

REGULAR MEETING; COUNCIL CHAMBERS; WASHINGTON, KANSAS; DATE: SEPTEMBER 7, 2004

The Governing Body of the City of Washington, Kansas, met in Regular Session in the usual meeting place in said City on Tuesday, the seventh day of September, 2004, at 7:00 P.M. with the following members present: Mayor Travis Kier; Council Members Meyler Gibbs, Dawn Kramer, Jon Snapp, Kevin Williams and Roxanne Schottel.

ABSENT: None.

ALSO PRESENT WERE: City Attorney Paul Monty; City Administrator Tim Schook; City Clerk Denise Powell; Dan Thalman, Washington County News.

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

Copies of the minutes of the previous regular council meeting of Monday, August 2, 2004, were given to the Mayor and each council member for review. Council Member Kevin Williams made a motion to accept the minutes as written. Councilman Meyler Gibbs seconded the motion. Motion carried.

COUNCIL MEETING NOTES

FOUR WHEELER RECREATION: Dick Powell, Washington, visited with the Council about developing the land near the lagoons into a four-wheeler recreation site. Powell stated it would give residents an alternative to riding them on city streets. Larry Ditmars currently leases the land for \$750 per year. Council Member Kevin Williams made a motion not to renew the 14.7 acres of farm ground near the lagoons for the 2005 year. Council Member Jon Snapp seconded the motion. Motion carried.

BLUE RIVER BASIN PROJECT: Dan King, Ground Water Foundation, Blue River Basin Project, recently visited with City Administrator Tim Schook and Water Superintendent Greg Metz concerning the Blue River Basin Project. Schook stated the project is an education program and finalization of ground water protection.

KANSAS SPECIALITY DOG SERVICE: Karen Price, CEO of KSDS, briefed the Council about a renovation project KSDS will be doing and asked the Council for a \$50,000 interest free loan. Price indicated growth plans for KSDS are to add five to six employees over the next three years. Council Member Meyler Gibbs made a motion to authorize City Attorney Paul Monty to draw up loan documents lending KSDS \$50,000 interest free for six months. Councilman Jon Snapp seconded the motion. Motion carried.

City Administrator Tim Schook reminded the Council the City has committed to furnish dump trucks and provide assistance for the installation of the new water and sewer lines.

WELCOME SIGN: Council Member Dawn Kramer stated the graphic designer is working on the project.

KUHLMAN BUILDING EASEMENT: City Attorney Paul Monty is to visit with Robert Jones to get a contract signed or the fence moved.

CUNNINGHAM CABLE: The City's contract will expire Dec. 27, 2004. Council Member Jon Snapp inquired whether the City receives franchise fees for cable and interest services. City Attorney Paul Monty to review contract.

SHERIFF'S CONTRACT: The contract between the City and Washington County Sheriff's Department will expire Dec. 27, 2004. The City of Washington is the only remaining city in the county to have a contract with the sheriff. Council members discussed whether they thought having the contract made a difference in the amount of protection they received or whether the City was just subsidizing the county's budget for the sheriff's department. Most of the Council felt the City received a higher degree of protection as a result of having the contract. Council Member Meyler Gibbs stated if there are concerns Sheriff Bill Overbeck should have the chance to visit the Council.

BOSTON CONTRACT: The City's contract with Robert and Marvel Boston will automatically renew Jan. 2, 2005, allowing the City to maintain the wells and facility. City Attorney Paul Monty to review the contract.

UTILITY BILLING: City Attorney Paul Monty and City Administrator Tim Schook did not have the code ready for review.

HOUSING CLEAN-UP FUND POLICY: The City is waiting on authority from the property owner located at 217 East Third (Hyland) in order to complete that Warranty Deed.

HOUSING DEMOLITION: City Administrator Tim Schook stated Cecil Keller, Cuba, visited the Council last month wanting to tear down the houses for the scrap lumber and has elected not to get insurance due to the cost. Schook stated the City will proceed with their original plans to tear down the houses by the end of September.

NEIGHBORHOOD REVITALIZATION PLAN: City Attorney Paul Monty and City Administrator Tim Schook did not have the plan for review.

ZONING: City Attorney Paul Monty was to look into changes requested by the Council. Mayor Travis Kier asked City Attorney Paul Monty to have the changes made and the plan ready for review at the October council meeting.

CITY HALL: City Administrator Tim Schook informed the Council that City Hall would be ADA compliant by the Nov. 3 election.

HEALTH INSURANCE: Personnel health profiles were recently mailed to Connie Walenta who will begin the bidding process.

SALES TAX: The Council took no action to have the question put on the ballot.

PERSONNEL POLICY: City Clerk Denise Powell was to get a copy of the personnel policy to the Mayor and each Council Member. Full-time personnel and EMS pay raises, paid holidays and health insurance changes need to be made prior to January 1.

SNOW REMOVAL POLICY: Item was tabled until the October council meeting.

INDUSTRIAL PARK: Tim Schook, city administrator, stated BG Consultants has not completed the plat for the industrial park.

BIOPACK: The City is working with BioPack on sewer problems being created by their waste. Sewer and Waste Superintendent Greg Metz has asked them to get their pit pumped on a regular basis. The Council asked City Administrator Tim Schook about the cleanup of the garages at the park where BioPack was previously located. Schook is to contact Kyle Bauer about the cleanup because the City needs to complete some finishing details on the buildings before they can use them for winter.

