

Council Proceeding's  
Regular Meeting  
August 21, 2024

The Regular Council Meeting for the City of Rockwood was called to order by Mayor Troy A. Cox in the Council Chambers located at 32409 Fort St. at 7:00 PM

**ROLL CALL**

Present: Mayor Cox, Council Members Bennett, Cramton, Grzywacz, Joaquin, Mercure, and Wasner

Absent: None

City Officials

Present: Police Chief Krause, Fire Chief Mercure, Treasurer McCoy, Administrator Trush, Attorney Pelland, and City Clerk Oney

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Mayor Cox added one item to the Administrator's Report

**M-187-24** Motion by Wasner/Joaquin to approve this evening's agenda as presented

Ayes are unanimous.

**Motion Carried**

**PUBLIC DISCUSSION** (Items not on Agenda)

None

**PUBLIC DISCUSSION** (Items on Agenda)

None

## **ACTION AGENDA**

**M-188-24** Motion by Wasner/Bennett to approve this evening's Action Agenda as presented

- A) Council Minutes – August 7, 2024
- B) Accounts Payable

Ayes are unanimous.

**Motion Carried**

## **REPORTS OF CITY OFFICIALS/DEPARTMENTS**

Police Department:

Police Chief Krause discussed the Monthly Report for July 2024

**M-189-24** Motion by Wasner/Mercure to receive and file the Police Department Monthly Report for July 2024 as presented

Ayes are unanimous.

**Motion Carried**

Fire Department:

Fire Chief Mercure discussed the Monthly Report – July 2024, Assistance to Firefighter Grant, and Recommendation for probationary firefighters.

**M-190-24** Motion by Wasner/Bennett to receive and file the Fire Department Monthly Report for July 2024

Ayes are unanimous.

**Motion Carried**

Chief Mercure discussed the AFG Grant Award

Chief Mercure stated that the fire department was awarded an AFG (Assistance to Firefighter Grant) from FEMA. It is part of a regional grant with other departments Downriver for fire hose replacement. Our share of the grant that we put in for is \$58,320.00. We would receive \$53,018.18 from FEMA and the city is responsible for 10% of the funds.

The money from the grant can only be used for specific items in the grant application.

The City of Wyandotte Fire Department is the host department for the grant so we will follow the same ordering process they use. Per the Memorandum of Understanding signed when applying for the grant, Wyandotte will invoice the city for our share. He has not been given the timetable of the process.

Chief Mercure also stated that we are waiting to hear if we have been awarded a regional grant to replace the portable radios. Our total for that grant is \$134,190.90 and the city's share would be \$12,197.95.

He also submitted an individual department grant request for \$900,000 for a new engine. The cost share of that would be 5% if we were awarded that. The first awards were announced last week, and they will continue announcing for the next month or so.

Mayor Cox wanted to thank Chief Mercure for all the work he has put in to receive this grant money.

Council member Joaquin asked what would happen with the old fire hoses.

Chief Mercure stated that some people use it for boat docks, and we can see if anyone would want it for that.

Council Member Grzywacz asked if we could possibly sell the old fire hoses.

Chief Mercure stated that we could see if anyone would like to purchase the old fire hoses.

Council Member Grzywacz asked if Chief Mercure would explain about the fire hoses we are trying to purchase. She did not realize that we needed so much on hand.

Chief Mercure stated that the different hoses that we would be getting would serve various purposes.

The 1.75" hose which would be used to go into houses. He believes they have 800 feet on the engine and the ladder truck is somewhere between 1000 feet to 1100 feet.

The 3" hose can be used for supply lines or on devices that they have.

The 5" hose is a supply line

Chief Mercure stated that all the fire hoses will not be on the truck at one time. It is not good for the fire hoses to be stored wet. So, when they come back from a call they will take the wet hoses off and replace them with dry hoses. Then they clean and dry the wet hoses for the next exchange.

**M-191-24** Motion by Wasner/Mercure to appoint Anthony Byrd and Cole Little as probationary members of the fire department effective August 21, 2024

Ayes are unanimous.

**Motion Carried**

### **TREASURER'S REPORT**

Treasurer McCoy discussed the budget amendment 25-4 – Election Reimbursement and budget amendment 25-5 – AFG FEMA Grant

**M-192-24** Motion by Wasner/Bennett to approve the budget amendment 25-4 – Election Reimbursement

Ayes are unanimous.

