

City of Meade

The council meeting was called to order in the council meeting room at 7:00 P.M. by Mayor Richard Knott. Council members present were Roger Musgrove, JD Hegwood, Bart Fischer, Brian Kroth and Lance DeLissa. Also present were City Administrator Dean Cordes, City Attorney Clay Kuhns, and City Clerk Janet Gleason. Visitors were Lisa Knoll (KDOT), Ron Hall (KDOT), Bobbi Allison, Elaine Post, Wilma Pennington, Mike Godfrey, Shelly Cook, and Tom Kuhns

Four Utility extensions were given.

Ron Hall, Kansas Department of Transportation began the meeting saying the first thing KDOT was NOT going to do is come in and take out the stoplight. They will work with the city regarding safety and traffic flow issues and come to a good solution but they will not provide funding. He stated that KDOT has 3 traffic studies going back to 2002 and none of them meet the warrants to indicate the need for a signal. The 2002 study indicated the stoplight should be removed and replaced with a two-way stop sign. The 2006 study did not meet the warrants for the stoplight and “tilted” toward a four-way stop. The engineer did not recommend removal of the stoplight because he had concerns about trucks blocking the view of the stop sign from other trucks. The most recent study was conducted in April of 2017 and it again didn’t meet the warrants and recommended removal of the stoplight but did not indicate whether it “tilted” toward a two way or four way stop. Hall consulted with the current Bureau Chief of Safety and Technology and his recommendation was to conduct another count before taking any action because prior studies had differing recommendations. Because the stoplight did not meet warrants the Kansas Department of Transportation will not participate in any upgrades associated with the stoplight. Cordes asked what would happen if the city chose to pay for upgrades to the stoplight and Hall responded he was not sure. Cordes asked if Hall thought a light was safer than a stop sign and Hall said not necessarily. Hall gave an example of the installation of a four way stop at the intersection of K95 and K25 in Leoti improved the safety of that intersection because the trucks had to stop. Fischer said that one of the concerns the city has is providing crosswalks and safety for our kids, especially in the summer. Knoll said one option is to put in bump outs—these have been effective in Holcomb. These narrow the passageway for the trucks and they will slow down. It also makes the distance the pedestrian has to cross shorter and makes the pedestrian more visible. The downside of a bump out can make it difficult for long loads to make the corners. Hall suggested the city explore applying for a Safe Route to Schools grant that could possibly provide some funding for crosswalks and possible a pedestrian activated sign.

Cordes asked if it would become a concern to the State if the city chose to upgrade the stoplight. Hall said he would have to find out. Mayor asked if there would be things they would be concerned about such as the push button crosswalk. Cordes asked if Hall could tell us how far the stoplight is from being warranted and Hall said it was not close. Musgrove asked about putting in a “bridge over” and Hall indicated that would be a very expensive option. Knoll again mentioned exploring the option of a grant.

Delissa commented that the stoplight provides a break in traffic that gives pedestrians an opportunity to cross. He also mentioned that it can be a safety issue when the car in the outside lanes slows for a pedestrian to cross but the inside lane of traffic does not slow and a pedestrian does not see them. Hall stated that when they do a study they look at the “gap”. Hall also said that no matter what you do to provide safety you still have to teach the kids to stop and look because it is the pedestrian who loses when there is a mistake.

Cordes asked if there was any chance of more passing lanes on Highway 54 in the near future because part of the problem is that drivers are trying to use the four lanes as a passing lane going through town. Hall said “I hope so”. Hall said that funding had been taken from KDOT but some has been restored and some projects have been identified.

Inlow requested Officers Wondra and Clerk attend Advanced Roadside Impaired Driving Enforcement training and also to attend Child Passenger Safety Technician training in Liberal. Inlow said a vehicle count was done with the new sign in April and the count was 63,000 vehicles—that is both directions.

Post asked Inlow what type of reimbursement would be made to the city and how many inspections would be required of the officers trained for commercial inspections. Inlow said they would be required to do about four inspections per month. She asked what advantage there would be to have city officers trained to do these inspections. Inlow said truckers aren’t necessarily afraid of speeding tickets because they can buy their way out but they can’t buy their way out of an inspection. Inlow said most complaints to the Police Department are regarding commercial vehicles and the training of officers for commercial inspections is encouraged by the Kansas Highway Patrol.

Minutes of the April 8 meeting were approved as written.

Fischer motioned to approve building permit #19011, second by Delissa. Motion carried all in favor.

Lifeguard and Pool Job Descriptions and Pool Manager Contract were reviewed. Cordes asked for clarification of how the lifeguards are identified. Cook indicated that the lifeguards are asked to order a red or a blue lifeguard suit—the suits do say Guard on them. Kroth asked Cook when she last had a pay increase and in the time she has managed the pool she had one \$.50 increase in 2016. Council agreed the position requires a lot of responsibility and she manages the pool well and has handled some difficult situations well. Musgrove motioned, seconded by

Kroth to raise the pool manager pay to \$15.00/hour. Delissa motioned, seconded by Hegwood to approve the pool manager contract.

Cook said the community is blessed to have a pool because it is a place for kids to be. The pool will be painted and no-slip strips will be added to the restrooms. Cordes and Cook have discussed some possible enhancements to the pool next year when funds might be available due to the street sealing rotation.

The concrete crushing is complete. Council determined there is not a readily available source in Meade County and it would be a benefit to the residents of the area to provide it for purchase. The cost will be \$14.00/ton within the city limits and \$16.00/ton outside the city limits. There will be additional charges for the use of city equipment/personnel for loading and or hauling.

Cordes consulted with Stevens regarding the trees at the park and recommended they be treated. Cordes will move forward on this.

The library board has determined that due to necessary repairs the fountain has reached its life expectancy and will be removed.

Council agreed the Cordes could sell the old fuel trailer no longer in use on Purple Wave.

Cordes presented photos of the airport hangar roof and clarification of what materials the bidders intended to use as well as the warranties for the work done. Considerable discussion regarding the differences in the materials, warranties and bid differences were discussed. Council asked Cordes to clarify with Knott the repairs to expansion joint.

Cordes presented bid for the pickup bed. The lowest bid was from ETI for a steel bed for \$8019.02. Kroth motioned, seconded by Delissa to purchase the steel bed from ETI for \$8,019.02. Motion carried all in favor. Cost will be pro-rated from the electric and water departments.

Fischer motioned, seconded by Kroth to renew a \$600,000.00 Certificate of Deposit for 12 months with Meade State Bank at a rate of 2.65%. Motion carried with all in favor.

Fischer motioned, seconded by Delissa to grant utility billing clerk, Leann Kramer, 3 month increase of 5%. Motion carried.

Fischer motioned, seconded by Hegwood, to pass Ordinance #898, relating to the sale of cereal malt beverage. Motion carried.

ORDINANCE NO. 898

AN ORDINANCE REGULATING THE SALE OF CEREAL MALT BEVERAGE AND BEER CONTAINING NOT MORE THAN 6% ALCOHOL BY VOLUME WITHIN THE CITY OF MEADE, KANSAS AND REPEALING ORDINANCE NO. 570 AND ORDINANCE NO. 658

Cordes and Godfrey discussed city-wide clean up. It will be done as it has in the past and pick up of items will begin on May 6.

With no further business to come before the council, Musgrove made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Fischer. Motion carried with all in favor.

Richard Knott, Mayor

ATTEST:

Janet Gleason, City Clerk