

REGULAR MEETING; COUNCIL CHAMBERS; WASHINGTON, KANSAS; DATE: FEBRUARY 6, 2006

The Governing Body of the City of Washington, Kansas met in Regular Session in the usual meeting place in said City on Monday, the sixth day of February, 2006, at 7:00 P.M. with the following members present: Mayor Travis Kier; Council Members Tom Dragastin, Meyler Gibbs, Dawn Kramer and Roxanne Schottel.

Council Member Jon Snapp arrived at 7:34 p.m.

ABSENT: None

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

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

Xerox Copies of the minutes of the previous regular meeting of Tuesday, January 3, 2006, and adjourned meeting minutes of Monday, January 23, 2006. Council Member Meyler Gibbs made a motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting as amended. Brad and Donna Porteniers contract to Dawn Kramer seconding the motion; on fire change emergency calls but are disregarded to cancelled. Council Member Roxanne Schottel seconded the motion. Motion carried. Council Member Tom Dragastin moved to approve the adjourned meeting minutes. Council Member Meyler Gibbs seconded the motion. Motion carried.

LAGOON CONTRACT: Larry Ditmars, Lincoln, Nebraska, discussed the contract for disposal of excess water for the purpose of irrigation from the City's lagoons. Council Member Tom Dragastin moved to enter into the contract with Larry L. Ditmars and Diane K. Ditmars allowing the Ditmars to dispose of excess waste water from the City's lagoons system for the purpose of irrigation. Council Member Roxanne Schottel seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Ditmars also inquired about renting eight acres of ground south of the City's lagoons no longer utilized by the ATV enthusiasts. Council Member Meyler Gibbs made a motion to rent eight acres of ground south of the City's lagoons for \$500 per year to be paid no later than November 15. Council Member Dawn Kramer seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Ditmars also inquired if the wheels, tires and pipes dumped on his property are there for a reason. City Administrator Tim Schook stated he was unaware of anyone dumping those items and would check into the matter.

Ditmars inquired about an access road from the City's property to his land southeast of the City's lagoon.

RECREATION: Dan Thalman, editor of the Washington County News, discussed the development of a recreation program for youth through adults. Thalman stated he grew up in Hutchinson, Minnesota, which had a population of around 10,000, where the City organized recreation. A recreation board helped organize youth leagues, adult leagues and educational programs, according to Thalman. The City welcomed Thalmans ideas and expressed interest in developing such a program.

GIRL SCOUTS: Kathryn Stigge, Carolyn Pinnick and the Girl Scouts were unable to meet with the Council and requested to reschedule for the March 6 Council meeting.

WELL CONTRACT: Robert and Marvel Boston sent notice they would like to renegotiate the well contract. City Administrator Tim Schook stated he has not yet set up a meeting to begin negotiations.

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

NEIGHBORHOOD REVITALIZATION PLAN: City Administrator Tim Schook stated the Washington County Commissioners have asked the City to join the County in a Neighborhood Revitalization Plan. Schook said the County is revising the plan and once complete will have it for review.

ZONING: The Council took no action in setting a date to meet in February to continue review of the proposed Zoning Ordinance.

FIREFIGHTERS RELIEF FUND: Council Member Roxanne Schottel moved to authorize the Mayor to sign the Declaration for participation in the Firefighters Relief Fund for 2006. Council Member Jon Snapp seconded the motion. Motion carried.

SOFTWARE: Council Member Roxanne Schottel made a motion to authorize Mayor Travis Kier to sign the Annual Peopleware Agreement in the amount of \$2,540 with Computer Information Concepts, Greeley, Colorado. Council Member Dawn Kramer seconded the motion. Motion carried.

PUBLIC MEETING: The City will have an informational meeting concerning high utility rates at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 15 at the Emergency Services Building, 900 D Street.

INDIVIDUAL COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS: Council Member Jon Snapp requested three ring binders to organize paperwork concerning electric utilities. Snapp also stated he has been approached by citizens about horses being ridden on city streets and not allowing traffic through.

ACCIDENT: City Administrator Tim Schook reported that City Clerk Denise Powell and Fulltime EMT Caroline Yungeberg have begun investigation into the recent rollover accident of a City truck driven by Schook as per City policy. Pictures of the accident scene and vehicle along with an incomplete accident investigation form were made available to the Council for review. Powell and Yungeberg are awaiting the accident report from the Washington County Sheriff and a cost estimate from Eaton Body Shop, Washington, to complete the investigation.

INDUSTRIAL PARK: Removal of the hedge row at the City's industrial site has been put on hold according to Tim Schook, City Administrator.

Schook said the City will need to extend Industry Boulevard at the City's industrial site in order to accommodate the new truck wash. Schook would like to have BG Consultants, Manhattan, do a survey to layout the boundaries and at the same time have the boundary lines set at the old airport and the south property line by the material yard east of the Emergency Service Building. The Council asked Schook to get a cost estimate.

LEAGUE CONFERENCE: The Kansas League of Municipalities Conference will be Oct. 7-10 in Topeka. In order to make motel reservations City Administrator Tim Schook stated he will need to know who plans to attend at the June Council meeting.

FIRE: City Administrator Tim Schook asked for clarification on payment as to Chapter VI Article I Section 116 concerning payment of the \$3 per meeting and per fire attended by each member to the Washington Fire Department. No action taken.

