

**TYRONZA CITY COUNCIL MEETING
SPECIAL CALLED MEETING
June 3RD, 2021**

A special called meeting of the Tyronza City Council was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Mayor Charles Glover. With the roll having been called, the following council members were recorded as present: Tony Turner, Ann Humphreys, Shirley Hindman, Angie Allison, Michael Hood and Barbara Ross. A quorum was declared. Also at the meeting were City Attorney Noyl Houston and Recorder/Treasurer Donna Wood.

The invocation was given by Barbara Ross.

The purpose of the special called meeting was to discuss vehicle repairs and vehicle purchase and other business that was deemed necessary.

Barbara Ross opened the meeting with the invocation.

Mayor Glover reported that Police Chief Anquion Williams had been involved in a wreck in the police car while on duty on May 25th, 2021. An accident report was filled out. The police car was taken to Eugene Vaughn Ford Sales in Marked Tree. An adjuster had come and looked at the vehicle and gave an estimate of \$5703.20 to fix the 2016 Ford Explorer police vehicle. The City had a \$1,000.00 deductible.

Mayor Glover went on to say since the accident there had been some controversy about how the accident happened and in light of the controversy, he had called Sheriff Moulder and asked if he would contact State Police to do an investigation. Sheriff Moulder said no more than what the accident was, the State Police would not do an investigation. The Mayor said he then asked Sheriff Moulder for the Poinsett County Sheriff's Department to do an investigation. Sheriff Moulder agreed to do an investigation. He assigned Investigator Brad Felkins to come and do an investigation of the incident. The result of the investigation will be brought back before the council.

Discussion then turned to the accident, where the accident happened, why state police was not called to investigate at the time of the accident, the police chief doing his own accident report, whether the police chief called in the traffic stop.

The council then expressed concerns about not being called about the accident.

Charles apologized for not letting the council know about the accident.

Tony then expressed his concerns on how the accident was handled by the police chief. He was concerned with the police chief doing his own report and how any evidence would be compromised from the time of the accident to the time of the investigation.

He also expressed concern about the timing of the accident and a decision to investigate the accident and about the public's trust in the report due to the timing to ask for an investigation.

Barbara asked if there was a camera that recorded the accident.

Charles said there was not a video of the accident and he wanted to bring up that he was getting a price on a watchdog video system. This was the system that State Police used in their vehicles.

Tony asked what was wrong with the dash cameras that were already in the police cars.

Charles said he did not think they were operable and he would ask and see why they were not working.

Tony said the cameras in the cars were set to record a minute before blue lights being turned on and that they should have been operational. He also asked if the body mic was working. He said an officer knows the mic will record one minute to two minutes before being activated and it should be routine for the officer to turn on the body camera during an incident. He said the police chief should have turned his body camera on the minute he made the decision to turn around and make a traffic stop on the vehicle.

Charles said all officers are instructed to turn their body cameras on when they make a traffic stop or have interaction with anyone.

Tony asked if the police chief turned his body camera on.

Charles said he wasn't sure; he hasn't seen what is on the body camera at that time. When the police chief returned to work, he would find out if he turned his camera on.

Michael Hood asked if video can be erased from the camera.

Tony said it could not be erased and then stressed the importance of having video equipment that worked.

Tony then expressed his concerns from what he read about the traffic stop from the accident report. He said the police chief should have radioed in to dispatch as soon as he made the decision to make the traffic stop and according to the statement that did not happen; with the car being in the wrong lane and not knowing what the driver was possibly doing, the police chief should have not got close enough to the suspect car for

it to make contact with his car; he was also concerned that the police chief did not use his radio to make contact with other officers that may have been in the area at the time of the accident to help locate the suspect vehicle and that the County Police or State Police were not called in when the accident happened to investigate.

Charles said he had the highest regard that the Poinsett County Sheriff's department would do a fair investigation and that there would not be any favoritism in the investigation. He would keep everyone apprised of the results of the investigation.

