

## REGULAR MEETING, COUNCIL CHAMBERS, WASHINGTON, KANSAS, JANUARY 5, 2004

The Governing body of the City of Washington, Kansas, met in regular session in the usual meeting place in said City on the fifth day of January 2004, at 7 p.m. with the following members present: Mayor Travis Kier; Council Members: Meyler Gibbs, Kevin Williams, Jon Snapp, Dawn Kramer and Roxanne Schottel.

ABSENT: NONE.

ALSO PRESENT WERE: Paul Monty, City Attorney; City Administrator Tim Schook; Bill Hays, Washington County News; Caroline Yungeberg; Dan Thalmann; Travis Rieth; Albert Buttell.

Mayor Travis Kier called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Copies of the minutes of the previous regular meeting of Monday, December 1, 2003, and adjourned council meeting minutes of Wednesday, Dec. 10, 2003, and Monday, Dec. 29, 2003, and special meeting minutes of Wednesday, Dec. 31, 2003, were given to the Mayor and each council member for review. Council Member Dawn Kramer made a motion to accept the minutes as written. Council Member Jon Snapp seconded the motion. Motion carried.

### COUNCIL MEETING NOTES

KUHLMAN BUILDING EASEMENT: Issue delayed until the February 2, 2004, council meeting at the request of the Jones brothers.

WELCOME SIGN: Dawn Kramer has not received any proposals from Kelli Oestreich yet. No action taken.

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE: Dan Thalmann, editor of Washington County News, was in to visit with City Council regarding an organization that he is interested in starting. Thalmann would like to see an organization that would help new businesses and families and welcome them to town. Thalmann stated that he visited with 20 businesses in Washington and all 20 have expressed "ideological" support of a Chamber of Commerce-type organization here in Washington. He stated two similar organizations have been started and have folded in the last 10 years. He also stated that most people felt those organizations folded because the same people were elected repeatedly, had too many responsibilities and members became "burnt out". Thalmann said that as part of his research, he spoke with Marci Penner, of the Kansas Sampler Foundation, about other towns and their chambers and how they handle things. Thalmann told the Council he wasn't asking for support or membership at this time, he just wanted the Council to know that he is working towards this goal.

SEWER: Travis Rieth, Washington resident, and Albert Buttell, Hanover, visited with the Council regarding the sewer main connected to Rieth's residence. Rieth stated he has been having sewer problems at his home and has had the sewer routed once and the lines are clear for 200 feet. However, he is still having problems. Rieth asked if the Council would assist in paying the bill for routing the lines, in the amount of \$391.66. City Administrator Tim Schook told Rieth that the City has not done so in the past and would not do it now. Schook stated the City crew has cleaned those lines twice and have been checking the main every day or two to make sure it remains open. In the past, the City has turned bills over to the insurance company but they won't pay because "Acts of God" are not covered. Schook stated the City has a sewer maintenance program in place and some things are not preventable. Schook asked Council Member Jon Snapp if he was aware of any problems at First National Bank. Snapp said he was not aware of any sewer problems at the bank. Schook stated he has received no other complaints from other customers tied into that particular sewer line. Schook stated that the City has done all it can to ensure there is not a problem on the City's part. No action was taken on this issue.

Schook also informed Rieth his utility bill is past due and that he had made arrangements several times to pay the bill. Schook stated that Rieth was to have made a payment today and had not done so. Schook informed Rieth his utilities would be disconnected tomorrow if payment were not made. Rieth stated that

there must have been a misunderstanding between him and his wife as to when the bill was to be paid and he would see it was paid tomorrow, Tuesday, January 6, 2004.

2004 GOALS: Mayor Travis Kier asked all council members to hand in their list of goals for 2004. He said a list would be compiled and they would be ready for review and discussion at the next council meeting.

AUDITOR'S CONTRACT: Council members reviewed a contract with Clubine & Rettele, Chartered, to provide auditing services for the year ending December 31, 2003. Council Member Meyler Gibbs made a motion to approve the contract in the amount of \$4,950 and authorize Mayor Travis Kier to sign the contract. Council Member Jon Snapp seconded the motion. Motion carried.

GAAP WAIVER: Council Member Meyler Gibbs moved to accept Resolution 2004-01, GAAP Waiver. Council Member Jon Snapp seconded the motion. Motion carried.

