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## FALMOUTH CITY COUNCIL MEETING Minutes of Caucus Meeting November 7, 2024

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Luke Price. The pledge of Allegiance, and the invocation given by councilmember Amy Hurst.

The following Council Members answering roll call:

Amy Hurst	Present	Joyce Carson	Present
Sabrina Hazen	Present	Amanda Moore	Present
Anthony Cox	Present	Brian Reid	Present

Also Present: Attorney Brandon Voelker

Mayor Luke Price opened the Caucus meeting with departmental reports.

Keene Dougherty stated things were running smoothly for the most part; working on a couple of pumps that had a few issues, but overall water plant running fine. Nothing to report for the sewer plant.

Richard Courtney stated they had installed new lights at the Veteran's park and would be doing the Skate Park next; had begun the leaf pickup; and working with Taco Bell to finish electrical work..

John Lucas had submitted his fire report and stated things had slowed somewhat; they are supposed to get the one truck back from Rodney Miles within the week.

Nick Timon was present for the police department. He reported a new recruit Jonathan Bayless, would be attending the academy in January; had been shadowing and doing ride along with current office.

Clerk Ramona Williams had nothing to report, taxes were steadily coming into the office.

Steve Groh had submitted two items for Council to review regarding an occupational license fee for rental properties and also a document addressing abandoned properties

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and assessing an annual fee on such. He would like to form a committee to work on an ordinance to address both issues. Committee volunteers: Sabrina Hazen, Amanda Moore, and Anthony Cox. Mr. Groh also made it known that he had counted the abandoned properties in the City limits and currently there are 39; he felt an ordinance was necessary to help address the blighted property issues.

Mayor Price then reported the following:

- Blacktopping in Cardinal Ridge was being finished in the next week; looks great and hopefully residents are pleased. Some touch up work was still being done
- Precision Concrete was working on Main and E Shelby streets for sidewalk repairs as part of the Phase I
- Lonkard Construction was in town starting on the Wilson Lane Sewer replacement project.
- Mayor Price reminded the council of a discussion to give money to the Pendleton County Search and Rescue. They had requested \$7500, the Fiscal Court had given \$12,500. Also, the Airport Board had sent a request for \$2500; he would like Council to make a decision by the next regular meeting.
- A proposal had been received by the Pendleton County Fiscal Court for fire protection. Judge Fields was present for any questions that might arise. Mayhor Price said there were basically 3 options that Council needed to consider:
  - o Falmouth fund and operate its own fire department within its own means
  - o County offer of an agreement to consider using our facility
  - An offer being submitted by Northern Pendleton Fire District for consideration.

He wanted Council to take their time and consider all aspects of each option before making any decision.

## Council comments:

Anthony Cox inquired about fire hydrant status; to which Mayor said he is waiting on the engineering firm to finish the analysis and make a full report to Council at that time with their professional opinions and/or recommendations.

Sabrina Hazen inquired about a separate water rate for the non-residents South of town. It was stated a separate rate could be assessed or a "surcharge" added to those residents as has been discussed in past years.

No other discussion, meeting over.

Mayor Luke Price

Attest:

mona Williams