

**TYRONZA CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
REGULAR MEETING  
April 17<sup>th</sup>, 2025**

The regular meeting of the Tyronza City Council was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Mayor Jeff Woods. The roll was called, and the following council members were recorded as present: Willie Harris, Michael Hood, Daniel Brewington, Barbara Ross, Patty Barger and Kristina Woods. A quorum was declared. Recorder/Treasurer Donna Wood and City Attorney Noyl Houston were also at the meeting.

The invocation was given by Barbara Ross.

Mayor Woods asked if there was a motion to suspend the reading of the March 20<sup>th</sup>, 2025, regular council meeting minutes. Willie Harris, seconded by Barbara Ross, moved to suspend the reading of the minutes. Upon a voice vote, the voting was as follows: Ayes: Unanimous.

Mayor Woods asked if there was a motion to approve the March 20<sup>th</sup>, 2025, regular council meeting minutes. Barbara Ross, seconded by Michael, moved to approve the minutes. Upon a voice vote, the voting was as follows: Ayes: Unanimous

The expenditures were next on the agenda.

Mayor Woods asked for a motion to approve the expenditures for March 2025.

Michael Hood, seconded by Barbara Ross, moved to approve the expenditures.

Mayor Woods asked if there was any discussion on the expenditures.

Barbara Ross said she noticed on the fuel log that there was fuel that was still not getting logged. She suggested that the fuel needed to be turned in and if the city hall was not open a card with the amount of fuel should be turned in when it was open.

Mayor Woods said something different would be done. He would have the police chief put up a camera to monitor.

Recorder/Treasurer said the \$30,000.00 CD that was voted on at the March 2025 council meeting had been opened on the first of April 2025.

With there being no further discussion on the expenditures, a voice vote was taken, and the voting was unanimous to approve.

The meeting then moved to new business on the agenda.

Opening bids for rebuilding of the stage were first in new business.

Recorder/Treasurer Wood said an advertisement for bids was placed in local papers. There were four contractors who made contact through email and none of the contractors submitted a bid.

The next item on the agenda was a public hearing for the Fun Park Grant Application.

Barbara Ross asked for public input on what to apply for through the Fun Park Grant. She said last year she had several teenagers who said they would like to see a tennis court built. The city applied for a multipurpose court that could be used as a tennis court and a pickle ball court. She said she still had teenagers and others who had told her they would still like to see the multipurpose court built.

Daniel Brewington said he had some people mention to him that a pickle ball court would be a good project.

Barbara said she also had someone tell her they would like to see a baseball/softball field built and bathrooms. She said the Fun Park Grant would not fund bathrooms, but a 50/50 grant could be looked into for bathrooms.

The Recorder/Treasurer said a comment on Facebook was they would like to see a place to play horseshoes.

Mayor Woods asked what the next steps were in apply for the grant.

Barbara said the city would have to have an activity day and a day had been scheduled for Saturday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>. Then the committee would meet to make a final decision on what to apply for. The decision would be presented to the council and after approval the application would be submitted.

Barbara also said the engineer from Newport who worked with the City on the application last year, was willing to work with the City again on this year's application.

Comments from the public at the meeting were then made. The ideal of a pickle ball court was favored.

Harold Kirk asked to be put on the agenda to speak about the tornado shelter.

Mr. Kirk said he realized the City did not make the rules for the tornado shelter that was located at the school. He said the last time there was a storm and they were at the storm shelter there was an issue. A couple was traveling with two little dogs was in the storm shelter. They had the dogs under their arms and had been there for about 45

minutes. He said someone from the fire department came in and told the couple they would have to remove their dogs from the shelter because it was a state law. He said the way it was presented was in a way that was bullying the couple. Mr. Kirk said the couple politely got up and took the dogs out in the middle of the tornado. He also said he was told by Fire Chief Daniels that the fire department would no longer be over the storm shelter.

Mr. Kirk then addressed his concerns about the sidewalks from downtown to the church being blocked. He suggested a brochure be sent to residents on Main Street asking them to keep the sidewalks open.

