

REGULAR MEETING, COUNCIL CHAMBERS, WASHINGTON, KANSAS AUGUST 2, 2004

The Governing body of the City of Washington, Kansas, met at 6:45 p.m. Monday, August 2, 2004, for a Public Hearing on the 2005 budget at City Hall. In absence of the Mayor, Council President Dawn Kramer opened the Public Hearing.

Present were Council President Dawn Kramer; Council Members Kevin Williams and Meyler Gibbs. Arriving at 6:55 p.m., were Council Members Roxanne Schottel and Jon Snapp, Mayor Travis Kier and City Attorney Paul Monty.

There came on for consideration at this scheduled Public Hearing for the City's proposed budget for the year 2005 total expenditures not to exceed \$3,703,941 and a mill levy not to exceed 45.748 mills per \$1,000 of assessed tangible valuation. There being no oral or written objections, Council Member Kevin Williams moved to adopt and approve the 2005 City of Washington budget as published in the official city newspaper, The Washington County News, July 29, 2004. Council Member Roxanne Schottel seconded the motion. Motion carried.

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

ABSENT: None.

ALSO PRESENT WERE: City Attorney Paul Monty; City Administrator Tim Schook; City Clerk Denise Powell; Bill Hays, reporter for the Washington County News; Iola and Merrill Wolfe.

Xerox copies of the minutes of the Previous Regular Meeting on Tuesday, July 6, 2004, and Special Meeting Wednesday, July 14, 2004, were given to the Mayor and each Council Member for review. Council Member Jon Snapp amended the minutes of July 14 to say Special Meeting to discuss the 2005 budget. Council Member Meyler Gibbs made a motion to accept the minutes as amended. Council Member Dawn Kramer seconded the motion. Motion carried.

TREES: Iola and Merrill Wolfe, residents of Washington, were in to discuss a tree that fell on their truck. Iola Wolfe stated that on April 28, 2004, part of a tree fell on their neighbors house. "The City crew came and removed part of the tree and stated they would take down the rest of the tree when they had more time," according to Iola Wolfe. City Administrator Tim Schook stated the owners of tree, Deist and Denise Hertz, were advised they were responsible for the tree. On July 3, more of the tree fell landing on the Wolfe's truck. According to Iola Wolfe, "Hertz's insurance won't cover the damage because they covered the damage from the tree the first time it had fallen." Wolfe stated they are asking for some kind of settlement because insurance does not cover the loss. The Blue book value of truck is \$1,200. Iola Wolfe stated they do not expect all of the \$1,200 but some compensation due to the damage. They have a repair estimate from Eaton Body Shop in the amount of \$1,320.14. Council Member Dawn Kramer moved to submit the claim to the City's insurance company. Council member Roxanne Schottel seconded the motion. Motion carried. City Attorney Paul Monty advised the Mayor, Council and City Administrator that a verbal commitment was made when the City crew stated they would take the rest of the tree down when time was available.

LIBRARY: Library Board Members Rick Dean, Cliff Stewart, Jim McBeath, Betty Kastl, Phyllis Applegarth, Mary Leck and Beverly Finlayson and Librarian Janet Keller presented the Library 2003 Annual Report and a letter outlining what they intend to do with a bequest from Zona Frost. Library Board President Rick Dean says the Library has received \$80,000 of the bequest and is awaiting the last installment. Council Member Jon Snapp asked if the bequest list contained firm bids. Council President Rick Dean stated the carpet bid was \$6,000 for R.L. Dusin to tear out old carpet and lay new and to allow for hiring of the moving of books and equipment. The other items were estimates. The State is pushing for automation that would do away with the card files and allow for easier searches and better record keeping on overdue books. The Library currently has four computers for public access. According to Librarian Janet Keller computer usage has doubled in the last year. Grant money was used to purchase the computers. City Administrator Tim Schook asked what their plan was for new lighting. Library Board Member Beverly Finlayson stated they would like to update the lighting and make it brighter. Council Member Meyler Gibbs stated he felt like the Library Board has done an excellent job on keeping their expenses down.. Council Member Jon Snapp asked why State aid dropped. Finlayson stated the State just backed off funding. The Council thanked the board for their time and effort.

HOUSE DEMOLITION: Cecil Keller, Cuba, discussed the possibility of tearing down the houses in the Housing Cleanup Program. The Council was concerned if Keller had liability insurance, which he does not. City Administrator Tim Schook stated he is interested in working with Keller to cut cost. The houses must be torn down by Dec. 31, 2004. Keller stated to tear down a house board by board it takes about one month. Keller estimated he would take 30 to 50% of the home. City Attorney Paul Monty stated that Keller would work as a subcontractor and generally subcontractors are required to carry general liability insurance. The Council feels like Keller needs to acquire general liability insurance and asked Keller to look into obtaining the insurance and to contact City Administrator Tim Schook if he is willing to pursue this.

