

**City Of New Virginia  
Council Meeting Minutes  
February 5<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

The Council met in regular session on Monday February 5<sup>th</sup>, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. for the February council meeting.

Jeff Bailey was officially sworn-in as Council Member to fill the vacancy of Justin Strange through December 31, 2025.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Strange with Council Members Bailey, Dunkin, Galivan, Taylor and Truman present.

Minutes from the January meeting and Treasurer's Report were approved.

**Old business discussed:** Tax abatement update – the City Attorney is continuing to work on documents on the tax abatement update process. Several tax abatement applications have been filed under the plan the Assessor's Office has on file. There were several citizens present to ask questions about the tax abatement plan.

SET (Smart Earth Technologies, LLC) bankruptcy update – The two companies working on taking over the operation of the Set software are Fenix and Zenner USA. Fenix has obtained the rights to the Set software and the City will remain with Fenix that will provide uninterrupted service.

Beth Waddle, Executive Director of Iowa Southern Council of Governments (SICOG) was present to discuss all the services offered by SICOG including community development, economic development, geographic information system (GIS), planning and grant writing.

**Citizen Input:** There was no citizen input.

**Water Utilities discussed:** Discussion was held regarding required monthly water samples taken to Des Moines Water Works for testing. Norville Huston has been doing this task for several years. Truman moved, seconded by Taylor to pay Norville Huston \$100.00 per month to continue doing the monthly water sample and delivering it to Des Moines Water Works for testing. A roll call vote was taken: 5 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried.

**Fire Department Business:** Fire Chief Jake Zuercher advised the Exploratory EMS Committee is continuing to work on options for paid staff EMS positions to cover EMS calls in conjunction with the Warren County Board of Supervisors. If a plan can be finalized, it would not be implemented until July 1, 2025. The positions would be hired by the City of New Virginia and under the operation of the City. The EMS positions would be funded by an EMS Essential Service Tax if passed by Warren County voters. The Council is interested in this proposal to insure EMS services for citizens of the New Virginia community.

Fire Chief Jake Zuercher updated the Council on Rapid Response Truck 769 that was damaged in an accident on December 15<sup>th</sup>. The truck was totaled out by the City insurance carrier. A new truck was ordered on February 1, 2024.

Fire Chief Jake Zuercher discussed bids for cyber security for fire department computers and city computers. The cost would be approximately \$7,000.00 annually. Zuercher was advised to seek out other bids for cyber security.

Fire Chief Jake Zuercher advised the Council that there was an emergency call during the snowstorm(s) in January and there was difficulty getting one of the fire trucks out of the station due to a snow drift and also there was a single path bladed down the alley on the south side of the fire station and two fire department personnel vehicles got bladed in. It was discussed to add verbiage to the snow removal bid with emphasis on prioritizing the fire station concrete approach and parking for fire department personnel.

Fire Chief Jake Zuercher discussed the possibility of selling the enclosed sixteen foot trailer. It is sitting behind the fire station and not being used. Zuercher was directed to make sure there are no restrictions on selling the trailer.

**Law Enforcement:** – The report summary from the Sheriff’s Office for the month of January was reviewed. Deputies received or initiated 27 calls for service during the month of January. Officers spent in excess of 49 hours in the city for the month. Officers patrolled in excess of 216 miles within the city limits for the month. Six citations and/or warnings were written for traffic violations that occurred within the City of New Virginia proper.

The 2024-25 city budget was reviewed and discussed. The Iowa Legislature approved legislation that will significantly reduce the levies available for use and implements a Combined General Fund Levy that may result in revenue reductions. Some items to be considered in the budget process include water main street valves, fire department building updates including new drywall in the laundry room, sidewalks, additional fence work at GAMP, movie rentals for movie nights in the park. Official action on the 2024-25 city budget will be taken at the March council meeting.

**GAMP UPDATE**  
**February 5<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

The person interested in cleaning the GAMP Community Building has been contacted. A date and time to meet and look the building over and get details about cleaning will be scheduled. A recent renter found the building left dirty and not cleaned by a previous renter or user. It was discussed to possibly send letters to the non-profit groups that use the GAMP Community Building to make sure it’s cleaned after use of the building.

All the expenses and income from the two truck pulls have been obtained. Overall, the pulls made a small profit.

**KEEP IOWA BEAUTIFUL PROGRAM**

The final mural design on the north side of the old hardware store has been presented and approved.

Trail update – the committee is developing a task list, working on mapping and applying to the National Park Service for free planning help by professional architects.

There are several events being planned for in 2024. One of the first events will be a kite flying event April 21<sup>st</sup> with a rain date of April 28<sup>th</sup> & May 4<sup>th</sup> city-wide garage sales.

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**ELF CLUB**

The Committee is working on purchasing a star for the top of the Christmas tree in Old Settlers Park.

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The 4H Club inquired if they could use the Hen House. It was agreed that the 4H Club can use the Hen House.

The Trail Committee inquired if the City would draft a letter of support for an application process. A letter of support will be drafted.

InRoads will be re-doing the south end of East Street under warranty. It has several cracks and separations. InRoads also advised material costs are as low as they have been for quite some time and that it would be a good time to look at what road work the City would like to do.

Steve Savage will be re-contacted about looking at Pine Street/east-west alley to see what can be done about redirecting water run-off.

Taylor moved, seconded by Truman to approve payment of all City bills. A roll call vote was taken: 5 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried.

With no further business to come forth, Bailey moved, seconded by Taylor to adjourn meeting. A roll call vote was taken: 5 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 10:07 p.m. The March council meeting is scheduled for Monday March 4<sup>th</sup>, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. **March meeting date – Monday March 4<sup>th</sup>, 2024, at 7:00 p.m.**



Jennifer Baughman, City Clerk