

REGULAR MEETING; COUNCIL CHAMBERS; WASHINGTON, KANSAS; DATE: NOVEMBER 7, 2005

The Governing Body of the City of Washington, Kansas met in Regular Session in the usual meeting place in said City on Monday, the seventh day of November, 2005, at 7:00 P.M. with the following members present: Council Members Tom Dragastin, Meyler Gibbs, Roxanne Schottel, and Jon Snapp.

ABSENT: Mayor Travis Kier and Council Member Dawn Kramer.

ALSO PRESENT WERE: City Attorney Paul Monty; City Administrator Tim Schook; Bill Hays, Washington County News; and Kelly Davert, BCBS representative.

Council Member Meyler Gibbs made a motion for Jon Snapp to preside over the meeting in the absence of Mayor Travis Kier and Council President Dawn Kramer. Council Member Tom Dragastin seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Council Member Jon Snapp called the meeting to order at 7 p.m.

Xerox Copies of the minutes of the Previous Regular Meeting of Tuesday, October 3, 2005. Council Member Tom Dragastin moved to approve the minutes as written. Council Member Meyler Gibbs seconded the motion. Motion carried.

COUNCIL MEETING NOTES

HEALTH INSURANCE: Kelly Davert, BCBS representative, presented a quote for 2006 health insurance premiums, a 2.41 percent increase over the 2005 rates. Davert stated city employees had completed health profiles to see if rates could be lowered. If the Council chooses to stay with BCBS Davert will educate employees on the benefits set forth in the policy.

WELL CONTRACT: Robert and Marvel Boston sent notice they would like to renegotiate the well contract. City Administrator Tim Schook was still working on negotiation.

KUHLMAN BUILDING AND CORNER LOT: Council Member Meyler Gibbs made a motion to execute the contract of \$3,000 cash for the Kuhlman lot, located at 102 East Second Street, with Brian and Dawnya Sasse. Council Member Tom Dragastin seconded the motion. Motion carried.

INDUSTRIAL SITE FARM GROUND CONTRACT: The current contract expires December 31, 2005, and is a two-year contract for approximately 20 acres at \$1,150 per year with Stigge and Sons, Inc. Council Member Tom Dragastin made a motion to renew the two-year farm ground lease contract at \$1,150 for two years with Stigge and Sons, Inc. Council Member Roxanne Schottel seconded the motion. Motion carried.

CITY/COUNTY LAW ENFORCEMENT CONTRACT: Washington County Sheriff Bill Overbeck will attend the December Council meeting to discuss the 2006 contract.

AIRPORT HANGAR CONTRACT: City Attorney Paul Monty will draw up a contract for the lease of land on which an airport hangar, owned by Tim Pinnick, is located. The lease will be prepared under the same conditions of \$1 per year as arranged with other parties in 1974.

ATV CONTRACT: Council Member Tom Dragastin moved to empower the Mayor to enter into the ATV Contract agreement. Council Member Meyler Gibbs seconded the motion. Motion carried.

UTILITY BILLING: City Attorney Paul Monty and City Administrator Tim Schook working on code, which was not ready for review.

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

ZONING: The Council will review the zoning policy once they have completed the personnel policy.

FAIR BUILDING: Tim Schook, City Administrator, stated he is still looking into the most cost effective heat for the fair building.

SIDEWALKS: Tim Schook, City Administrator, stated the City has applied for a fitness trail grant. The sidewalk would run along D Street and around the City's park. If the City is awarded the grant, a dollar for dollar match up to \$15,000 is required. Council Member Tom Dragastin moved to match up to \$15,000 to be partially funded from the Greg Wilson Memorial and playground fund. Council Member Meyler Gibbs seconded the motion. Motion carried.

FLOORING: The Council tabled reviewing bids for new flooring at City Hall until the December meeting.

VEHICLE: The Council reviewed a fuel and employee mileage reimbursement report for the year of 2004 through October 2005 as requested at the October meeting. No decision was made on the purchase of a car.

