

Regular Council Meeting
April 28, 2025

1. **Mayor Milne called the regular Council meeting to order at 7:00 pm.** Present were Council members Larry Finley, Kale Dankenbring, Dara Carmichael, Justin Lohr, and Robert Erskin. Also present were City Superintendent Dan Blair, City Treasurer Jennifer Blair, Office Assistant Wyatt Landenberger, Sheriff Cody Beeson and Attorney Lauren Reyelts.
2. **Visitors/Audience:** Terri Finley, Nancy Walraven, Jeff Olofson, Carla Lampe, Scott Schultz, Jason Padgett, Shay Zwegardt, Lucinda Straub, Robin Burr and Sheree Downs.
3. **Minutes** from the April 14, 2025 Council meeting were distributed and read. A motion was made by Justin and seconded by Kale to approve the minutes. Motion passed.
4. **Sheriff's Report:** Sheriff Cody Beeson let the council know he didn't have any statistics to report due to not being able to generate the report. There have been an increase in traffic stops. Reportable crimes have been lower. The Sheriff's Department attended a training session with KHP for stop stick usage. The Sheriff's Department's radio traffic is now encrypted. A motion was made by Larry and seconded by Kale to accept and file the Sheriff's report. Motion passed.
5. **Library Board Appointments:** A motion was made by Kale and seconded by Dara to approve the following Mayor Appointments to the Library Board: Nancy Walraven, Karen Neitzel, Marilyn Hnizdil, Stella Draper, Amelia Zuege, Sandy Bandel, and Jeff Olofson. Motion passed.
6. **New Business:**
 - **TAP Committee:** Carla Lampe and Scott Schultz reported that Phase 2 is tentatively set to be completed by June 1. Phase 2 includes the pickleball court, the sand volleyball area, the horseshoe pit, the cornhole area and a handicap accessible sidewalk on the east side. Scott requested the City order handicap signs and signs stating not responsible for accidents. Scott also inquired if there would be a new water faucet installed. Dan will check into it.
 - **Farmer's Market:** Jason Padgett has submitted a **Special Event Application** to hold the Farmer's Market in the Courthouse Park on Saturday mornings from June to September. A motion was made by Larry and seconded by Kale to approve the Special Event Application. Motion passed.
 - ❖ Jason left the meeting.
 - **Courthouse Park Improvements:** Shay Zwegardt, Robin Burr and Lucinda Straub were present to ask Council permission to start looking into grants to upgrade the playground equipment in the Courthouse Park. The Thrift Store would also like to help with this project. The Council agreed it was a good project and gave permission.
 - ❖ Shay, Robin, Lucinda, Scott and Carla left the meeting.
7. **Building Permits:** Dan presented the council with a building permit from Keith Lilley for a retaining wall and fence at 114 E. Jackson. A motion was made by Kale and seconded by Justin to approve the building permit. Motion passed.
8. **Library Board Budget:** Amanda discussed an error on the 2025 Library budget. In 2018, the Council passed an ordinance granting the Library up to 4.5 mills in budget revenue. The 2025 budget was inadvertently calculated at 4 mills, reducing their budget by approximately \$6,700. The Auditors suggested correcting the error by paying an allocation out of the General Fund. A motion was made by Kale and seconded by Dara to approve paying the difference out of the General Fund. Motion passed.
9. **Old Business:**
 - **Property Cleanup** – The property at 616 S. Denison was discussed and pictures were presented to the Council. It was agreed that the property owner needs to receive a letter with instructions to clean up the miscellaneous household items and debris, remove the couch and appliances and to clean up the driveway.

10. Projects Pending:

- **City Hall Planters:** The Council discussed ideas for the 2 areas in front of City Hall with vegetation and bushes that need removed. Justin also brought up the area around the swimming pool and suggested getting weeds sprayed and the landscaping cleaned up.

a. **Streets Project:** no new discussion.

11. Visitors: Sheree Downs announced she is the Office Manager for the St. Francis Herald.

12. Theater Report:

- The Board has agreed to a special showing of Plight, which was partially filmed in St. Francis. It will likely be shown on Thursday, July 3, 2025.
- The Board is still working with contractors on the renovation project.
- Robert Martinez is the new board member.
- A motion was made by Kale and seconded by Larry to accept and file the Theater Report. Motion passed.

