been paying a contracted Grade 3 Operator. Member Mundt motioned, seconded by Member Ostofi, to approve Res. 2024-24 to approve the wage increase from \$29.78 to \$31.51 per hour. Ayes: Quiram, Mundt, Ostofi, Daufeldt, Sterner Nays: None Motion carried.

Fire Dept.: Consider approval for Rescue tools and Ram package with A.T.E. Revenues: Fire Chief Semsch and Member Sterner presented a quote from Alex Apparatus for \$42,256. They explained this request is for half the cost of the equipment at \$21,228.00. This equipment is extraction equipment (similar to Jaws of Life) and battery powered. Chief Semsch explained currently the department has one battery powered and one hydraulic set. The hydraulic set is getting to end of life and has recently been maintenance in the past. Recently the department was dispatched to High 61 for vehicle accident and I-80 for vehicle accident, at the same time. On the Walcott scene, Chief Semsch explained it would have been very difficult to haul the hydraulic machine and motor down the embankment. Discussion after those calls, led to fire department requesting another battery powered unit. Fire Fighters Inc. would pay for the other half of the package. City Clerk explained the Automatic Traffic Enforcement fund does not have enough funding for FY 2024 to fund the full amount. It is too late to add to the budget amendment. The choice is to wait until after July 1, 2024, or reimburse the fire department for the expense should council choose to. After discussion Member Mundt motioned, seconded by Member Daufeldt, to approve using A.T.E. revenue to fund the \$21,228.00 after July 1 2024. Ayes: Mundt, Ostofi, Daufeldt, Quiram, Sterner. Nays: None Motion carried.

Community Center/Economic Dir: Dir. Smith gave an update from the Chamber of Commerce Annual Meeting, whereby Wendy Bullard provided information on the proposed community committee and has been researching other communities with similar groups. There appears to be a lot of interest. Dir. Smith explained legislation has changed the requirement for Council of Governments (COG) that each city belongs to. Any city that has more than one county that crosses COG lines can now choose to belong to either COG. For Durant, the COG was ECIA of Dubuque, but Durant also utilizes Bi-State Regional COG of the Quad Cities, for drug testing that ECIA does not provide. After a meeting with the two COGS and EC6 Cog; it was determined with the legislation changes, Durant can belong to both COGS. A formal vote of council will take place on may 13<sup>th</sup>. The community center roof has been leaking in several

places. The city has contacted three companies to provide estimates for a new roof. The estimates are coming in at \$100,000 plus. Dir. Smith gave a brief summary about the Rural Housing Readiness program.

Consider renewal of The Knot publication at \$2904: It was brought to Dir. Smith’s attention that the subscription will expire on Friday for this web listing. She receives a lot of interest and bookings from this site. It is a budgeted item every year. Member Mundt motioned, seconded by Member Quiram, to approve the renewal of the subscription for \$2,904. Ayes: Ostofi, Daufeldt, Quiram, Mundt, Sterner Nays: None Motion carried.

Police report: Update on A.T.E. program: Chief Randolph reported with the current proposed legislation it appears Durant will no longer have use of the mobile camera and trailer, in the near future. He has been communicating with legislators for several months. Legislators congratulated Durant for the program and the way we operate, noting the speeding levels do not start until eleven over and the fact the city does not budget the revenue for any particular department but for public safety in the community. Current changes will require cities to use the revenue for fire, police, and infrastructure. Any city under 20,000 will not qualify until they apply for a permit in 2026 and cameras must be stationary. Chief reported however, there appears to be some other changes being considered at this time. The governor has not signed the bill to date.

Consider approval for shop with a cop program: Officer Josh Bujalski was present to request council consider allowing the department to start a Shop with a Cop program. It would service grades K-6<sup>th</sup>. He discussed ideas for fundraising for the program. Member Quiram encouraged him to discuss the program with Ms. Dittmer at Durant Schools. General consensus of council was to support the program. The item will be placed on a future agenda for formal approval once the new accounts are ready to be set by council.

