

REGULAR MEETING, COUNCIL CHAMBERS; WASHINGTON, KANSAS; DATE: SEPTEMBER 4, 2007

The Governing Body of the City of Washington, Kansas, met in Regular Session in the usual meeting place in said City on Tuesday, the fourth day of September, 2007, at 7:00 P.M. with the following members present: Mayor Harold H. Jones Jr.; Council Members Randy Wyatt, Justin Cordry, Tom Dragastin, Meyler Gibbs and Gene Martin.

Also present were City Administrator Tim Schook; City Clerk Denise Powell; City Attorney Jason Brinegar

Mayor Harold H. Jones Jr. called the meeting to order at 7 p.m.

Xerox copies of the minutes of the previous regular meeting of Monday, August 6, 2007, were given to each Council Member for review. Council Member Randy Wyatt moved to approve the minutes as written. Council Member Gene Martin seconded the motion. Motion carried.

APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE NO. 2007-9

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

Thereupon on motion made by Council Member Randy Wyatt moved for its adoption, that the City Clerk is hereby authorized and directed to issue payroll Check Numbers 3779 through 3828; warrant Check Numbers 34233 through 34330; and Wires -34 through -35 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 motion carried.

UTILITY BILLING: City Attorney Jason Brinegar will have the water rate ordinance ready for the October meeting. Work continues on the electric and sewer ordinances.

ZONING: Jason Brinegar, City Attorney, will put together a basic zoning ordinance for review and have it completed for the January or February 2008 council meeting.

15/36 PROJECT: City Administrator Tim Schook and City Attorney Jason Brinegar met with Eric Deittcher, KDOT right of way acquisition department. Brinegar stated he has a pretty good understanding how the project will work. Brinegar will be in contact with John and Ruth Gaines. Completion date is November 2008 and all right of ways must be acquired and moved by then with the city paying the moving expenses, according to Brinegar.

BLIGHTED PREMISE: Tim Schook, city administrator, stated all papers have been served to the Charles and Tami Coleman, 123 West 8th Street, and the City will clean up the property and assess their taxes.

POOL COMMITTEE: The Mayor and Council discussed results of the pool survey. Council Member Tom Dragastin stated he felt like the public wants a basic pool. Council Member Randy Wyatt stated he felt that they wanted it funded through a sales tax. City Administrator Tim Schook stated numbers he acquired estimate a one percent sales tax would generate approximately \$100,000 per year

ANIMAL ORDINANCE: There came on for consideration an Ordinance entitled:

ORDINANCE NO. 715

AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING AND UPDATING THE ANIMAL CODE FOR THE CITY OF WASHINGTON THIS FOURTH DAY OF SEPTEMBER 2007, AND REPEALING ALL PREVIOUS ANIMAL ORDINANCES COVERING THE SAME OR SIMILAR TOPICS

said Ordinance No. 715 was read in full, considered and discussed, thereupon Council member Meyler Gibbs moved for its adoption and Council Member Randy Wyatt seconded the motion. Thereupon the Mayor declared Ordinance No. 715 duly adopted and passed unanimously by all council members present, and the Mayor directed that said Ordinance No. 715 be published in the Washington County News on Thursday, September 13, 2007, as provided by the Ordinance.

SEWER: According to Tim Schook, city administrator, the City is waiting on the engineers to complete the study on the sewer lift station.

SIRENS: Sirens are on order and the eight week estimated delivery time is about up according to City Administrator Tim Schook.

CABIN IN PARK: A local Boy Scout has expressed interest in repairing the log cabin in the park as an Eagle Scout project according to City Administrator Tim Schook. At this time the Scout is awaiting completion and approval of the Eagle Scout Leadership Service Project workbook.

DISASTER PLAN: City Administrator Tim Schook stated he will develop a disaster plan for the City.

PROPERTIES: Council members asked City Attorney Jason Brinegar to send letters and quit claim deeds to property owners of 309 East First Street and 110 West Third Street due to unpaid property taxes.

FRAUD POLICY: Jason Brinegar, city attorney, stated he would work on the fraud policy and have it ready to adopt prior to the next audit.

LIBRARY BOARD APPOINTMENT: Mayor Harold H. Jones Jr. appointed Dale Bond to fill the unexpired term of Beverly Nichols through April 30, 2011. Council Member Meyler Gibbs made a motion to approve the Mayor's appointment of Dale Bond to the library board. Council Member Justin Cordry seconded the motion. Motion carried.