Mayor Woods said the City could take care of that.

Mr. Kirk said another issue he had was people parking on the side of the road on Junction, Banks and Pecan. He said it was hard for a vehicle to get down the street with vehicles being parked on the side of the street.

The council members were given a copy of the school's rules concerning the tornado shelter.

Daniel noted that one of the rules stated that animals could be brought in as long as they were in pet carriers.

Willie questioned who the person would be to bolt the door shut when everyone was standing in the doorway. The rule said the safe room doors would be bolted shut when the tornado siren was activated.

Mayor Woods said he would talk to Fire Chief Chris Daniel.

Recorder/Treasurer Wood said the rules stated that the local police department would open the shelter after school hours.

Next in new business was discussion on a proposed ordinance on discharging firearms in the city limits.

Mayor Woods said there was an old ordinance from 1926 that had discharging a firearm in city limits as a violation. He said the ordinance needed some updating. He asked City Attorney Noyl Houston if he would read the ordinance.

Noyl said the ordinance from 1926 had 27 separate offenses in which most of them were covered by criminal law.

Noyl then read the proposed ordinance entitled AN ORDINANCE PROHIBITING THE DISCHARGE OF FIREARMS WITHIN THE CITY; PRESCRIBING A PENALTY; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY in full thereby placing it upon its first reading.

Barbara Ross, seconded by Willie Harris, moved that the rule requiring the reading of any ordinance in full on three different days be suspended, and that the ordinance be placed on its second reading by title only.

The Mayor put the question on the adoption of the motion to the council, and the roll was called. The vote was as follows: Kristina Woods-yes; Barbara Ross-yes; Patty Barger – yes; Willie Harris – yes; Michael Hood-yes and Daniel Brewington-yes.

The Mayor declared that at least two-thirds of all members of the council having voted in favor of the motion to suspend the rule, the motion was carried and the rule suspended. The ordinance was then read by title only, thereby placing it upon its second reading.

Barbara Ross, seconded by Kristina Wood, moved that the rule requiring the reading of any ordinance in full on three different days be further suspended, and that the ordinance be read by title only.

The Mayor put the question on the adoption of the motion to the council the roll was called, and the voting was as follows: Barbara Ross-yes; Willie Harris-yes; Michael Hood-yes, Daniel Brewington-yes; Kristian Woods and Patty Barger-yes.

Thereupon, the Mayor declared that at least two-thirds of all members of the council having voted in favor of the motion to suspend the rule, the motion was carried and the rule suspended.

The ordinance was then read by title only, thereby placing it upon a third and final reading.

Barbara Ross, seconded by Willie Harris, moved the ordinance to be adopted.

The question was put by the Mayor to the council on the adoption of the motion, and the roll was called, the voting was as follows: Patty Barger-yes; Willie Harris-yes; Michael Hood-yes; Barbara Ross-yes; Daniel Brewington-yes; and Kristina Woods-yes.

Michael Hood asked if the clause which stated, "any citizen lawfully acting with justification" would include a person who shot a coyote that came into their yard and attacked their dog.

Noyl said justification is ordinarily in terms of self defense or in the defense of another and it also could be defense of property and a person's dog is a person's property. He said that probably would be viewed as in that context.

Michael Hood seconded by Barbara Ross moved to adopt the emergency clause.

The question was put by the Mayor to the council on the adoption of the motion, and the roll was called, the voting was as follows: Patty Barger-yes; Willie Harris-yes; Michael Hood-yes; Barbara Ross-yes; Daniel Brewington-yes; and Kristina Woods-yes.

Thereupon, the Mayor, declared the ordinance and emergency clause adopted.

Barbara said she felt that Ordinance 4 needed more changes.

Noyl said the ordinance should really be repealed and that most of the violations were covered by state laws.

City Attorney Noyl Houston said that he would be retiring as the city's attorney on June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

Mayor Woods then turned the discussion to hiring a new city attorney for the City. He said Noyl had recommended Jimmy Gazaway and that he had contacted Mr. Gazaway and he is interested in the position. He told Mr. Gazaway that he would present his interest to the council.