EMERGENCY SERVICES BUILDING: The Kansas Department of Commerce recently monitored the project and all went well, according to City Administrator Tim Schook.

MAJOR THEATER: The major theater demolition is nearly completed according to City Administrator Tim Schook. Schook said he is waiting on a bid from Clinton Stamm to close up the end caps of both adjacent buildings.

KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF LABOR: Tim Schook, city administrator, stated the City underwent an audit by the Kansas Department of Labor and he is awaiting the report.

LEAGUE CONFERENCE: Council Members Kevin Williams and Meyler Gibbs will be attending the League of Kansas Municipalities Conference. Council Member Dawn Kramer made a motion to nominate Council Member Kevin Williams as the voting delegate and Council Member Meyler Gibbs as alternate voting delegate. Council Member Jon Snapp seconded the motion. Motion carried.

CURB & GUTTER PROGRAM: City Administrator Tim Schook stated he will be moving forward on the curb and gutter program in the next couple of weeks. Participation this year has been great and Schook stated he doesn't know if there is enough money in this year's budget for all the applicants. Schook is to get with those interested and work up contracts.

SPCC: Power Plant Superintendent Terry Morse is getting prices on the cost associated with conforming to the new SPCC plan and hopes to have those figures by the end of September.

SEGA: Sega is moving forward with the electric distribution study according to Tim Schook, city administrator.

KMU: Council Member Dawn Kramer made a motion to pay the voluntary dues of \$345.51 to Kansas Municipal Utilities for the formation of a regional transmission organization. Council Member Meyler Gibbs seconded the motion. Motion carried. After Aquila's contract runs out, municipalities will be forced to contract for their own power transmission which City Administrator Tim Schook said would likely raise rates everywhere. Transmission is the fee to get the power here. It is something the city is already paying for, but with deregulation, transmission will be broken out. The Council discussed electric rates extensively. Schook stated they could expect to see higher than normal rates again in the next billing. Mayor Travis Kier said he would like to explore any alternatives for cheaper rates. Schook was instructed by the Council to get a proposal from SEGA on the issue.

WATER AND SEWER AND WASTE: The City was recently audited by the Kansas Department of Health and Environment on their water and sewer operations. Everything was satisfactory with the exceptions the City has no written Emergency Operations Plan and no Enforcement of Cross Connection Control Plan. Water and Sewer and Waste Superintendent Greg Metz will be developing the plans.

SKID LOADER: City Administrator Tim Schook presented a bid of \$1,200 from Bruna Implement on the yearly replacement of the skid loader. Council Member Kevin Williams made a motion to accept the bid of \$1,200 for the replacement of the skid loader. Seconding the motion was Council Member Roxanne Schottel. Motion carried.

TRUCKS: The gray Dodge truck is in need of \$2500 in repair work and does the City really want to put that kind of money in to that truck, asked City Administrator Tim Schook. Sewer and Waste Superintendent Greg Metz is looking for a price on something with a utility bed. The Council requested that estimates be brought back for review.

MANURE: City Administrator Tim Schook asked the Council for permission to fence off the Quonset area near the rodeo arena because of continued manure problems the city crew has to deal with. Schook informed the Council that Independence Farms School of Therapeutic Riding uses the facilities and they clean up afterwards but most other do not. Schook was asked to look into the cost of fence and gates. Mayor Travis Kier stated he would go down and look at the problem. Both Schook and Kier said they are in favor of people using the facilities, but Schook wanted the issue addressed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: On motion by Council Member Dawn Kramer that the City Council go into executive session for approximately 10 minutes for the purpose to discuss attorney-client privileges. From 9:09 p.m. to 9:19 p.m. Thereupon Council Member Jon Snapp seconded the motion. Thereupon the motion carried unanimously.

On motion by Council Member Dawn Kramer that the council reconvene to the regular session at 9:17 p.m. Thereupon Council Member Meyler Gibbs seconded the motion. Motion was declared carried. No action was taken.

STREET SIGNS: Mayor Travis Kier inquired about street signs at the industrial park. City Administrator Tim Schook stated he has several to order and has that on his to do list.

INDIVIDUAL COUNCIL MEMBERS COMMENTS:

Dawn Kramer – Inquired as to where the City stands on the sidewalk study. Kramer said she has received calls from concerned parents regarding the lack of sidewalks leading to the school on D and E streets. City Administrator Tim Schook said the City could enforce residents to put in sidewalks according to the current ordinance. Schook also stated he spoke with USD 222 Superintendent Mike Stegman who sees the need for sidewalks on school property and is looking at ways for funding. No action was taken.

Kramer also asked about ATV regulations. Schook says the council can amend an ordinance if they so choose. No action was taken.

Meyler Gibbs – Informed the Council some minor changes need to be made to the helicopter-landing zone and he would get with City Administrator Tim Schook.

Roxanne Schottel – Stated she has heard concerns from the public about the use of ATV's on city streets and also the high electric rates.

There came on for consideration an Ordinance entitled:

APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE NO. 2004-9

“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 Numbers _____ through _____ and warrant Check Numbers _____ through _____ in payment of just bills and claims against the City and debit the appropriate fund for each expenditure. Thereupon Council Member Roxanne Schottel seconded the motion. Thereupon the Mayor declared the motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT: Council Member Roxanne Schottel made a motion to adjourn. Council Member Meyler Gibbs seconded the motion. Motion carried.