

CITY COUNCIL MEETING
December 5, 2022

The Montezuma City Council met in regular session at Montezuma City Hall on December 5, 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, Abby Hubbard, Erin Kibbee, Austin Henry, Travis Johannes, Deedee Lehman, Joel Kercheval, Kyle Cook and Mohamad Chehab (via phone)

Councilmember C. Bolen made a motion to approve the consent agenda which consisted of the following:

- Minutes from the regular meeting held on November 21st, 2022
- Claims

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

Spruce Village owner, Mohamad Chehab, attended the meeting via the phone to discuss the recent fire at the mobile home park and other property maintenance issues. He stated the fire occurred at a residence that was he was preparing for eviction. They were referred to as “trouble tenants” and Chehab was aware of the abundant amount of junk and debris surrounding the residence. Councilmember C. Bolen explained that due to the amount of rubble, it was very difficult to get to the mobile home in order to put out the fire. The Montezuma Fire Department was then called out multiple times in the following days because the junk kept catching on fire. Mayor J. Bolen referenced the derelict condition of many of the mobile homes throughout Spruce Village and the number of complaints that city receives because of the unsightly conditions. Because of the fire, many health and safety concerns have been uncovered. The city has to assure the living conditions are up to par for the residents of Spruce Village. It is also a priority to make sure all emergency crews that are called out to the area are safe as well. Sanger has compiled photos outlining some of the property maintenance issues throughout the park. They will be sent to Chehab along with a letter citing the city code violations and the timeline for when all must be brought up to speed. She will keep the line of communication open with Chehab, the property manager and mayor and council.

Hubbard offered the mayor and council documentation illustrating where all city accounts are being held as well as the balances and interest rates. After some discussion regarding moving public funds, Councilmember Watts made the motion to keep city funds where they are currently invested and to revisit this subject matter annually to see if there is a need to make any changes. A second was made by Councilmember Eichenberger. Ayes: all, Nays: none. Councilmember C. Bolen abstained as he is an employee of Peoples Savings Bank.

The council agreed to make some revisions to the Montezuma Ambulance Weekend Incentive and Education Program. Councilmember Eichenberger made the motion to remove the wording for the Emergency Services Education and Incentive Plan. A second was made by Councilmember C. Watts. Ayes: all, Nays: none. Councilmember C. Bolen abstained as he is a member of the Montezuma Fire and EMS Department.

Hubbard explained that she asked all city department superintendents to provide her of any big-ticket items that would need to be budgeted for fiscal year 2024 or to put into the planning stages for future purchases. The roof on the fire department building was brought up and Councilmember Willrich stated that that is a must

fix item. A committee was set up to discover what would be required to make the needed repairs and for any possible expansion of the current building. The committee will report back when they have more information.

Other items discussed were as follows:

- City workers need to wear Hi-Viz gear when working out on any street or property to assure overall safety.

Councilmember Watts a motion to adjourn at 6:59 p.m. It was seconded by Councilmember Eichenberger.
Ayes: all, Nays: none.

City Clerk

Mayor