Noyl said Mr. Gazaway was Trumann's city attorney and he knew what he was doing. Mr. Gazaway had also covered for him in court in Lepanto and he was a county deputy prosecutor at one time too. Mr. Gazaway is a state representative and would not be able to be at the city council meetings during a legislative session but would have someone to fill in for him when he was not able to be at the meeting.

Noyl suggested the council authorize the Mayor to make a formal proposal to Mr. Gazaway and see if he would accept it.

Michael Hood suggested waiting a month to see if anyone else would be interested in the position.

Noyl said if there was a resident lawyer and that person wanted the city attorney position, the position would be an elected position. He also said without a resident city attorney the city was free to hire anyone it chooses.

Barbara Ross seconded by Kristina Woods moved to authorize the Mayor to meet with Jimmy Gazaway and come back and make a recommendation to the council. Upon a voice vote, the voting was unanimous to approve.

Michael Hood asked if someone else came in and was interested in the position, would that person be considered also.

Mayor Woods said he would consider anyone else who came in and was interested in the position. He also said that the recommendation from Noyl would be at the top of his list.

The meeting then turned to the old business on the agenda.

Mayor Woods gave an update on code enforcement.

He said the City had some door hangers to hang on residences who were in violation of city ordinances.

Barbara said she knew that the Mayor wanted code enforcement done with James Manes as the code enforcer. She said the council would have to vote to create a code enforcement position. She said money from the police department would need to allocate to pay for the code enforcement position.

Barbara Ross then moved to establish a code enforcement position to fall under the police department budget and to accept the Mayor's recommendation of James Manes as the code enforcement officer.

Mayor Woods asked if by naming James Maness to the code enforcement position did that limit the position only to James.

Barbara said that her motion was to create a code enforcement position, but the council would still need to vote on James Maness as the person to fill that position.

Mayor Woods asked if the council would have to vote on James being in that position, could he not just hire someone for that position that was being created.

Barbara said she read up on it and it would need to be approved, and she was just trying to cover all the bases.

Noyl said the council created the position and the thought the Mayor would have the right to fill that position, subject to the council's approval.

Barbara then reascended the previous motion. She said she wanted to code enforcement to be included in the police department budget and not have to create a line-item budget for code enforcement.

Noyl said they could find the money and then amend the budget later.

Mayor Woods said he wasn't sure if it would work under the police department budget.

Barbara said she thought it would.

The Recorder/Treasure said it could be put under the administrative budget.

Barbara said the council would have to go back and rework the budget to add a line item for code enforcement under the administrative budget.

Barbara said the thought was to not create any more expenses to the city in creating the code enforcement position.

Mayor Woods said it wouldn't be an extra expense; he thought there would be an issue with the code enforcement expenses coming out of the police department. He said the expenses could be moved from the police department budget to the code enforcement budget.

Barbara said it probably needed to be a separate line-item budget expense.

Noyl said at the end of the year the City will usually do an amended budget because there are things that come up in which the budget needs to be amended.

Barbara said what she was reading said the city council would set the hours and the salary. She asked the Mayor if he wanted to pay the code enforcer the same amount as a police officer.

They Mayor said he was going to pay the same amount as a police officer. The expense would be moved out of the police department budget to the code enforcement budget.

Barbara Ross seconded by Kristina Woods, then made a motion to establish a code enforcement position and to accept the Mayor's recommendation of James Manes to fill that position as the code enforcement/animal control.

Michael Hood said he felt it should be tabled until it is all worked out and then vote on it instead of just jumping into it right now.

A roll call was then taken, and the voting was as follows: Kritina Woods – yes; Barbara Ross – yes; Patty Barger – yes; Willie Harris – yes; Michael Hood – no; Daniel Brewington yes.

Mayor Woods declared the motion approved.

The meeting then moved to discussion on the car wash property.

Mayor Woods said he did talk to the people who were wanting to buy the property and told them the property wasn't for sale at this time. He said when he brought it up at the previous meeting, it was to see if the council wanted to sell the property and since Barbara had some other ideas for the property, he wasn't going to discuss the sale of the property until the council decided what to do with it.

