

City Council Minutes
July 10, 2023

The meeting was called to order in the Council meeting room at 7:00 p.m. by Mayor Hegwood. Present were Mitch Brenner, Lance DeLissa, Roberto Holguin, Brian Kroth, and George Lucas. Also present were City Administrator Dean Cordes and City Clerk Janet Gleason. Attorney Kuhns was absent.

Visitors were Tom Kuhns, Bobbie Allison, Jamie Boese, Weston Kroth, Rod Hay, Ed Pippit and Jolie Girard.

Jolie Girard presented the Council with an EMC Dividend check in the amount of \$17,127.70. Cordes noted that Chubb has not contacted us regarding the claim on the generator. Girard will follow up on this.

Rod Hay, Hay Rice & Associates, presented the proposed 2024 budget to the City Council. The proposed mill levy is 78.24 as compared to last year of 78.66 but the Revenue Neutral Rate is 72.673 so we will need to have a hearing prior to passing the budget.

Boese noted to the Council that KHRC has made some changes in processes. She is still waiting on the grant agreement from them. She has received one application and one inquiry regarding the two new builds. Weston hopes to begin construction in August. Council discussed other grant programs with Boese. Council members agreed that they would be interested in future MIH grants to build more new homes if the current project goes well, but they were not interested in matching grant programs.

Weston Kroth informed the council that he received an ABODE grant to build three duplexes. He would like to build those on Bainter Lots 9,10 and 11. Attorney Kuhns is writing a contract. When the building permit is approved and contract for the lots signed, Kroth will begin paying the special assessments on those lots.

Minutes of the June 26, 2023, meeting were approved as written.

There were no building permits.

Motion by Brenner seconded by Kroth to approve the Appropriations Ordinance in the amount of \$283,965.88. Motion carried with all in favor.

The owner of the Sunset Motel has indicated to Cordes that he intends to fix it up as well as the house behind it. Council directed Cordes to inspect the property and make a list of things that must be done for the Council to review.

Motion by DeLissa, seconded by Holguin to purchase a backup battery system for the stoplight in the amount of \$4,397.00 plus a reasonable amount for shipping. Motion carried with all in favor.

Carson Godfrey is now working full-time and consensus of council to split the payroll expenses between the Electric and the Street Departments.

Council approved overtime for crews to finish with limb cleanup from the storm due to other duties falling behind.

The city is temporarily renting a twenty yard dumpster from the county for residents to dispose of grass clippings. The city would have to purchase a twenty-yard dumpster and pay the county to take it to and from Liberal @ \$2.00/mile in addition to dump fees. The cost of the dumpster is \$4,450.00 plus an additional \$1,200.00 for the transportation costs of getting it from Houston TX for a total cost of \$5,650.00 just for the container. Cordes and Kroth will explore if there are any other more affordable options.

The supplier the city is using for chat is no longer going to be able to supply the 3/8" chat. Council discussed other options and requested Cordes do some research on using a larger size chat or other materials that could be options.

Cordes reported to the council that both vacuum pumps on the small lift station had failed and call boxes that United Wireless installed were not working so the alarm did not work. The pumps are now working and city staff is to check them daily but with the storm they may not have done so. Cordes has contacted United Wireless and is still waiting on them for service. There was spillage but it was hard to measure due to all the rain. The incident was reported to KDHE. Cordes will look into other types of alarm systems and other phone carriers.

Council granted Cordes's request to be out of the office July 11-14.

Cordes informed the Council that road construction will be starting on West Highway 54 from the Meade City limit to 1.8 miles E. of the Seward County line. The completion date is late October.

Gleason distributed copies of the current procurement policy to the council. DeLissa suggested adding to the policy that all bid requests and proposals are to be in writing.

Council approved Gleason’s request to apply for a Community Foundation Grant for additional playground equipment.

DeLissa asked if the pool lift had been repaired. Cordes is pricing controllers because there is no longer a replacement for the battery.

Brenner notes some damaged street signs because of the storm. Cordes is making a list of those that need repair.

Consensus of council to re-bid the pickup but wait until the 2024 models are available

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

JD Hegwood, Mayor

ATTEST:

Janet Gleason, City Clerk