**Motion Carried**

**M-193-24** Motion by Wasner/Mercure to approve the budget amendment 25-5 – AFG FEMA Grant

Ayes are unanimous.

**Motion Carried**

### **DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS**

None

### **CONSIDERATION ITEMS**

Mayor Cox discussed the Resolution to accept 33<sup>rd</sup> District Court Year End Dec 31, 2023, Financial Report, Election Equipment – ICP2 Kit, Camera System at Mercure Park, and Ordinance 212 – 44 Placement, Collection, and removal of solid waste and recycling containers.

**M-194-24** Motion by Wasner/Mercure to accept the resolution for the 33<sup>rd</sup> Judicial Court Annual Financial Report for year ending December 31, 2023

Ayes are unanimous.

**Motion Carried**

**M-195-24**

Motion by Wasner/Bennett to approve the purchase of 2 – ICP2 Ballot Reading Machines at a cost of \$13,286.00.

Ayes are unanimous.

**Motion Carried**

Mayor Cox stated that there was an incident a couple of weeks ago where a bunch of memorial trees were run over. There has been talk in the past about cameras being installed in Mercure Park. We are at that point again and would like to get the councils opinion on this.

Council Member Mercure wanted to know where the money would come from.

Mayor Cox stated that it would probably come from the dispatch fund.

Administrator Trush stated that there were different options, depending on what kind of camera system was approved.

Council Member Mercure asked who would support/watch the cameras.

Administrator Trush stated that if it is decided to do live cameras then we will talk to dispatch about monitoring them. If it is decided to do closed circuit cameras then we would pull out the memory card and view the data from there.

Council Member Mercure asked if that would be more money to Gibraltar.

Administrator Trush stated that she did not think so. They are already monitoring the cameras that we have now.

Council Member Grzywacz asked if both camera systems would be used for evidentiary

Administrator Trush stated no. Chief Krause would be able to speak better on the technological aspect of it.

Chief Krause stated that it would be up to the council on what they want done. A closed system is something that we can pick up off the internet for \$1,500-\$2,500 or better. The sky is the limit. But to really be of any service to us, we need a system that can be monitored. So if dispatch sees activity in the park they can send an officer down there to check it out. The camera systems that provide day light, low light, any type of evidentiary quality on a license plate or vehicle, will be quite expensive. You are talking about several thousand dollars per camera, so we are looking at \$20,000 or better. When you are looking at cameras you need to be mindful of weatherproof and vandal proof.

Mayor Cox asked if the city's IT company gave us an estimate.

Chief Krause stated that he gave a rough estimate of about \$10,000 for a very basic system. It would not be evidentiary quality. As far as evidentiary quality goes it can be fooled by removing license plates, wearing masks and things of that nature.

Mayor Cox stated that we are hoping to at least get a car description.

Chief Krause stated that we can get an estimate on a day light, low light, high quality camera system but it will be very expensive.

Council Member Joaquin asked if the crime rate in the park supports the need for surveillance.

Chief Krause stated that in his opinion, no. We do have some incidents here and unfortunately when it does happen it gets a lot of attention because it costs a lot of money to fix it.

Mayor Cox asked when the last time was that we had vandalism in the park.

Chief Krause stated that the last time was several years ago. We've had the bathrooms vandalized, plaques cracked, trees destroyed, etc. He does like the idea of having surveillance down there, but he does not feel in his heart that the cost justifies that.

Council Member Joaquin asked if there was a public safety grant that we could possibly apply for to put flock cameras at the entrance.

Chief Krause stated that the technology grant that we just used could have been used for flocking cameras but the problem with that is that there is a yearly maintenance fee for every camera that you have. So although we could have used that grant we would still have to pay for the yearly maintenance.

Council Member Joaquin asked what the approximate cost would be for that system.

Chief Krause stated that he can get something together on a flocking system and email council with an estimated cost. Off the top of his head, he thinks the initial costs is about \$3,000 per camera and about \$1,200-\$1,500 per camera each additional year.

Council Member Joaquin asked if in the chief's opinion would this kill two birds with one stone.

Chief Krause stated no, as good as the flocking system is, it is not designed to use it for what we are wanting.

Council Member Mercure stated that the park is not secure, you can get in at any angle.