Condemnation of property was next to be discussed.

Barbara said she had been studying the ordinances and what needed to be done. She said there were three properties that has set empty with no utilities that can be considered abandoned properties.

She then said the ordinance stated a certified letter would need to be sent to the property owners telling them they needed to attend a council meeting to discuss their property. She suggested that the correct address be found and for a letter to be sent to the property owners. She asked Noyl if he would advise on how the certified letters should be worded.

Noyl said he could give suggestions on how to word the letter. He also said it would be helpful if the new code enforcer could take pictures of the properties because whatever the council decided it was going to do, it would have to prove that the property was a nuisance and it was dilapidated, unsightly and unsafe. He said the city would also need notes. The street address and the property owners would also need to be identified. He said the property tax records should be helpful in finding that information.

Noyl said the ordinance was amended to where the notice could be run in the newspaper to notify the property owners that the property was being considered for condemnation.

Noyl said he would prepare a form letter for the City to use. The letters would need to be mailed or served.

Several different properties were discussed.

Barbara said she got a quote of anywhere between \$5,000.00 to \$7,000.00 to demolish and clean up property with abandoned houses.

Barbara then addressed replacing a culvert at the end of Ritter Street. She said that Chris McCorkle cleaned out a drainage ditch behind Michael Ferguson's house on Walnut Street. She said the culvert at the end of Ritter Street, where the ditch was cleaned out was crushed in and had to be removed.

Barbara then asked the council if it would get a price and purchase a new culvert to go back into the ditch.

Mayor Woods asked if the location of the culvert was city property or private property.

Barbara said the city, under a different administration, reverted the ditch and put it that way.

Mayor Woods said that George Beley didn't want the ditch in the middle of his field and the city moved the ditch back off the field.

Mayor Woods said he didn't want to run into a situation to where the city was fixing someone's property. He said if the city could do it he was all for it

Noyl asked if it was in a road right of way.

Mayor Woods said it was at the end of a road. He said he wanted to make sure that the City didn't spend money on personal property, in which he signed a letter saying the city would not do that again.

Barbara said if it was a city easement street and the ditch was a main drainage area, the city needed adopt that part as a city street. She said the city goes out that way to clean out the ditch for drainage. The city would have to have a way to get to the ditch.

Noyl asked who owned the property.

Mayor Woods said that Chris McCorkle owns part of it and Barbara owned part of it.

Barbara said she didn't own it but had an easement to it.

Noyl said if the property owners would give the city a drainage easement, there would be there would be any issue with the city's right to do that.

Barbara said there was a city drainage easement that went back behind Michael Ferguson's house. George Beley talked with the Mayor at that time and had the drainage ditch moved.

Mayor Woods asked if there was already an easement.

Barbara said it was on the survey.

Mayor Woods said if it was already on there, then they wouldn't have to do anything.

Barbara said that all she and Robert had was an easement to go over, they do not own it, they have a permanent easement that they could not be blocked from their property.

Noyl asked Barbara is she had a survey plat.

She said that she did.

Chris said he had the plat from 1969.

Noyl asked Chris if he remembered if there was a drainage easement on the plat.

Chris said he would have to get the plat out and look at it.

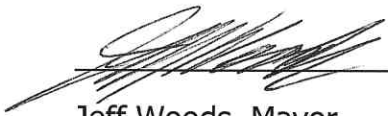
Mayor Woods then said all the city needed to install the culvert was something legally saying the ditch was a city easement.

Noyl asked Barbara and Chris to check their survey plats to see if there was an easement. He said a deed of easement was not a hard thing to get.

The council decided to wait on purchasing a culvert until more information could be found.

Mayor Woods said the manhole beside Michael Ferguson's house had been repaired.

With there being no further discussion, Michael Hood seconded by Daniel Brewington moved to adjourn.

  
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Jeff Woods, Mayor  
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Donna D Wood, Recorder/Treasurer