City Clerk’s report: Consider approval of March 2024 financial statements: Member Mundt motioned, seconded by Member Daufeldt, to approve the March financial statements. Ayes: Quiram, Mundt, Ostofi, Daufeldt, Sterner Nays: None Motion carried.

Consider approval for clerk’s attendance and hotel accommodations for June 19-21, 2024 Iowa Municipal Officers Academy. Member Mundt motioned. Seconded by Member Ostofi to approve the clerks attendance and lodging for the 2024 Iowa Municipal Officers Academy in Ames, Iowa. Ayes: Daufeldt, Quiram, Ostofi, Mundt, Sterner Nays: None Motion carried.

Mayor/Council Report: Discuss/Consider approval for Res. 2024-22 approving the water and sewer rate changes as specified in the Durant City Code of Ordinances.: Clerk explained this is a two percent increase beginning July 1, 2024, for water and sewer as follows:

**WATER**

Gallons Used Per Month Household or Business	7/1/2023	7/1/2024
<b>0 to 1,000 Minimum Bill, plus tax</b>	<b>From \$20.08</b>	<b>To \$20.48</b>
<b>All over 1,000 per gallon</b>	<b>From \$0.00344</b>	<b>To \$0.00351</b>

**SEWER**

Gallons Used Per Month Household or Business	7/1/2023	7/1/2024
<b>0 to 1,000 Minimum Bill, plus tax</b>	<b>From \$48.82</b>	<b>From \$49.79</b>
<b>All over 1,000 per gallon</b>	<b>From \$0.008967</b>	<b>From \$0.009147</b>

Member Mundt motioned, seconded by Member Quiram, to approve res. 2024-22 approving the annual water and sewer rate increase effective July 1, 2024. Ayes: Mundt, Daufeldt, Quiram, Ostofi, Sterner Nays: None Motion carried.

With no other business for council, meeting was adjourned at 7:45p.m.

ATTEST:

Deana Cavin, City Operations Officer/Clerk

City of Durant		Claims List 04-22-2024
Vendor Name		
7G *	CC bar beer	490.50
Advanced Business Systems	Copier maint & copies 1 mth	98.33
Alliant Energy *	Scott Co electric-Feldhahn	54.53
Durant Athletic Boosters *	CC deposit refund	350.00
EFTPS *	Fed/FICA tax	5969.00
Environmental Res Associates	WWTP testing	414.35
Hawkins Inc	WA chemicals	199.22
IA Assn Municipal Utilities	Qtrly safety training Apr-Jun	393.00
Iowa Beverage *	CC bar beer	377.90
Iowa Interstate RR LLC	Norfolk Dr sign/maint/elec	255.68
Jeff's Market	CC bar supplies & liquor	135.29
Menards	Fire misc supplies, dehumidifiers (2), freezer	1686.48
Mid American Energy *	Natural gas	1291.74
Midwest Wheel	Crossfire kits & solenoid valve	292.64
MSA Professional Services Inc	Gen eng fees 3-10-24 to 3-30-24	1192.50
Novinski, Levi	Reimb fire chainsaw blades	54.94
Paper's Lumber & Supply Inc	Misc supplies	50.49
Price Oil Co Inc	Fuel	841.62
Sam's Club MC/SYNCB *	Econo dev conf, hotel, meal	274.08
Sprague Law PC	Legal fees March 2024	1612.50
Staples *	Office & park concession supplies	224.71
State Hygienic Laboratory	WA testing	50.00
Tappendorf, Ryan	Reimb WW3 certificate fee	61.50
VISA	WWTP class registrations (4)	320.00
Payroll		18363.22
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>35,054.22</b>

\* Denotes paid early due to invoice due date

Fund Totals		
General		23,571.34
Road UseTax		2,434.36
Fire Department		935.18
Water		2,851.87
Sewer		5,261.47
<b>Total</b>		<b>35,054.22</b>