#### RESOLUTION 2004-01

WHEREAS: The Governing Body of the City of Washington, Washington County, Kansas, finding that financial statements and financial reports prepared in conformity with generally accepted accounting principals are not relevant to cash basis law and budget laws of Kansas and are of no significant value to that governing body or general public, request a waiver of the requirements of law relating to the preparations of financial statements and financial reports, for the year ending December 31, 2004, in accordance with provisions of K.S.A. 1982 Supp. 78-1120a (c) (1982 S.B. 531).

WINCH TRUCK: One sealed bid was opened for the winch truck in the amount of \$360 from Larry Hawley. Council Member Dawn Kramer made a motion to accept the bid. Council Member Roxanne Schottel seconded the motion. Motion carried.

AMBULANCE RATE CHANGES: City Administrator Tim Schook proposed the following changes to the ambulance rate schedule:

Loaded mileage billed to the patient from \$8.35 to \$8.45

Emergency Medical Technicians -- On Call from Monday at 8 a.m. to Friday at 5 p.m. from \$1.00 to \$1.25 per hour; On Call from Friday at 5 p.m. to Monday at 8 a.m. from \$1.50 to \$1.75 per hour; and Long Runs from \$35.00 to \$45.00 per run

First Responders -- On Call Monday at 8 a.m. to Friday at 5 p.m. from \$0.75 to \$1.00 per hour; On Call Friday at 5 p.m. to Monday at 8 a.m. from \$1.00 to \$1.25 per hour; On Scene assistance from \$5.00 to \$10.00; and Long Runs from \$30.00 to \$40.00 per run. Employee paid mileage to be deleted.

Local run, defined as a run less than 100 miles, instead of an in county run.

Long run, defined as over 100 miles, instead of an out of county run.

Full-time city employees on call 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday (other than the full-time EMT) won't receive a per hour rate but will receive a run rate and meal when applicable.

The City will pay for the license renewal fees for EMT's and First Responders that actively serve on the City's ambulance. Fees currently cost \$20 to \$30 per two-year license.

Any EMT or First Responder requesting training be paid by the City must be pre-approved by the City Administrator.

Schook stated the loaded mileage increase is to keep the rates in line with Medicare reimbursement. He also said there has not been an increase in ambulance employee rates since April 2000. Council Member Meyler Gibbs stated that EMS has been left out of wage increases when other city employees received raises. Council Member Roxanne Schottel stated that Washington County Hospital triples the cost of their supplies and suggested to increase revenue the City should consider. The ambulance currently doubles the cost of supplies. Caroline Yungeberg, full-time EMT, stated that due to the Medicare fee schedule changes, after 2005 the ambulance will no longer be allowed to bill supplies and the base rate would be an all-inclusive rate. Council Member Dawn Kramer moved to approve the proposed rate changes. Council

Member Kevin Williams seconded the motion. Motion carried. Council Member Meyler Gibbs abstained due to conflict of interest.

**SBC FRANCHISE AGREEMENT:** City Administrator Tim Schook has begun discussing SBC franchise agreement with Cindy Zapletal, which will need to be completed by the May meeting. Schook distributed a comparison chart from Zapletal detailing different franchise fee rates and gross receipts per line to the council members. Schook said the City of Washington has been at 10 cents per line since 1974. Schook plans to begin working with City Attorney Paul Monty on a new franchise agreement. There are four other companies who sell residential telephone service in the Washington area: Birch Telecom, Giant, Ionix, and Prairie Stream (Terraworld). Schook stated that if they are uni-p's, they owe the City a franchise fee also. If they are resellers, then SBC pays the franchise fee. No action was taken.

**LANDFILL FEES:** Mayor Travis Kier and City Administrator Tim Schook met with Washington County Commissioners Monday, January 5, 2004, to discuss landfill fees for construction and demolition materials from condemned properties. Mayor Kier stated the County wants to allow a certain (unspecified) amount of materials county wide per year at a reduced rate and they have developed an application for reduced cost of disposal on construction and demolition houses only. Kier and Schook estimate that there are approximately 15 houses in the City of Washington that need to come down.