Chief Krause stated that this is a prime example. They entered through the bike path, not the entrance at the gate. There are several ways to enter by foot or by vehicle. The gate keeps the honest people out.

Council Member Grzywacz asked if the city owned this memorial or do the people own the memorial.

Chief Krause stated that this is a question for the attorney. The people purchased the trees but were put in the ground.

Council Member Grzywacz stated that if we do not own this memorial then in her opinion the city should keep this secure or offer some kind of security to these families.

Chief Krause stated that he believes that even though the families purchased the trees, they were planted on city property which automatically makes the trees city property. Chief Krause asked the city attorney if he could weigh in on that

Attorney Pelland stated that he would think that it would be considered “donated”, it would not be privately owned on city property.

Council Member Wasner asked about maintaining the trees and who was responsible for that.

Council Member Grzywacz stated that this is why she is asking, because she has seen different things hanging on the trees or trees have been decorated.

Chief Krause stated that some families who have “donated” trees do not live here to maintain them. The trees that are decorated have family members here who take it upon themselves to do that.

Tom Mercure  
21710 Washington St.

Mr. Mercure stated that each family bought their own trees in the beginning. Five years ago we had 13 trees vandalized and they were replaced by some TIFA Funds that were available. Those trees were damaged on Easter Sunday in the middle of the afternoon. This time it was done at night. As far as maintaining them, he maintained them for two years.

Council Member Joaquin asked if he recalled how much it cost to replace those trees at that time.

Mr. Mercure stated that he believes that it was \$5,000 - \$6,000 for 13 trees.

Council Member Grzywacz asked if the plaques were purchased by the families.

Mr. Mercure stated that they purchased the plaques, and they were about \$50 each.

Mr. Mercure stated that as far as ownership goes, there was never any intent that the families would own the trees. It is city property. As far as maintaining them, DPW helps with the upkeep. Things that are “as needed”, Mr. Mercure and his brother-in-law take care of it.

Council Member Wasner asked if the initial purchase was about \$250?

Mayor Cox asked if Council Member Wasner was looking for a quote on the trees?

Council Member Wasner stated that he was inquiring because Council Member Joaquin was asking how much they cost

Mayor Cox stated that they have an estimate of the damage.

Jeremiah North  
31689 Lynne Dr

Mr. North stated that there are several trees that were damaged that hit close to home for him. This is not the first time that this has happened. He knows that former Mayor Guzzi's stepson paid out of his own pocket of about \$100 each to replace some plaques and they had their own little ceremonies. He stated that he appreciates the upkeep that has been done to the memorial garden, but this has happened more than once. When government money has been exhausted then we need to look at the rotary clubs and other organizations to help raise money, everyone has budgets but there is a way to problem solve this issue.

Mayor Cox stated that he empathizes with everyone that was affected by this.

Council Member Grzywacz stated that she appreciated them coming up and sharing the history of the trees with us. She thinks that the city would benefit from the cameras as well as protecting the memorial.

Mayor Cox asked the council if they had any other take on installing cameras, would they like to have a workshop on this issue?

Council Member Joaquin stated that he would like to see about putting some bollards spaced where you cannot get a car through. It is a permanent solution and no maintenance other than weed whipping around them and then maybe putting some lights in the back corner.



Mayor Cox stated that you can go right over the parking blocks at the Community Center.

Council Member Joaquin asked if the last time the plaques were broken, was it done by hand or were they run over?

Chief Krause stated that he believes it was done by vehicle, as he recalls, they never caught the person who did that damage. This time we have suspects that were arrested and facing charges. It is still being considered at the prosecutor's office, so we are not at liberty to talk about this in an open forum. Rest assured that part of the resolution will be full restitution from both families to the city for any expenses occurred on this.

Mayor Cox stated that we could go on all night about this, but the consensus of the board is that we want cameras.

Council Member Joaquin stated that he would like to talk with Chief Krause more on this issue

Chief Krause stated that he is available for further discussion. He will meet with multiple council members or have a zoom meeting if needed.

Council Member Grzywacz asked if Chief Krause could get multiple quotes together for the council to look at

Chief Krause stated that he can get quotes together, but they are not going to like the prices. Right now, the best system to go with is going to be about \$30,000

Mayor Cox stated that the main thing to think about is if we need live cameras or cameras that we can pull information off of for a police report.

