

**Whalan City Council**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**Monday, March 14, 2022**  
**Meeting held at the Whalan Town Hall and via Zoom**

**Present:** Marlys Tuftin, Kim Berekvam, Thore E. Johnson, and Sheila Higbe

**Absent:** Owen Lewis

**Visitors:** Dave Ruberg, Ben Ruberg, Randy Berekvam, Melanie Murphy, Barb Jeffers, Scott Kerl, David & Tammy Hallum, Owen Lewis, and Jason McCaslin

**Regular Meeting:**

Mayor Tuftin called the Regular Meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

**A. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.**

**B. Agenda:** Member Johnson motioned to approve the agenda with the addition of Court Settlement to Miscellaneous. Member Berekvam seconded the motion. Motion carried with all in favor.

**C. Approval of Minutes:**

1. Mayor Tuftin read the minutes of the Regular Meeting, February 14, 2022: Member Higbe motioned to approve the minutes with clerical amendments. Member Johnson seconded the motion. Motion carried with all in favor.

**D. Treasurer's Report:** Clerk Peterson provided the treasurer's report. The following are the balances as of 02/28/2022: General Fund \$54,704.81, Ballfield Fund \$1,152.27, Beautification Fund \$187.00, American Recovery Act Funding \$3,606.31, Small Cities Assist \$12,153.00, General Capital \$27,325.09, and Electric Fund \$25,690.20. Member Johnson motioned to approve the treasurer's report including the following accounts payable:

| <u>Claim No</u> | <u>Vendor</u>                    | <u>Amount</u> | <u>Check Number</u> |
|-----------------|----------------------------------|---------------|---------------------|
| 314221          | Whalan Museum                    | \$70.26       | 5987                |
| 314222          | City of Lanesboro                | \$250.00      | 5988                |
| 314223          | LMCIT P&C                        | \$4,268.00    | 5989                |
| 314224          | Acentek                          | \$40.32       | 5990                |
| 314225          | Plunkett's Pest Control          | \$40.00       | 5991                |
| 314226          | Fillmore County Journal          | \$21.11       | 5992                |
| 314227          | MiEnergy                         | \$3,179.43    | 5993                |
| 314228          | MiEnergy                         | \$172.00      | 5994                |
| 314229          | Preston Emergency Services       | \$1,368.25    | 5995                |
| 3142210         | O'Koren Law Office LLC           | \$465.00      | 5996                |
| Payroll         | Payroll Period Ending 02/28/2022 | \$579.38      | 5997                |

Member Higbe seconded the motion. Motion carried with all in favor.

**E. Welcome to Visitors and Visitor Comments:** No comments were made.

**F. Fillmore County Assessor Presentation:** Fillmore County Assessor Jason McCaslin gave a presentation on how properties are assessed value. As well as how that value impacts the total tax capacity. McCaslin also provided examples of how the City's levy affects property tax amounts.

**G. New Business:**

- a. Resolution 2022-05 Reestablishing Precincts and Polling Places:** Mayor Tuftin read the resolution aloud. Member Berekvam motioned to approve the resolution as presented. Member Higbe seconded the motion. Motion carried with all in favor.
- b. Resolution 2022-06 Findings of Fact - Murphy Street Vacation Request:** Mayor Tuftin read the resolution aloud. Member Higbe motioned to approve the resolution as presented. Member Johnson seconded the motion. Motion carried with all in favor.
- c. 2021 Financial Statement:** Members reviewed the Financial Statement of 2021 as prepared by Smith Schafer Associates. Member Johnson motioned to approve the 2021 Financial Statement. Member Berekvam seconded the motion. Motion carried with all in favor.

**H. Miscellaneous:**

- a. Court Settlement:** Mayor Tuftin noted that the case against former City Clerk Lollita Melander has been resolved. The case which also involved the City of Canton was resolved this past month. Melander has been ordered to pay \$9,638 in restitution to Whalan, as well as serve 120 days in jail with additional probation (which may be eligible for early discharge if conditions are met). Melander will pay \$2,000 each month to Fillmore County for disbursement to Canton and Whalan. The City of Whalan did file a claim against the bond for Melander, and has received payment in the amount of \$5,000. The City has implemented additional security measures to be certain that nothing like this happens in the future.

**Next Meeting: Monday, April 11, 2022 at 5:00 p.m.**

**ADJOURN:** Member Johnson moved to adjourn at 5:48 p.m. Motion seconded by Member Higbe. Motion carried with all in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Michele Peterson  
City Clerk/Treasurer