ELECTRIC: Kansas Municipal Utilities is working with Associate Member MAXIMUS which has developed an affordable financial forecasting model for utilities. City Administrator Tim Schook will try to get more information on the product.

MOWER: Street, Water and Sewer and Waste Superintendent Greg Metz has asked the Council to reconsider the purchase of a diesel Grasshopper mower which was tabled last fall. Schook presented an updated quote of \$12,225 from Bruna Implement Company, Washington. Council Member Dawn Kramer made a motion to purchase the diesel Grasshopper mower from Bruna Implement at a cost of \$12,225 with trade-in of the City's Zipper mower. Payment breakdown would be \$1,000 from the Street fund; \$1,000 from the Cemetery fund; \$2,000 from the Park fund; \$2,000 from the Water fund; \$2,000 from the Sewer and Waste fund; and \$4,225 from the Municipal Equipment Reserve fund. Council Member Meyler Gibbs seconded the motion. Motion carried.

PROPERTIES: City Administrator Tim Schook stated he spoke with the owners of the property located at 122 East Fourth and they have assured him repairs will soon begin on house.

City Attorney Paul Monty stated Charles Coleman, 123 West Eighth, was not able to appear for Court Monday, Feb. 3, 2006, concerning being in contempt for not following courts order to clean up the property. Court is rescheduled for Monday, February 13. The Council asked to have the City clean up the property and access the cost to the property.

KUHLMAN BUILDING: The paperwork was not complete to close on the sale of the former Kuhlman Motor Company Building, 110 East Second. City Attorney Paul Monty and City Administrator Tim Schook stated the sale should be completed within two weeks.

ELECTRIC UTILITY: City Administrator Tim Schook mentioned Kansas Municipal Utilities (KMU) has intervened with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) on the sale of Aquila to Mid Kansas Electric Cooperative. The Council received a copy of the letter KMU sent out which covers the four main areas which need to be addressed. The goal is to raise 100,000 dollars. The assessment will be done on kilowatt load per year. City of Washington's first assessment is \$1,719. KMU also plans to get money from Kansas Municipal Energy Agency and Western Area Power Administration "B" cities. Council Member Meyler Gibbs made a motion to approve the intervention cost of \$1,719. Council Member Tom Dragastin seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Schook stated they continue to look at alternative possibilities for power. Aquila's high-energy cost is really hurting us, according to Schook. "Not to justify the high cost," Schook said, "I do know that there are rate increases coming from just about everywhere, the biggest one to date coming to the Westar customers which he believes is 10% plus a fuel cost adjustment. Aquila and Midwest Energy wholesale customers have just been the unfortunate first ones in the barrel for the "new electric market" that is coming of age."

We continue to talk to Norris Public Power in Nebraska and hope to hear something the week of February 6th. I may be asking for a special meeting to discuss the options with you. I have applied for another megawatt of Grand River Dam Authority power that will be available in June of this year due to one of the other cities dropping out. We are in the first phase of the Southwest Power Pool cost study and hope to know something in the near future. We anticipate the cost of the one megawatt that we will get in 2010 to be \$.04/KW. This should give us some relief this summer but still not enough.

KANSAS RURAL WATER: Council Member Jon Snapp made a motion to approve City Administrator Tim Schook as voting delegate and Street, Water and Sewer and Waste Superintendent Greg Metz as alternate voting delegate for the Kansas Rural Water Association. Council Member Meyler Gibbs seconded the motion. Motion carried.

SEWER: According to Tim Schook, City Administrator, the City is still waiting on a firm cost estimate for repairs at the sewer lift station. Estimated costs are looking at \$20,000 plus.

STREET: City Attorney Paul Monty and City Administrator Tim Schook will meet Tuesday, Feb. 7 with engineers of BG Consultants in Manhattan concerning the 15/36 project.

LIBRARY: Jim McBeath, treasurer of the library board, visited with City Administrator Tim Schook about getting an increase in appropriations above the current \$15,000. The Council has requested a report from the library board and also the City's 2005 Library fund revenue and expense reports.

OZ HOUSE: City Attorney Paul Monty stated Charles Nelson would like to donate a house to a non profit corporation called Mayor Oz for a museum. The non profit corporation has not yet received their 501(c)3 status. Monty asked on behalf of the Mayor Oz if the house could be donated to the city for tax exempt purposes and the City transfer to Mayor Oz. Monty told the Council there would be no charges to the City. Council gave their blessing.

ATV: The City applied for tax abatement on property where the ATV track is located, and the State has rejected it. The City thought the taxes should be around \$100, but the County Appraiser stated it would be around \$1,900. A petition for reconsideration was filed. Schook said he hoped that would be successful, otherwise the ATV group utilizing the property will be dissolved. Schook thought the property would be exempted because it was recreational area made up of mostly creek bottomland. However, it was classified as commercial property.

APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE NO. 2006-2
"AN ORDINANCE ALLOWING FOR PAYMENT OF THE CITY'S BILLS AND DEBITS."

Thereupon on motion made by Council Member Tom Dragastin moved for its adoption, that the City Clerk is hereby authorized and directed to issue payroll Check Numbers 2548 through 2596 and warrant Check Numbers 32578 through 32671 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 motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT: Council Member Meyler Gibbs made a motion to adjourn to 7 p.m. Feb. 15 at the Emergency Services Building. Council Member Roxanne Schottel seconded the motion. Motion carried.