HEALTH INSURANCE/PAY INCREASES: Council members asked that letters be sent to the three insurance agencies in Washington asking if they sell group health insurance and if they are interested in giving the City a bid. Council members plan to set a work date in October to discuss health insurance and pay increases.

ALCOHOL ORDINANCE: City Attorney Jason Brinegar discussed Alcohol Ordinance No. 702. The current ordinance states sales are allowed on Fourth of July, Memorial Day and Labor Day. State statute prohibits sales on Easter, Thanksgiving and Christmas. Confusion came between the actual ordinance and the way the code was written. Council Members agreed ordinance was correct.

PAYROLL: Council Member Meyler Gibbs made a motion for callout time to be paid at one and one-half times the employee's regular rate of pay. Council Member Tom Dragastin seconded the motion. Motion carried.

City Clerk Denise Powell asked for an interpretation on how overtime was to be paid. City Attorney Jason Brinegar clarified overtime is paid on actual time worked over 40 hours in accordance with how the personnel policy is written.

HEALTH INSURANCE: Two new employees have chosen to enroll in F-7 (h) of the city's health care program. City Administrator Tim Schook and City Clerk Denise Powell asked for clarification as to the benefit they would receive for the 2007 year. Council members asked that it be prorated from the date of employment.

INDIVIDUAL COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS: Council Member Randy Wyatt inquired about the research concerning the sewer lift station at the site of Gambino's as per a request from Mike Schuessler. No action was taken.

Council Member Meyler Gibbs gave a report on the mechanical problems with ambulance Unit 23. Gibbs also stated he is looking at purchase options for a new ambulance.

BADGES: City Administrator Tim Schook informed the Council identification badges would be made for all city personnel. Schook stated that during the Greensburg tragedy officials and employees had difficulty getting around as needed because of the lack of identification.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: On motion by Council Member Tom Dragastin that the City Council go into executive session for approximately five minutes for the purpose to discuss non-elected personnel. From 8:55 p.m. p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Thereupon Council Member Randy Wyatt seconded the motion. Thereupon the motion carried unanimously. On motion by Council Member Meyler Gibbs that the Council reconvenes to the regular session at 9:00 p.m. Thereupon Council Member Tom Dragastin seconded the motion. Motion was declared carried.

BUILDING REPAIR: City Administrator Tim Schook said several buildings were in need of repair and painting. The Council agreed to allow Linus Linenberger to be employed an extra month to help with these repairs.

RE-CODIFICATION: Council Member Tom Dragastin made a motion to spend \$5,250 with the League of Kansas Municipalities for re-codification of the City code. Council Member Meyler Gibbs seconded the motion. Motion carried.

LEAGUE CONFERENCE: Council Member Meyler Gibbs made a motion to appoint Mayor Harold H. Jones Jr. as voting delegate and City Administrator Tim Schook as alternate voting delegate for the League of Kansas Municipalities. Council Member Randy Wyatt seconded the motion. Motion carried.

City Administrator Tim Schook asked if any of the council members were planning to attend the League meeting as there was still one room available. None of the council expressed interest and the room will be cancelled.

CENSUS: Council Member Meyler Gibbs made a motion to appoint Tim Schook as liaison for the 2010 census. Council Member Tom Dragastin seconded the motion. Motion carried.

HOSPITAL: City Administrator Tim Schook has received calls from the firm doing the design build for the new hospital inquiring what the cost would be for utilities. Council members agreed to treat the hospital the same as what the school was treated. The hospital would pay the cost of materials to install utilities with the City providing available labor.

“IF I WERE MAYOR”: City Administrator Tim Schook stated he provided Phil Wilson, principal of USD 108, information to for seventh graders to participate in the “If I were Mayor Contest.” Schook stated he had no response.

CHRISTMAS LIGHTS: The Chamber of Commerce and one business along US 36 are interested in placing Christmas lights similar to those down town along US 36. Council members support the idea of placing Christmas decorations along US Hwy 36 with the Chamber and businesses doing the fundraising for the purchase of the decorations.

