

City Council Minutes

Meeting date:

Monday, August 24, 2020

The meeting was called to order in the Council meeting room at 7:00 p.m. by Council President Lance DeLissa in the absence of Mayor J.D. Hegwood. Present were Roberto Holguin, Brian Kroth and George Lucas. Also present were City Administrator Dean Cordes and City Clerk Janet Gleason. Visitors were Bobbi Allison, Tom Kuhns and Michael Inlow.

There were no extension requests.

There was no public comment.

Inlow presented the monthly police report. Attached to the police report was a letter from the Meade County Sheriff Department requesting back payment for booking fees stating that Council had approved the fees and the issue had been addressed several times with no resolution. No one present at the meeting could recall this issue ever being addressed at a council meeting. The letter also stated that effective September 1, 2020 the City Police Department will be responsible for booking in city arrestees. Inlow stated that requiring the city officers to book in inmates takes an officer off street duty when there are two jailers available at the Police Station. The city currently contracts with the Meade County Sheriff's Office to pay \$2,500 monthly for dispatch and \$20.00/day for inmates related to City Arrests. Attorney Kuhns offered his services as a mediator to resolve the issue. Inlow stated that the city does not bill the Sheriff's office when city officers are called to assist county officers.

Kroth asked Inlow if he felt he would be able to stay within the police department budget this year and Inlow stated that he felt pretty good about it.

Officer Wondra will be working with Highway Patrol Officer Hardaway to complete the 32 required motor carrier inspections.

Motion by Lucas, seconded by Holguin to approve the \$200, 2-day Drug Interdiction training request in Dodge City on October 8 and 9 for Officer Wondra. Motion carried with all in favor.

Inlow mentioned that when possible, the city officers will provide traffic control for helicopter landings in the hospital parking lot. Council discussed the risk of helicopters hitting the power line that supplies the hospital and possible options. Cordes plans to contact the Department of Transportation regarding the most recent traffic study and at that time will also ask if there would be any issues with a fenced landing pad at the hospital.

Inlow requested the Council consider an Ordinance creating a "no phone" zone around the grade school. Due to the changes made to help prevent the spread of Coronavirus, the students are now going in and out all doors. Kuhns will draft an ordinance for review at the next meeting.

Inlow requested the Council consider allowing angle parking on West West Plains Street from Highway 23 to South Springlake.

July 27, 2020 minutes were approved as written. Motion carried.

Motion by Kroth, second by Lucas to approve building permit #20016. Motion carried with all in favor. Building permit #20017 was tabled.

Cordes presented the changes and Planning Commissions suggestions to the guidelines for Corner lot accessory buildings. Cordes will make the suggested modifications and bring it to the next Planning Commission meeting.

The Cedar Street water project is progressing well. The 100 and 200 blocks are completed, and they are moving into the 300-500 blocks. Frank Penner would like to go ahead and bill for the portion that was finished so that he can pay for materials. Consensus of Council was to go ahead and pay him \$150,000.00.

Cordes explained to the council that the project will use about half of the funds in the water improvement budget. DeLissa asked if money could be moved into the fund and Cordes explained that the water fund is a budgeted fund and it was not increased in the 2021 budget. It could be increased in the 2022 budget.

Cordes has received the contract from Todd and Imagene Davis for the property located at 120-132 East Carthage. The contract requires that they must construct a building within 18 months of the date on the deed. They have submitted a rough plan to Cordes but have not completed a building permit yet.

DV Douglas of Garden City checked the power plant roof and it will need to be replaced next year. The expense could come from the electric improvement fund.

Motion by Lucas, second by Kroth to grant a 2-year raise from \$17.49 to \$18.71 to Dennis Foster. Motion carried with all in favor.

Council reviewed the July treasurer report.

Gleason presented quotes for requests for CARES ACT funding. Kuhns felt that if the items were related to Covid they would probably be reimbursed. DeLissa asked if we would get approval first or we had to spend the money and be reimbursed for the expenses. Kuhns responded that we can either request reimbursement or we can wait for approval from the state. Kuhns verified that the state requires all payments must be made by December 30 and is supposed to confirm all the direct aid payments by September 15. Meade County is requiring that all payments be made by November 1 or they will take the money back and determine where it can be spent. The Council tabled the items until the September 14 meeting.

Motion by Kroth, second by Lucas to pay Elliott Custom Works \$465.00 to construct plexiglass barriers for the City Clerk office.

Motion by Kroth, seconded Lucas to donate \$250.00 to the Meade Ranch Rodeo. Motion carried.

Council was in consensus on the appointment of Austin Jansonious and Justina Daily to the Economic Development board by DeLissa (in the absence of Mayor Hegwood).

Motion by Kroth, seconded by Holguin to enter executive session with council, Attorney Kuhns, Cordes and Gleason regarding confidential financial data for the financial affairs of a second party for 5 minutes to meet back in this same room. Motion carried. After executive session, no action was taken.

With no further business before the council there was a motion by Lucas, seconded by Holguin to adjourn. Motion carried with all in favor.

ATTEST:

J.D. Hegwood, Mayor

Janet Gleason, Clerk