WELCOME SIGN: Council Member Dawn Kramer stated Kelly Oestreich is working with the sign company graphic designer to complete the project.

KUHLMAN BUILDING EASEMENT: City Administrator Tim Schook made contact with Robert Jones who stated Bill Jones stated he had a verbal agreement with Schook. Schook stated he had not made a verbal agreement and the City gave him a contract to sign. Schook stated Robert Jones stated he was abiding by the verbal agreement. The Council asked City Attorney Paul Monty to make contact with Robert and Bill Jones to get the contract signed or the fence moved.

UTILITY BILLING: City Attorney Paul Monty and City Administrator Tim Schook were to have a copy of the code for review by the Council. Monty and Schook did not have the code ready for review.

HOUSING CLEAN-UP FUND POLICY: City Attorney Paul Monty is waiting on paperwork from the owners of the property located at 217 East Third (Hyland) in order to complete that Warranty Deed.

NEIGHBORHOOD REVITALIZATION PLAN: City Attorney Paul Monty is to review City Administrator Tim Schook's plan and have a rough draft for review. Rough draft was not ready for review.

ZONING: City Attorney Paul Monty was to look into changes requested by the Council. A meeting will be set up to review the policy changes requested once Monty is ready. No action taken.

ADA AND POLLING PLACES: City Hall is to be ADA compliant. The City has a plan that obviously is not done. City Clerk Lou Kern brought over items to get the City through Tuesday's election. The project must be completed by the November election.

HEALTH INSURANCE: Consultant Connie Walenta sent an email to City Clerk Denise Powell stating she plans to request bids for employee health insurance in September with quotes due November 1.

SALES TAX: City Attorney Paul Monty informed the Council sales tax does not have to be designated to a specific project but politically to get it to pass it helps to make a designation. Monty also stated it could be added to the November ballot. City Administrator Tim Schook told the Council that the Library portion would go to the general fund then transferred when needed. No action was taken.

FOOD STAND: City Administrator Tim Schook informed the Council the Washington County Fairboard agreed to pay for the materials with the City providing labor to repair the sewer line and hot water heater. The job is complete.

CUSTODIAL & SECURITY AGREEMENT: Council Member Dawn Kramer made a motion to authorize the City Clerk, City Treasurer and City Administrator to act on behalf of the City of Washington for securities with United Bank & Trust. Council Member Meyler Gibbs seconded the motion. Motion carried.

FOUR WHEELERS: Council Member Dawn Kramer inquired about four wheelers on City streets. Mayor Travis Kier stated it was discussed at the last meeting and the legality is they are allowed to run on City streets. According to City Administrator Tim Schook the City can pass an ordinance to not allow usage on City streets if they so choose. Schook also stated there was no change to this Article in the 2004 Standard Traffic Ordinance.

STATISTICS: Selected statistics from KDOT were available for review according to City Administrator Tim Schook.

POWER PLANT: City Administrator Tim Schook reported the load tap controller is not working properly at Power Plant. Replacement cost would be \$3,945 plus applicable taxes. Council Member Dawn Kramer moved to authorize the purchase of a load tap controller for \$3,945 plus applicable taxes. Council Member Jon Snapp second the motion. Motion carried.

15/36 PROJECT: The 15/36 Project committee met Monday, August 02, 2004, at City and approved hiring BG Consultants as the engineering firm, according to Tim Schook, City Administrator.

SPCC: Tim Schook, City Administrator, stated in the Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasure Plan there are three major expense items the City will have to deal with. A fence around the tanks with an approximate cost of \$2,000; placing concrete inside the holding area; and the purchase of spill containment platforms for all the 55 gallon barrels in storage for spill containment purposes.

THANK YOU: The City Council signed a thank you for Miller's Flowers & Greenhouse. Miller's donated 40 geraniums, 32 marigolds, 20 begonias, peat moss and fertilizer which were used in a flowerbed on the north side of Munchkinland. City Administrator Tim Schook stated that Caroline Yungeberg, Denise Powell, Dick Powell and Jerry Pierce were those that donated the labor and should also be thanked.

AUDIT: City Clerk Denise Powell informed the Council that an auditing firm inquired about bidding for the City's audit. No action taken.

There came on for consideration an Ordinance entitled:

APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE NO. 2004-8

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

Thereupon on motion made by Council Member Dawn Kramer moved for its adoption, that the City Clerk is hereby authorized and directed to issue payroll Check Numbers 1422 through 1495 and warrant Check Numbers 30609 through 30703 in payment of just bills and claims against the City and debit the appropriate fund for each expenditure. Thereupon Council Member Meyler Gibbs seconded the motion. Thereupon the Mayor declared the motion carried.

MOTION TO ADJOURN: Council Member Roxanne Schottel made a motion to adjourn. Council Member Kevin Williams seconded the motion. Motion carried.