Chief Krause stated that a live camera would be a good thing if we have someone looking at the screen. We have combined two agencies with dispatch, and they are busier than they have been before, so they are not able to monitor the screens as they have before. Going back and looking, will it be worth the investment.

**M-196-24**                      Motion by Grzywacz/Mercure to schedule a workshop to discuss park security further with a date to be determined

Ayes are unanimous.

**Motion Carried**

Mayor Cox stated that he sent an email out to the council looking for any ideas or any wording that they would like to submit to revise the trash ordinance #212-11

Council Member Wasner stated that if we are going to talk about this then a motion needs to be made to take the issue off the table and then we can discuss it again.

**M-197-24**                      Motion by Grzywacz/Joaquin to take the issue of ordinance #212-11 off the table to further discuss possible revision

Ayes are unanimous.

**Motion Carried**

Mayor Cox stated that Council Member Grzywacz submitted a proposed revision as read

Proposed ordinance:

Receptacles and recycling containers shall be placed between the sidewalk and the street after 6:00 PM the day preceding the day scheduled for collection. All empty receptacles or containers so placed shall be removed from the curb by 6:00 AM the subsequent day of trash collection. Solid waste and rubbish placed between the sidewalk and the street shall be enclosed within a suitable container or receptacle. The collection day for recyclable material may be separate from the day scheduled for the collection of solid waste, garbage and/or rubbish as set by the city or its authorized representative. Recyclable containers shall be replaced and removed during the same time frame as set for solid waste containers. All brush and tree cuttings shall be placed at the street curb and collected by the city at such time as designated by the city.

Current Ordinance:

Receptacles, solid waste and recycling containers shall be placed between the sidewalk and the street after 6:00 PM the day preceding the day scheduled for collection. All empty receptacles or containers so placed shall be removed from the curb by 6:00 PM. The collection day for recyclable material may be separate from the day scheduled for the collection of solid waste, garbage and/or rubbish as set by the city or its authorized representatives. Recyclable containers shall be placed and removed during the same time frame as set for solid waste containers. All brush and tree cuttings shall be placed at the street curb and collected by the city at such time as designated by the city.

Mayor Cox stated that a lot of people do not have trash cans, they just set their trash bags out. Mayor Cox asked the attorney for his opinion.

Attorney Pelland stated that he does not know why we would want to remove “solid waste” from the statement.

Council Member Grzywacz stated that when she saw that she was thinking of just a trash bag itself. Maybe we need to clarify that.

Attorney Pelland stated that it needs to be clarified. Solid Waste could be a chair, which obviously does not fit in a trash can. Not everything goes in a trash can. We may need to define it more and maybe say that “household waste needs to go in a trash can”

Council Member Joaquin stated that the pest issue was brought up about it just being in bags laying out at the curb. If we can circumvent that somehow and put that in containers. We have unlimited trash pickup in the city.

Council Member Cramton asked what happens if you have too much trash

Attorney Pelland stated that you can make people put all their trash in receptacles. Not everyone does it nor is it actually necessary. The point he was trying to make last time was that if you are putting trash out 24 hours prior to collection it could cause a problem. He thinks that it is kind of difficult to make sure everything is in suitable containers. Really what you are trying to do is extend the time frame, so residents do not have to bring their receptacles from the curb by 6:00 PM the day the trash is picked up. Sometimes the trash is not collected before 6:00 PM. Attorney Pelland stated that he knows what the council is trying to achieve, let him work with the language and bring it back at the next meeting. The proposed revision may be too narrow and could do more harm than good. Usually, if everything needs to be in trash receptacles, the city or the trash company provides the containers.

Council Member Joaquin stated that he just wants to give the shift workers a fair chance to bring their trash cans back from the curb.

Attorney Pelland stated that he will work on the language and bring it back to the next meeting in ordinance form.

## **ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT**

Administrator Trush stated that our renovation/remodeling/restoration from the water damage is still being investigated on the actual cause. We are starting to look at some options such as all the carpet will be replaced as well as the wallpaper.

Council Member Mercure asked if they were going to make sure that there is no mold or anything that could cause a problem.

Administrator Trush stated that Icon Restoration came out and removed all the wet carpet and pulled all the wet drywall down and re-tested the walls to make sure there was no moisture. So, we are progressing.

