

CITY COUNCIL MEETING
November 21, 2022

The Montezuma City Council met in regular session at Montezuma City Hall on November 21, 2022. The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. with Mayor Jacki Bolen presiding.

PRESENT: Willrich, C. Bolen, Watts & Eichenberger

ABSENT: Schuur

ALSO, PRESENT: Christy Sanger, Erik Kriegel, Abby Hubbard, Amy Ver Meer & Joel Kercheval

Councilmember Willrich made a motion to approve the consent agenda which consisted of the following:

- Minutes from the regular meeting held on November 7th, 2022
- Claims

A second was made by Councilmember Eichenberger. Ayes: all, Nays: none.

Amy Ver Meer addressed the council asking for permission to have the 300 block of East Washington blocked off on Wednesdays from 3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. due to the number of kids going back and forth for the afterschool program. She said the program starts in September and ends in April and they have approximately sixty kids crossing East Washington Street when they go from the Presbyterian Church to the Family Center. Councilmember Watts made the motion to approve the street closing for the Presbyterian Church Program. A second was made by Councilmember Eichenberger. Ayes: all, Nays: none.

Councilmember Watts made a motion to table discussion on the issues at the East City Park's restrooms until spring. Councilmember C. Bolen seconded the motion. Ayes: all, Nays: none.

K&J Tree Service, LLC, submitted a bid to take down three trees at the West City Park, two trees at the East City Park as well as stump removal. The bid was in the amount of \$2,250. A motion to approve the bid was made by Councilmember C. Bolen and seconded by Councilmember Eichenberger. Ayes: all, Nays: none.

Joel Kercheval, Director of EMS for the City, discussed the meeting he had just had with the two other paid EMS employees. One topic of discussion was the request for a clothing reimbursement so that the paid employees can purchase some specific boots, pants, coats, etc. Kercheval stressed that the items need to be approved, purchased and a receipt must be submitted in order to submit for reimbursement. Councilmember Watts made the motion to approve a \$300/year clothing reimbursement for the paid city EMS employees. A second was made by Councilmember Eichenberger. Ayes: all, Nays: none. Councilmember C. Bolen abstained as he is an EMS member.

Heather Snook, a loan officer at Peoples Savings bank (PSB), reached out to Hubbard in regards to the possibility of moving some public funds currently being held at Montezuma State Bank (MSB) to the newly owned PSB. Snook offered a rate of 2.5% for the city's checking account. Montezuma State Bank then extended a counter offer and matched the 2.5% rate for the city's checking account and keep the hi-fi account rate at 2.9%. Councilmember Willrich expressed his view on trying to balance the distribution of city funds amongst the banks in town. Councilmember Watts agreed with Willrich but also stated that the council needs to see the balances in all accounts in all banks along with the rates being offered so that they can make an informed decision regarding moving around tax-payer dollars. A motion to table this discussion until more information can be presented was made by Councilmember Watts and seconded by Councilmember

Eichenberger. Ayes: all, Nays: none. Councilmember C. Bolen abstained as he works for Peoples Savings Bank.

The Montezuma Ambulance Weekend Incentive & Education Program was put into place when there were not enough trained EMT's available to serve the community. One of the current AEMT inquired to see if she would be eligible for the bonus since she had previously passed her AEMT class. The plan states, "The Plan shall provide for the payment of a \$1,000 bonus to any Montezuma Ambulance member who obtains EMT/AEMT certification, payable upon issuance of IDPH certification number." It was agreed to have Sanger put this plan on the next agenda to discuss if the idea is still needed. Councilmember Watts made the motion to go ahead and pay the \$1000 bonus to those who have passed their EMT/AEMT classes and received their certifications. A second was made by Councilmember Eichenberger. Ayes: all, Nays: none. Councilmember C. Bolen abstained as he is an EMS member.

Other items discussed were as follows:

- Richard Lemke spoke with Mayor J. Bolen about getting permission to have the gates to Bonham Trail unlocked so that he can back up his truck onto the trail and remove some of dead trees. The council agreed to his request.
- Hubbard informed the council that the annual audit is now complete.

Councilmember C. Bolen a motion to adjourn at 6:57 p.m. It was seconded by Councilmember Watts. Ayes: all, Nays: none.

City Clerk

Mayor