

WASHINGTON CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
Regular Meeting
July 7, 2008

1. Call to order by Mayor.

The Mayor called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

2. Roll Call.

Present: Harold H. Jones, Jr.
Justin Cordry
Tom Dragastin
Meyler Gibbs
Gene Martin
Randy Wyatt

Absent:

Staff Present: Kurt Hassler, City Administrator
Denise Powell, City Clerk
Barry Finlayson, Electric Distribution Superintendent

Others: John Gaines, Washington
Jay Langley, Blubine & Rettele, Salina
Dan Thalman, Washington County News
Chris L'Ecuyer, Ws. County Economic Development Dir.

3. Minutes.

Motion to approve the minutes from regular meeting of Monday, June 2, 2008 and special meeting minutes of Tuesday, June 24, 2008, by Wyatt and seconded by Gibbs.

Vote: Ayes: Randy Wyatt
Tom Dragastin
Meyler Gibbs
Justin Cordry
Gene Martin

4. Bills.

Motion to approve Appropriation Ordinance No. 2008-07, "An Ordinance Allowing Payment of the City's Bills and Debits" by Dragastin and seconded by Wyatt.

Vote: Ayes: Randy Wyatt
Tom Dragastin
Meyler Gibbs
Justin Cordry
Gene Martin

5. 15/36 Project.

John Gaines, Washington updated the Council on the movement of his house. Gaines stated he needed a water meter location from the City and inquired as to whether the City or Pure Energy would install the electric line. Hassler stated Pure Energy would install the electric line.

2007 Audit.

Jay Langley, CPA with Clubine & Rettele, Salina, reviewed the audit. Langley stated the financial statements presented fairly and there were no violations. Langley stated the city has no formal written antifraud program or controls however the City had adopted a fraud policy on December 3, 2007.

6. 2009 Budget.

Motion to set the budget hearing for 7 p.m. Monday, August 4, 2008, at City Hall and to publish the proposed 2009 Ad Valorem Tax at \$200,608 dollars by Gibbs and seconded by Dragastin.

Vote:	Ayes:	Randy Wyatt
		Tom Dragastin
		Meyler Gibbs
		Justin Cordry
		Gene Martin

7. Electric Distribution Superintendent Report.

Motion to approve bid for a horizontal bore under Highway 36 by Charlie's Construction, Inc. in the amount not to exceed \$7,500 by Cordry and seconded by Martin.

Vote:	Ayes:	Randy Wyatt
		Tom Dragastin
		Meyler Gibbs
		Justin Cordry
		Gene Martin

Finlayson made a request for MidState Energy to pull underground wire under Highway 36. Finlayson to acquire a bid.

Motion to approve purchase of extra materials from Kriz Davis not to exceed \$1,200 for a service upgrade at Bradford Built by Cordry and seconded by Wyatt.

Vote:	Ayes:	Randy Wyatt
		Tom Dragastin
		Meyler Gibbs
		Justin Cordry
		Gene Martin

Finlayson requested for his crew could go to summer hours, 7 a.m. -4 p.m. Hassler is to draft a policy for summer hours from Memorial Day to Labor Day for next council meeting.

Horvarth Communication will put a 300 foot self supporting tower on property of Ralph Rogge's west of Washington and is requesting four 200 amp services. No action taken at this time.

Motion to purchase a 1999 GMC Digger truck from Par Electric for \$30,000 pending passing inspection by Martin and seconded by Cordry.

Vote:	Ayes:	Randy Wyatt
		Tom Dragastin
		Meyler Gibbs
		Justin Cordry
		Gene Martin

Vernon Tegethoff made a request asking city to pay for connection of electric service to his rental house with a cost of approximately \$500. No action taken.

8. Zoning.

Hassler to draft policy for consideration by the Council at a future meeting.

9. 15/36 Project.

Hassler to check on status of Walther's deed.

10. Sewer.

Financial papers have been signed. BG is to deliver them to State for approval. Hassler to call engineer and set up meeting so the City can move forward with the project.

11. Emergency Operations Plan/Disaster Plan.

Hassler met with Deb Swoboda, Emergency Preparedness Director, who stated county's emergency operation plan is being updated. Hassler stated he will wait on the County's plan and didn't have a time line. Hassler will draft mutual aid agreements with every city in the county and Clay Center. Hassler also will visit with Deb Swoboda concerning the identification card program.