13. Pool Report: Larry reported opening day will be Tuesday, May 27th. Lifeguard training is tentatively scheduled for the week before. Dan is hoping to have the Pool ready to go by May 14th. A motion was made by Justin and seconded by Kale to accept and file the Pool Report. Motion passed.

14. Superintendent Report:

- Dan reported there was a new water leak in the 400 block of South Frances and was repaired Saturday.
- Dan reported the trash truck is still at Slick Spot in Wray. The repair bill ended up being \$5,955.92 to complete the repairs. They can also repair the air conditioner. The estimate for the air conditioner repair is \$3,037.42. A motion was made by Justin and seconded by Kale to approve the additional amount on the original repair bill and to approve the repairs of the air conditioner. Motion passed.
- Dan requested to purchase a new crimper for the electric department. The current one is fairly old. A motion was made by Kale and seconded by Justin to purchase a new crimper in the amount of \$2,436.38. Motion passed.
- The Superintendent at the school inquired about service projects the students could do on the last day of school. The Council suggested picking up trash at the parks and Keller's Pond.
- Dan reported that the oil that leaked from the transformer is less than 2 ppm so there is no concern. He is going to have Solomon take the dirt.
- Dan reported that he is purchasing some bagged asphalt patch and bagged concrete patch that he previously discussed with the council.
- Dan is requesting 10 minutes of executive session for non-elected personnel, performance review.
- A motion was made by Justin and seconded by Kale to accept and file the Superintendent Report. Motion passed.

15. Attorney Report:

- Lauren discussed the fine schedule for traffic with the Council. The Council agreed to change the first offense to \$30.00 from \$20.00 and the second offense to \$45.00 from \$30.00. The Council agreed to change the speeding fine for 1-4 mph over the speed limit to \$20.00 from \$15.00, the fine for 5-9 mph over to \$30.00 from \$20.00 and the fine for 10-15 mph over to \$50.00 from \$40.00. It was noted diversions are not an option for any driver with a CDL. The Council agreed to change careless driving to \$90.00 from \$60.00. Lauren noted the fine schedule will need to be adopted by the Municipal Judge. She will send the changes to Judge Gardner and hopes to have things ready to be changed at the May 12th meeting. The Council will then advise Cody a date to start writing tickets for violations inside the City limits. These violations will go through Municipal Court.
- Lauren reported that she offered a plea deal to the defendant in the vicious dog case and the defendant agreed to the deal. It significantly reduced the fines. The defendant will not be allowed to own dogs inside the city limits for 4 years.

- Lauren reported she is still working on finding a contact for the property on East Third street to start property clean up proceedings.
- A motion was made by Larry and seconded by Justin to accept and file the Attorney report. Motion passed.

16. Treasurer's Report:

- Jen reported the Annual CIC Peopleware Renewal Agreement was received. The cost is \$5,665.00. A motion was made by Kale and seconded by Dara to approve the agreement. Motion passed.
- Jen reported on the CD discussed at the last meeting. It was not renewable so she consulted with Amanda and a decision was made to deposit the money into the Collection Account at FNB Bank.
- Jen shared the ad previously run in the paper for the City Clerk position. It was agreed to run the ad until the position is filled.
- A motion was made by Kale and seconded by Larry to accept and file the Treasurer Report. Motion passed.

17. Council Comments:

Robert – None

Kale – None

Larry – None

Dara – None

Justin – None

18. Mayor Comments: None

❖ Sheree and Lauren left the meeting.

19. Executive Sessions:

- A motion was made by Larry and seconded by Kale to recess into executive session for 10 minutes for non-elected personnel, job performance with the Superintendent, Council and Mayor with the regular meeting resuming at 8:30 pm. Open meeting resumed with no decisions made.
- A motion was made by Kale and seconded by Larry to recess into executive session for non-elected personnel, job performance for 5 minutes. Open meeting resumed with no decisions made.

20. Adjournment: It was moved by Kale and seconded by Larry to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed.

City Treasurer