

City Council Minutes

December 11, 2023

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

Gleason gave a housing grant spreadsheet to the council from Boese who was unable to attend the meeting.

Jeff Howard made a request to the council to review Ordinance 849 regulating shipping containers. He distributed information regarding container sizes and construction. They offer them as an alternative to stick built storage units. He has two customers who would like to purchase containers for storage on their property. Cordes noted that when the ordinance was written, the planning committee and Council agreed that storage containers look too industrial to be located in residential areas. Brenner asked the council what they would want for them to be approved. Another issue to note was that storage sheds require a building permit and are assessed for taxation, but storage containers are not assessed for property taxes. Gleason reached out to other cities through the CCMFO listserv and received 8 responses from cities who do not recommend allowing them and two responses from cities that have changed their policies. Council requested she contact more cities in our area regarding their policies and tabled the issue to gather more information.

There were no public comments.

Minutes of the November 27, 2023, meeting were approved as written.

Motion by DeLissa, seconded by Kroth to approve Building Permit #23025. Motion carried with all in favor.

Motion by Brenner, seconded by Lucas to approve appropriations Ordinance in the amount of \$250,133.25. Motion carried with all in favor.

Cordes explained to the council that upon reviewing Ordinance 924, passed in October for regulating fences, did not have all the revisions that had been requested. Cordes revised Ordinance 924 and presented Ordinance 926 to the council for review. Motion by Kroth, seconded by Lucas to repeal Ordinance 924 and pass Ordinance 926. Motion carried with all in favor.

ORDINANCE NO. 926

AN ORDINANCE DEFINING AND REGULATING FENCES WITHIN THE CITY OF MEADE, KANSAS, AND REPEALING SUBSECTION 2A, OF SECTION 2, ARTICLE XXVII OF ORDINANCE NO. 814 (ZONING ORDINANCE), ORDINANCE NO. 777, ORDINANCE NO. 831, and Ordinance 924.

Cordes informed the council that the owners of the Presbyterian Church located at 402 W Carthage signed for the Certified letter but have not contacted the city. Cordes shared with the council a letter from the Meade County Historical Society regarding an interest in preserving the structure but noting that they did not have funds available and inquiring about collaboration with the city. Council discussed the issue and how rapidly the structure was deteriorating. A petition was signed to begin the condemnation process.

Cordes reported that an agent from CHUBB contacted him, and the claim had been sitting idle. It is now under review and the city should get a response within two weeks.

Kroth reported that he had met with some of the pilots' using hangars at the Meade Airport and presented a list of possible projects. These included partitions dividing the hangars to be complete to the trusses, full concrete floors, updated restrooms, updated lounge, and a better security gate system. Kroth feels it is important to have a projects list for the airport. DeLissa asked Cordes to contact EBH about grant possibilities for building a new set of hangars.

Roger Messenger has approached Cordes about renting a part of the storage area at the T-hangar for classroom space. Council discussed possible options and Cordes will bring more information to the next meeting.

Motion by Brenner, seconded by Holguin to grant full-time city employees a 5% Cost of Living increase for 2024. Motion carried with all in favor.

Gleason informed the council that Craig Stratton had asked her to convey his thanks to the council for keeping the Hangar Rent at the airport at the 2023 rates.

Brenner thanked Dean and the city crews for their work at moving the tree limbs. Council discussed chipping the limbs, but consensus was that it would be expensive and would not produce a useable product since the wood would not be treated.

Cordes informed the council that KDOT has installed the poles in the no turning areas on Highway 23 at the stoplight.

The Animal Control officer is working. Animal calls go to the Sheriff’s office and are forwarded to the animal control officer.

DeLissa made a motion to enter into executive session for personal matters of non-elected personnel for 15 minutes with the Governing Body and Cordes and Gleason present. Kroth seconded and the motion carried 5-0. Executive session began at 8:33pm. After executive session, no action was taken.

Motion by Brenner, seconded by DeLissa to hire Christina Redger for the Utility Billing Clerk position at a rate of \$15.00/hour, contingent upon her acceptance of the position. Motion carried with all in favor.

Brenner made a motion to not have a December 25th council meeting, seconded by DeLissa. and motion carried 5-0. Motion carried with all in favor.

Motion by Kroth, second by Holguin to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried with all in favor.

J.D. Hegwood, Mayor

ATTEST:

Janet Gleason, City Clerk