**NEIGHBORHOOD REVITALIZATION:** City Administrator Tim Schook gave council members a letter from the City of Minneapolis that outlines a program under the neighborhood revitalization program. The City gives land to individuals who agree to build a house there within a certain time period following certain guidelines set by the City. Schook stated he would like to invite John Cyr to discuss the neighborhood revitalization program with the Council. The program could benefit the city and involve both the county and school, according to Schook.

**HOUSING CLEAN UP FUND:** City Administrator Tim Schook asked if the Council would like to develop a housing clean up fund. If the council is interested, Schook wants to pursue the matter. Council Member Dawn Kramer stated it sounds good. Schook stated a written plan would be developed to go along with this fund. Mayor Travis Kier stated it would be beneficial to develop something, which could lead to an increase in property values and potentially make lots available for new construction. Council Member Jon Snapp stated prioritization is needed. Schook said there is a possible two-part approach, one being for those individuals who cannot afford the cost of demolition and disposal fees and the other would allow the City to tear down the property with the owner paying the cost of disposal. Schook also stated that the City could possibly assist with equipment during demolition. Mayor Kier and Councilman Snapp asked Schook to propose something in writing.

**CITY HALL DAY:** City Administrator Tim Schook informed the Council that City Hall Day is January 29, 2004, at the State Capitol in Topeka. Schook asked if any Council members were interested in attending so reservations could be made. No council member will be attending. Schook stated he would probably attend.

**FAIR BOARD BUILDINGS AND CONCESSION STAND:** The Fair Board would like to install an electric hot water heater in the concession stand. Schook stated the City would not buy it. Council agreed. The sewer system in that building will eventually need to be worked on, right now it is a pit filled with rocks and it needs to be tied to the main line, according to Schook. Due to increased usage in that area during fair time, the sewer system backs up into the power plant, which will need to be corrected as part of the Spill Prevention Containment Control plan. Schook said all avenues would be looked at when considering sewer repairs and replacements. Schook recommended to the Council that groups who use the buildings provide the funds with the City providing the labor and equipment as part of a cost share agreement. Council Member Jon Snapp asked if the City would check to be sure the buildings were weatherized properly. Schook stated the City would see that damages incurred due to improper winterization would be passed to the groups who use the buildings. Schook stated he would get more details before any further decision is made.

**BUDGET:** City Administrator Tim Schook stated that the general fund is struggling again, approximately \$15,000 short for 2003. Due to some changes made within the budget he is hopeful this will not happen in

2004. The library had a cash ending balance of \$11,634. He stated the library had expenditures of \$27,000 and only \$17,000 in revenue. Schook reminded the Council the library and general funds need to be addressed and given consideration for the 2005 budget. No action taken.

LEAGUE CONFERENCE: City Administrator Tim Schook stated the League of Kansas Municipalities conference is set for October 2-5, 2004, at Overland Park. Schook needs know which council members plant to attend by February 1 so reservations may be made. Council Members Kramer, Williams, Schottel and Gibbs said they would attend.

LEASE/PURCHASE FOR COOLING TOWER: City Administrator Tim Schook said he notified First National Bank of Washington the City will no longer need to draw funds on the Cooling Tower Lease/Purchase agreement.

KDOT: City Administrator Tim Schook received a letter from the Kansas Department of Transportation regarding a revolving fund program, which offers flexible, low-cost financial assistance to local governments for qualified transportation projects. Schook would like to get funding for repairs through this program.

There came on for consideration an Ordinance entitled:

APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE NO. 2004-01

“AN ORDINANCE ALLOWING FOR PAYMENT OF THE CITY’S BILLS AND DEBITS.”

Thereupon on motion made by Council Member Kevin Williams moved for its adoption, that the City Clerk is hereby authorized and directed to issue payroll Check Nos. 13147 through 13172 and 1003 through 1026 and warrant Check Nos. 30000 through 30055 in payment of just bills and claims against the City and debit the appropriate fund for each expenditure. Thereupon Council Member Dawn Kramer seconded the motion. Thereupon the mayor declared the motion carried.

MOTION TO ADJOURN: Council Member Kevin Williams made a motion to adjourn the meeting to 7 p.m. Monday, February 2, 2004, at City Hall. Council Member Meyler Gibbs seconded the motion. Motion carried.