

City Council Minutes  
January 25, 2021

The meeting was called to order in the Council meeting room at 7:00 p.m. by Mayor Hegwood. Present were Lance DeLissa, Armando Gonzalez, Roberto Holguin, Brian Kroth and George Lucas. Also present were City Administrator Dean Cordes and City Attorney Clay Kuhns. Absent was City Clerk Janet Gleason. Visitors were Bobbi Allison, Tom Kuhns, Rusty Blehm, Ron Hall, Mike Gillen, and Mike Godfrey.

There was no public comment.

Ron Hall, Department of Transportation, presented information from the traffic study conducted on September 11 and 12, 2019. The study did not warrant the need for a stoplight at the intersection of Highway 23 and 54. There were three recommendations: 1: reduce traffic on Highway 54 to one lane each way with a left turn lane. 2: remove the crosshatch markings on hwy 23. 3: install left turn lanes for north and south bound traffic on hwy 23. They recommend creating a lane in the middle for left turns and the rest of traffic would be channeled to go straight or turn right. The signal intersection is well below the critical accident rate of 15.7 crashes/# vehicle. Actual rate there is 5. These are all just recommendations, not requirements. If the city chooses to keep the traffic light all costs will be on the city. DeLissa asked if the volume study was done on highway 54 or highway 23. Hall stated that they looked at both and the study looks at the gaps. If the traffic on 54 leaves enough gaps to cross without backing up traffic, a stoplight is not warranted. Gonzalez asked if the Department of Transportation was considering bypassing Meade in the development of plans for highway 54 to become a four-lane highway. Hall said there would be public meetings targeted for local officials and to the public prior to the development of those projects. Kroth asked Hall about the stoplight and Hall stated that if the city were willing to let the stoplight go away the DOT could come in and do a construction project and make improvements. If the city keeps the light the cost is on the city. Gillen asked Hall if the reason the accident rate is low might be because of the stoplight. When the light is not working it takes at least 3 people to work the traffic and if the light is taken out there will be an increase in accidents at the intersection. Hegwood and Gillen agreed that we need the stoplight to control traffic flow. Hall commented that if hwy 54 is made into a 4 lane the increase in traffic at that time might warrant another study. Kroth commented that the electronic logbooks are also contributing to safety issues because truckers are more inclined to speed through town to make up time. Hall commented that is an issue for law enforcement.

Cordes asked Hall about drainage issue at the intersection of hwy 54 and 23. When it rains the gutter fills up and the outside lane collects water. Traffic then creates a wake and pushes water in the businesses. Hall stated he would have to bring dot officials to town to look at the issue and see if there is any funding available.

Cordes also asked about the City Connecting Link program. Hall will send him more information on the program.

Motion by Gonzalez, seconded by Lucas to approve the minutes as written from the January 11 and January 21 Special meeting. Motion carried with all in favor.

Dean informed council the airport runway project was finished and is open. There is still work to be done on the Papi lights and the tower. The lights were \$21,000.00 so Cordes would like to do some concrete work around them to prevent damage from the mower. DeLissa asked about replacement lights and Cordes will check with Airport Development Group regarding this.

The planning committee reviewed a draft ordinance regarding storage containers and a draft ordinance regarding corner lots and recommended the ordinances remain unchanged. The planning committee felt that changing them would create more issues than it would solve. Gonzalez felt Council should go with the recommendation of the Committee, but it does not mean the ordinances could not be reviewed in the future. Council took no action on the draft ordinances.

Cordes presented interest quotes for a renewing CD. Meade State Bank: 6 month @ .45%, 12 month @ .55%. Plains State Bank: 6 months @.41%, 12 month @ .51%. Fowler State Bank did not submit a quote.

Motion by DeLissa, seconded by Gonzalez to move the \$100,000.00 CD at Plains State Bank to Meade State Bank. Motion carried with all in favor.

Motion by DeLissa, second by Lucas to keep the members to the board of directors at KMEA as is- Brian Kroth, JD Hegwood and Dean Cordes. Motion carried with all in favor.

Cordes presented council with a summary of the 2020 project list and a proposed 2021 projects list. Kroth requested repairs to the stoplight and repairs to the Scada System be moved to the top of the list. Cordes will gather more information on these two projects.

Cordes presented bids for the purchase of a tractor: American Implement, Dodge City- John Deere 5090E Tractor and front-end loader @ \$67,156.39. Tractor Center, Dalhart TX- New Holland Powerstar 75 tractor and front-end loader \$49,000.00 Kanamack Equipment, Garden City-Kioti RX 7320 Tractor and front-end loader \$41,709.00. Bid also added a box scraper @ \$1481.00, pallet forks @ \$815.00 and 15 ft Batwing mower @ 14,882.00. Total bid including all additions was \$58,591.00. Motion by Kroth, second by DeLissa to purchase a Kioti tractor package including a 15' batwing mower for \$58,591.00. Motion carried with all in favor.

Attorney Kuhns told council that statutorily the council could not un-annex the property but there is a process for vacating the property. Vacating would include a public comment period and a public hearing. If the property were

vacated it would remain within the certified territory of the city and the COOP would still purchase their power from the city. Kuhns verified with the council that they understood that if the property were vacated the city would not collect property tax. Council was in consensus to move forward with the process of vacating the property.

Mike Godfrey asked about repairing some of the areas along Highway 23 where the curb and gutter is missing or broken. Cordes will talk with the County Commissioners about the areas along the courthouse, and Christine McPheter regarding the area on her property.

Motion by Gonzalez, seconded by Lucas to adjourn. Motion carried with all in favor.

ATTEST:

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J.D. Hegwood, Mayor

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Janet Gleason, Clerk