FIRE DEPARTMENT: City Administrator Tim Schook stated he did not have the quote for the fire department computer. Schook informed the Council the Fire Department has reworked their bylaws and will have them for review at the December meeting.

GRANT: Tim Schook, City Administrator, informed the Council the City did not receive the Firefighters Assistance Grant. The grant would have been for the purchase of a new ambulance.

LAGOON: A letter was sent to Larry Ditmars concerning negotiation of a contract which would allow him to pump water from the city's lagoon. Ditmars was asked to come before the Council and at this time has not responded.

ANIMAL CONTROL: The Council received written resignation from Jerry Pierce as animal control officer. The Council asked Schook to offer the job to other city employees and if none were interested to advertise for the position.

HOLIDAY: Council Member Meyler Gibbs made a motion to give City employees the day after Thanksgiving off. Council Member Tom Dragastin seconded the motion. Motion carried.

WAGES: The Council tabled discussion of wage increases for 2006 until the December meeting.

INDUSTRIAL PARK: Kansas Select Pork has expressed interest in putting in a private truck wash at the industrial site. The Council expressed general support but sought more information. Council Member Tom Dragastin excused himself during this discussion due to conflict of interest.

FREE LOT PROGRAM: City Administrator Tim Schook informed the Council he is waiting to hear from the parties interested in the Third Street lot. Schook stated he will contact the individuals to come before the Council.

COMMERCIAL PROPERTIES: Jeanette Canard who works with Itex, Inc., Omaha, Neb., expressed interest in selling the commercial properties owned by the City taking five percent commission. Council expressed no interest.

HEDGE ROW: City Administrator Tim Schook asked permission from the Council to remove a hedge row on the north property line at the City's industrial site. Council gave permission for Schook to proceed.

ELECTRIC: City Administrator Tim Schook and Power Plant Superintendent Terry Morse continue to study the City's options for electricity. According to Schook the City has applied for one megawatt of Grand River Dam Authority Power through Kansas Municipal Energy Agency. The transmission study will decide if GRDA is feasible. Westar will be building a new coal plant somewhere in Kansas giving the possibility of coal energy in 2010. Kansas Municipal Gas Agency is working with Aquila on tolling, through which gas would be bought in bulk at a lesser rate, thence cutting down fuel cost adjustment. Schook and Morse recently met with Mid Kansas Electric Corporation in Hays. They are also looking at bringing the 115 kilovolts line from the Greenleaf sub to Washington. This would improve voltage to the City and allow for expansion such as the ethanol plant.

Council Member Tom Dragastin moved to pay voluntary assessment dues to Kansas Municipal Utilities in the amount of \$598.65. Council Member Meyler Gibbs seconded the motion. Motion carried.

HEATING COST: Tim Schook, City Administrator, told the Council he ordered pamphlets to mail to all local residents explaining the expected high cost of heating homes during the winter and tips to help them.

UTILITIES: The Homestead Nursing Home made a request asking the City to forgo the late penalty on their October utility bill due to timing of their board meeting. The Council took no action.

U.S. 36 IMPROVEMENTS: The Council took no action to pursue the second phase of extensive improvements to U.S. 36 through the Kansas Department of Transportation. In our application the City would match up to \$30,000. KDOT now says the whole section of highway needs to be totally removed and replaced bringing the estimated match to \$81,000.

INDIVIDUAL COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS: None.

CITY ATTORNEY COMMENTS: None.

There came on for consideration an Ordinance entitled:

APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE NO. 2005-11

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

Thereupon on motion made by Council Member Meyler Gibbs moved for its adoption, that the City Clerk is hereby authorized and directed to issue payroll Check Numbers 2402 through 2450 and warrant Check Numbers 32235 through 32318 in payment of just bills and claims against the City and debit the appropriate fund for each expenditure. Thereupon Council Roxanne Schottel seconded the motion. Thereupon the Council Member Jon Snapp declared the motion carried.

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