12. Animal Ordinance.

Hassler and Dragastin to review animal ordinance and draft proposed changes for consideration by the council at a future meeting.

13. KDOT.

Hassler has had no return call from the State concerning questions about connecting link agreement.

14. Business License Ordinance.

Hassler to draft business license ordinance for consideration by the council at a future meeting.

20. Ka-Comm quote.

Motion to accept quote of \$1,745 to repair sirens from Ka-Comm., Inc. by Cordry and seconded by Wyatt.

Vote:	Ayes:	Randy Wyatt
		Tom Dragastin
		Meyler Gibbs
		Justin Cordry
		Gene Martin

21. Minimum wage increase.

Motion to raise hourly wage of Erik Zabokrtsky and Emil Scott Miller to \$6.55 per hour by Dragastin and seconded by Gibbs.

Vote:	Ayes:	Randy Wyatt
		Tom Dragastin
		Meyler Gibbs
		Justin Cordry
		Gene Martin

22. Reports.

Wyatt asked about the new roof for the cabin in the park. He also asked that the trees be trimmed around the cabin so they are not in contact with the roof or structure.

Cordry asked that weeds in the downtown be sprayed, that outside lighting be placed around the pool, requested an up to date report on city court revenue and expenses, about the purchase of a new ambulance, and if the pool committee was planning another public meeting.

Martin asked that the no parking signs be put up as to an ordinance passed a year ago and that a work order procedure be established with the Council being updated.

A. Kurt Hassler:

- 1.) **Emily Larsen request.** Hassler to request the city attorney file charges against Ms. Larsen animal ordinance violation.
- 2.) **Terra World request.** Terra World has indicated they may want to relocate their internet equipment from the high school to city hall.
- 3.) **Russ Behrends request.** Mr. Behrends request to rent the city's scissor lift which is currently up at the school on a project. Hassler to develop a written policy regarding the use of city owned equipment by private individuals, business entities, non-profit entities, and/or other government agencies.
- 4.) **KMU request.** KMU is requesting all cities develop a policy to prevent identity theft on utility billing by November 1, 2008. Electric Production Superintendent Mary Leck and Hassler will work on such a policy.

- 5.) **Request for dog run or “off leash area”.** Hassler to put together a plan that would include possible locations, cost estimate and maintenance requirements for an “off leash area” for animals.
- 6.) **Charlie Walter request.** Charlie Walter is requesting sewer service in a lot on the southwest corner of College and Pierce streets where he plans to put a new shop and home. No action taken.
- 7.) **JV Cole farm lease.** Land leased by Mr. Cole at the industrial park is less than the 20.68 acres described in the legal description of the contract. A map from the SCS office indicates Mr. Cole is farming approximately 11.48 acres. Hassler proposed to use the SCS map and the \$56.59 per acre price as described in the lease agreement. Hassler will prepare the necessary paperwork for approval at the next council meeting.
- 8.) **Animal licenses.** Jerry Fuhrken is unhappy with the fine for late license on animals. Mr. Fuhrken states the late fee is a 60% increase and the city only charges 10% for delinquent utilities. Hassler suggested not reducing fee but changing procedure in mailing late notices. Other issues exist in relation to this section of the code dealing with animals and staff will review and make changes to be considered by the Council at a future meeting.
- 9.) **IRS mileage rate change.** IRS has raised the mileage rate from 50.5 cents per mile to 58.5 per mile. A resolution will be prepared for the next meeting. Council asked Hassler look into the quotes for the purchase of a car.
- 10.) **Fee lot.** Chris L’Ecuyer visited with Council concerning the free lot in the 100 block of east third street. A gentleman who owns the theater in Clay Center is exploring options and is entertaining the idea of a lease/purchase. The Council stated the commercial free lot application must be completed and submitted to the Council.
- 11.) **Industrial Park.** Mayor Jones stated a person was interested in lot five at the industrial park. A commercial free lot application must be completed and submitted to the Council.
- 12.) **Emergency Operations Plan.** Hassler stated he was waiting on the County to update their plan, he will be working on a debris management plan and mutual aid agreements.
- 13.) **Tractor Show.** The City received a call from B.J. Smart saying the committee will not hold a tractor show in 2009. The Tractor Show Committee has some money and are entertaining some park improvement ideas.
- 14.) **K-15 turning lane project.** Hassler reported he had a conference call last week with the engineers and they are still working on a concept. Hassler stated he hoped to hear from the engineers soon.