RADIO: The City repeater is beyond repair according to City Administrator Tim Schook. Schook asked the Council to consider the purchase of a VHF system to allow communication with emergency personnel in case of a natural disaster. The mutual aid program for the municipal electric utilities in the State also recommends that all utilities move in that direction to help communication when there is a disaster and the city is requested to help. The VHF system would require the purchase of new radios also. Council Member Randy Wyatt made a motion to approve up to \$7,000 for a VHF system of a repeater, two base units and up to eight radios. Council Member Meyler Gibbs seconded the motion. Motion carried.

FEMA: An application has been submitted to Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) in the amount of \$35,500 for the electrical side of the storm damage which happened May 5. City Clerk Denise Powell and City Administrator Tim Schook are currently working with FEMA representatives to complete the application for debris with expenses around \$26,600.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: City Administrator Tim Schook stated Bradford Built needs to expand. The Council asked that a concrete proposal of what they are requesting be presented.

MKEC: City Administrator Tim Schook stated that EMP #2 is waiting on MKEC to determine the prepay issues pertaining to the Jeffery Energy Center coal contract. They may request some sort of contract extension past the current deadline of Nov. 1, 2007. SPP is expected to begin transmission service Nov. 1, 2007.

EMP #2 project is moving forward. Interviews of three facilitators will be Sept. 27, 2007, at Russell. Once the new facilitator is chosen they should be up and running by November 1, 2007.

Metering for the EMP #2 project is being installed at the power plant and is expected to be done by the middle of October so testing can be done, according to City Administrator Tim Schook.

ELECTRIC DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM: The City is looking at implementing some short term recommendations made by SEGA a few years ago for the electric distribution system. Re-conductoring and capacitor banks need to be built due to the new contract with MKEC which will require a higher power factor. Also new development would require a heavier load and it is maxed in the summer months. Capacitor banks run approximately \$4,000 each and at least four will be needed. Schook stated he may have found some in Stockton to purchase much cheaper.

ELECTRIC METERS: Council Member Randy Wyatt made a motion to purchase a pallet of 96 electric meters at a cost of \$4,712 out of the electric distribution fund. Council Member Gene Martin seconded the motion. Motion carried.

COMPUTERS: City Administrator Tim Schook said he will need to purchase five new 17"-19" computer monitors for the EMP #2 Project. Three are needed at the power plant and two at city hall. Schook said he is hoping to network the computer in the power plant office to the control room. Worst case scenario would be the purchase of a new tower. Schook will get a bid on the five monitors and ask for final approval at the October meeting.

METER READING: Council Member Tom Dragastin made a motion to purchase two Psion meter readers for \$3,690 from Computer Information Concepts. Council Member Justin Cordry seconded the motion. Motion carried.

STREET SIGNS: Council members tabled the discussion for placement of no parking signs around the City until the October council meeting.

BUS: Council members discussed getting a bus parked on Fifth Street moved off the city street. City Attorney Jason Brinegar and City Administrator Tim Schook will send a letter to the owner of the bus.

STREETS: City Administrator Tim Schook stated it is not feasible for the city to purchase a piece of equipment and maintain it to mill the streets. Schook suggested looking for a machine to put the asphalt back down. Schook says he plans to do a test project in 2008.

SNOW REMOVAL: Tim Schook, city administrator, discussed equipment needed to remove snow on the sidewalk at the park. Street Supervisor Greg Metz is looking into options and costs. Schook will present prices and recommendations at the October council meeting.

JOB DESCRIPTIONS & EVALUATIONS: Proposed job descriptions, evaluations and evaluation forms will soon be delivered to the Mayor and Council for review according to City Administrator Tim Schook.

WINDMILLS: Mayor Harold H. Jones Jr. asked where the city was with the interconnection agreement for residents wishing to bring in wind power. City Administrator Tim Schook stated he does have the procedure but it is not ready to be put before the Council for adoption.

FLOOD PLAIN: Council Member Gene Martin made a motion approving the Mayor to sign a letter stating there has been no construction in the flood plain areas outlined on the FEMA map dated September 27, 1985, during non participation years. Council Member Tom Dragastin seconded the motion. Motion carried.

CABLE TV: City Attorney Jason Brinegar stated Ordinance No. 693 pertaining to the operation and maintenance of a cable television and closed circuit electronic system within the City of Washington will transfer to the new owners.

ADJOURNMENT: Council Member Tom Dragastin moved to adjourn. Council Member Gene Martin seconded the motion. Motion carried.