Administrator Trush discussed the hire of a part-time DPW laborer. Director Boron is requesting to hire Robert Esordi at a rate of \$19 per hour. The intent would be for Mr. Esordi to work 2 days a week but will vary depending on the workload.

Council Member Mercure asked if he had any experience doing this kind of work

Administrator Trush stated that Mr. Esordi is retired from the school district, and he is looking for a part-time job.

Council Member Grzywacz asked that in the future could the council get a resume prior to the council meeting

Administrator Trush stated that she can do that, and she will have him fill out a city application. He just became available, and Director Boron wanted to bring him on due to his experience.

**M-198-24** Motion by Wasner/Mercure to hire Robert Esordi as a part-time laborer for the DPW at the rate of \$19 per hour

Ayes are unanimous.

**Motion Carried**

#### **ATTORNEY'S REPORT**

None

#### **MAYOR'S REPORT**

Mayor Cox stated that he got word from our engineers that they can start developing the specs for the bid documents for the HUD road project. He did speak with the engineer, and he stated that we may have more bumps in the road, there are always issues when dealing with HUD, they are very specific on their specifications and measurements. So, we are in the process of trying to get that going. He also wanted to remind everyone that this is a seven-year project so we have seven years to spend this money.

Council Member Grzywacz asked if we anticipated this taking seven years

Mayor Cox stated that there is a chart that we will go by that shows which streets are the worst. It could take seven years to complete. He is hoping that we can start pouring cement this year.

Mayor Cox stated that he met with the Rotary Club on Monday. He hopes to be fostering some future relationships with them.

We do have a active listing posted for a new police officer on several websites.

He also stated that Director Boron put a rush on the cement sidewalk work leading onto the Chapman Elementary property. It is repaired and ready for students to use.

Mayor Cox stated that we are imposing a Wednesday, 4 PM deadline to submit anything for the agenda the week before the council meetings. This will give everybody a chance to review the content and ask any questions they may have.

Mayor Cox stated that we had a Vietnam Veteran in our city that was struggling to maintain the upkeep of his property. Mayor Cox reached out to some organizations to see about getting some help and got some mixed feedback. Mayor Cox reached out to a friend/fellow Vietnam Veteran, Walt Zupper. Walt came through within a week and told the mayor that he had close ties with the Raupp Brothers Landscaping family and he gave him Dave Raupp's phone number. He called us back and stated that they would love to help him out at no cost. His crew started on it this week, we received a photo today of the front yard and it looks ten times better. This will be a continuing project for the back yard as well. Mayor Cox wanted to thank Walt Zupper for helping to bring this together and give a huge thank you to Dave Raupp and the Raupp Brothers Landscaping Crew out of Flat Rock for their continued work and generosity in this matter. This is a great opportunity for our members in our community to come together for the greater good of a fellow member struggling.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

None

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Council Member Mercure stated that she is wanting to do a "Movie in the Park" night for the community.

Council Member Wasner stated that they have tried that before and it was a disaster. It was raining and several people had to be towed out.

Council Member Joaquin wanted to congratulate all the Senior Olympians that participated.

Council Member Joaquin stated that he would like to put together a “Trunk-or-Treat” together for the kids in the community.

Mayor Cox stated that Chapman Elementary usually has a pretty big one every year.

Council Member Mercure was hoping that the community could do something here and get the families more involved.

Mayor Cox stated that last Friday he attended the senior Olympics luncheon at Crystal Gardens. This was after a weeklong of grueling competition, he heard that it was harder than France. He would like to acknowledge Harvey LaBell for a gold medal and Jim Herzog for 2 silver medals. Rockwood has a long history of bringing home Olympic medals and we as a city are very proud of all the participants that took place this year. He would also like to acknowledge the other Rockwood participants, Jeannett Herzog, Carol Watson, and Bonnie Duncan. Mayor Cox wanted to thank the Community Center Director, Nataliya Musick, for all the hard work she put in to prepare for the Senior Olympics. He stated that he was speaking with other community directors and learned that a lot of work goes in to preparing and organizing the Senior Olympics.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

**M-199-24**                      Motion by Wasner/Bennett to adjourn this evening’s council meeting at 8:01 PM

Ayes are unanimous.

**Motion Carried**

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**City Clerk, Colleen E. Oney**

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**Mayor, Troy A. Cox**