The meeting then turned to replacing one of the City's work truck.

Mayor Glover said the 2004 Chevrolet truck that Matt had been driving was taken to Tommy's Repair and the report was the head gaskets needed to be replaced. He also said he didn't know what else would need to be replaced until he got into the motor.

Charles gave the council members the specifications of a new 2021 Chevrolet 1500 Silverado work truck he had found on the lot at Bale Chevrolet in Little Rock. The cost of the truck was \$31,250.00. He said there were no vehicles to purchase through the state purchasing contract because of the pandemic and because production of vehicles was halted for a period of time.

The council discussed options of repairing the old truck or purchasing a new truck.

Options discussed were replacing the motor.

Where the funds would come from to pay for the truck.

The condition of the truck other than the motor.

The age of the truck.

The options on the proposed truck.

Michael Hood, seconded by Shirley Hindman moved to table the any further discussion of purchasing a new truck until the next council meeting. With the roll being called the voting was as follows: Shirley Hindman – yes; Michael Hood – yes; Barbara Ross – yes; Angie Allison – no; Ann Humpherys – yes and Tony Turner – yes.

Tony said he still had questions on the accident. He asked if it was not procedure that a drug test be done on an employee when involved in an accident.

Charles said it was not procedure to do a drug test on an employee when they were involved in an accident. The personnel policy committee made a recommendation to make the change to the policy but the policy had not been updated due to American Rescue Plan. The plan requires city to have a policy adopted as a requirement to receive the money. The policy they were recommending was currently being reviewed by the city's attorney.

Tony then asked if a drug test was required prior to employment with the city.

Charles said as of the current date, a drug test prior to employment was not required.

Tony felt that a pre-employment drug test and a drug test when an employee had an accident was something that needed to be implemented at the current time.

Charles said that could be discussed at the next regular scheduled council meeting.

Tony asked when the new police car was scheduled to be delivered.

Charles said in July.

Tony asked what stage the purchase of cameras was at.

Charles said he was currently getting prices.

Tony said he felt it was important to get the cameras and have them professionally installed in the vehicles so that they will work properly and for the officers to use the cameras.

Charles said he would have prices for the June 17th council meeting.

Candace Drace asked if the City was basically without police protection until the new vehicle came in.

Charles said the City was currently being covered by the Poinsett County Sheriff's Department who is being backed up by the Marked Tree Police Department.

Candace asked if the police chief would have a vehicle when he came back to work.

Charles said yes, Vaughn Ford was currently working on the 2016 Ford Explorer.

Angie said there were people who were defacing signs in town. A stop sign on her street had some inappropriate words sprayed painted on it.

Charles said that would be a conversation for the council meeting on the 17th.

Tony asked if the investigation that the Poinsett County Sheriff's Department will be doing will be completed before the next council meeting.

Charles said he hoped it would be completed.

Barbara Ross said she would like for the council to go into executive session to address some things.

City Attorney Noyl Houston said a statement of the purpose of the executive session needed to be made for the council to go into executive session.

Barbara said the purpose for the executive session was to discuss the actions and disciplinary actions for the police chief.

Noyl recommended that no disciplinary actions be taken in the absence of the person in question unless they were notified to be present. He said that would be the same of regardless of who that person was. Noyl said he would recommend that not occur. He said the council could discuss things but no disciplinary action should be taken.

Charles said that the police chief was not notified to be at the special called meeting.

Angie said she thought Officer Simpson had something he would like to address before the council went into executive session.

Jason said something needed to be done about the minors in town.

Charles said that would be something that would need to be discussed at the regular council meeting on June 17th.

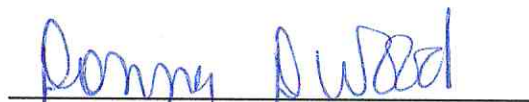
The council then went into executive session.

The council adjourned from executive session and stated there would be no action taken as result of the executive session.

The meeting was then adjourned.



Charles Glover, Mayor



Donna D Wood, Recorder Treasurer