

**WASHINGTON CITY COUNCIL MINUTES**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**Monday, December 7, 2009**

**1. Call to order by Mayor.**

Mayor Harold H. Jones, Jr. called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**2. Roll Call.**

Present: Harold H. Jones, Jr.  
Meyler Gibbs  
Gene Martin  
Ryan Kern  
Mike Uhlrich

Absent: Justin Cordry

Staff Present: Kurt Hassler, City Administrator  
Denise Powell, City Clerk  
Libby Baskerville-Hiltgen, City Attorney

**3. Citizen Comments.**

No comments were made by the public.

**4. Minutes.**

Motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of November 2, 2009, as presented by Gibbs and seconded by Kern.

Vote: Ayes: Meyler Gibbs  
Ryan Kern  
Gene Martin  
Mike Uhlrich

**5. Appropriations Ordinance 2009-12.**

Motion to approve Appropriations Ordinance 2009-12 by Martin and seconded by Gibbs.

Vote: Ayes: Meyler Gibbs  
Ryan Kern  
Gene Martin  
Mike Uhlrich

**6. Electric Distribution Study.**

Continued discussion on the electrical distribution system upgrades. The Council asked City Administrator Kurt Hassler to put together a total cost estimate of the project for the January meeting. Options for financing the project through a lease/purchase agreement through a local bank were discussed. An electric rate increase of one cent per kilowatt hour is being considered.

Hassler discussed negotiations with Francis Nutsch for property and a steel building east of the park. The appraised value is \$143,390 and includes just over 14 acres of land which is mostly in the flood plain. Hassler stated the money

could come from the general fund. Mr. Nutsch would like to close by December 31, 2009, and ask for a lump sum payment. Mr. Nutsch would not relinquish the entire building to the City until December 31, 2010.

Also, reviewed was the proposed contract for engineering, procurement and construction of the new substation station by Mid-States Energy Works, Inc. The City will face the expense of fencing, concrete, purchase of the transformer and costs associated with upgrades to other circuits.

The Council asked Hassler to negotiate with Mr. Nutsch a second parcel of land in exchange for allowing him to stay in the building until December 31, 2010.

Hassler also stated along with an increase in electric rates Council will need to consider an increase in water rates as there is not adequate funding to do needed repairs. According to Kansas Rural Water Association the state average is \$30 for 5,000 gallons and the City's is \$16.75 per 5,000 gallons.

**7. Personnel Manual.**

Motion to adopt drug and alcohol testing policy for non-DOT employees covering post accident and reasonable suspicion by Gibbs seconded by Martin.

Vote:	Ayes:	Meyler Gibbs
		Ryan Kern
		Gene Martin
		Mike Uhlrich

**8. Ordinance No. 735.**

Motion to adopt Ordinance No. 735, concerning the regulation of aboveground stationary liquefied petroleum gas storage tanks in the City, noting change to Section 2, this prohibition shall not apply to tanks forty pounds or less in size, by Gibbs and seconded by Kern.

Vote:	Ayes:	Meyler Gibbs
		Ryan Kern
		Gene Martin
		Mike Uhlrich

**9. Sidewalk Policy**

Motion to adopt the Sidewalk Policy as presented by staff, deleting item seven and replacing with, all applications will be forwarded to the City Council for consideration and the Council will consider each project based on the application submitted and determine which, if any, projects will be funded and at what levels they will be funded, by Gibbs and seconded by Uhlrich.

Vote:	Ayes:	Meyler Gibbs
		Ryan Kern
		Gene Martin
		Mike Uhlrich









## 23. Reports.

### A. Kurt Hassler:

#### 1.) Ambulance Service.

A copy of the letter from the County Commissioners and a copy of the proposed letter from the City have been included with this report. Letter sent to County Commissioners on Tuesday, December 8, 2009.

#### 2.) K-15/US 36 update.

Construction is still tentatively scheduled to begin in March, 2010.

#### 3.) Zoning Code.

Staff is working on the zoning code, but do not have it ready for distribution at this time. Staff hopes to have it ready for distribution in January.

#### 4.) Backflow Preventers.

Staff has identified three backflow preventers currently installed on City property. Two of the backflow preventers are located in the power plant. Staff has talked to a plumber that should be able to test the devices in the next 60 days. Once tested, staff believes one can be eliminated and create an air gap to prevent possible backflows. If the backflow preventer passes the test, it could then be installed in another location.

A third backflow preventer is located on the irrigation system in the park. The system will be tested in the spring.

#### 5.) Radio Read Meters.

This item has been put on hold until staff has time to pursue it.

#### 6.) Water Well Circuit.

Staff is still evaluating options on the water well circuit and should have recommendations for the January council meeting.

#### 7.) Well Lease.

The lease is up on the land the water wells are located on. Staff will need to renegotiate the lease for the land or explore purchasing the land. This will ensure the city's rights and secure the land for long term.



**12.) Playground cover.**

A second quote was received for rubber tire mulch from Sterling West in El Dorado. The quote was for \$45,464.46. The grant application on the KDHE website is not available yet. Staff hopes to have the application complete and ready for consideration at the January meeting.

**13.) Summer Help/Lifeguards.**

The City hired four summer help positions and six lifeguards for 2009. Hassler is proposing to hire four summer help, one pool manager, one assistant pool manager, and six lifeguard positions for 2010. Proposed wages were discussed.

Staff will begin advertising for the positions and formally hire for the positions at the February meeting.

**14.) Employment.**

Jacob Kongs expressed interest in working over Christmas break. Hassler stated there is enough indoor work and if weather permits outside work to keep him busy. Council gave permission to hire Kongs over Christmas break.

**15.) Bid Proposal for Utility Tractor**

A draft of the bid proposal request for a utility tractor was reviewed.

**16.) Property**

Hassler discussed the backflow recently installed on an irrigations system on Carol Krenz property, 605 Sunset Lane. He stated Randy Latta did the plumbing and another contract installed the irrigation system and a valve was placed between the meter and backflow preventer which leaves the potential for cross-contamination. Hassler stated he would be sending a letter to Krenz, Latta and the contractor stating it is unacceptable and will have to be fixed.

**B. Gene Martin:**

- 1.) Asked what the policy was for vehicles left on the streets designated for emergency snow routes. According to Hassler they may be towed but haven't been an issue yet.
- 2.) Inquired about the Pride Program meeting that Hassler didn't attend and available grant money.

**C. Justin Cordry:**

- 1.) Thought the painted handicap stalls in front of the courthouse are confusing and asked if they could be painted the same on both sides of the ramp. Hassler stated the paint on the street and curb is not enforceable but the signs are.
- 2.) Inquired about a business interested in the former Major Theater lot.

**24. Adjournment.**

Motion to adjourn to 5 p.m., Tuesday, December 15, 2009, by Gibbs and seconded by Cordry.

Vote:	Ayes:	Justin Cordry
		Meyler Gibbs
		Ryan Kern
		Gene Martin
		Mike Uhlrich

Meeting adjourned at 11:48 p.m.

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Denise M. Powell, City Clerk