

City Council Meeting Minutes
November 6, 2018

WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Debi Schwerdtfeger called the regular City Council Meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance. Council members present were: Jesse Knight, Jeff Blosser, Mark Brooks, Keith Wessel, and Sharon Haun. Councilperson Mark Berner was absent. City Attorney Randy Heilman and City Administrator Nick Jones were also present. Others attending were: Robert Herbig, Kerry Long, Larry Fischer, Jake Kempler, Abe Forbeck, Jeremy Thibodaux, Mika Doornbos, Becky Blosser, Allen Blosser, Wade Wallace, Jillian Love, Diane Wolfe, Building Inspector Larry Siegrist, Deputy Building Inspector James Masters, Recreation Director Justin Carlson, Marcus Hernandez, and Megan Glotzbach.

PUBLIC HEARING – KERRY LONG – DANGEROUS TREES

Deputy Building Inspector James Masters noted the address where the dangerous trees were reported are at 225 E. Conn Street. Deputy Building Inspector Masters noted one of the neighbors, Becky Blosser, had filed a complaint after a branch had fallen and damaged a portion of their fence. Deputy Building Inspector Masters inspected the trees in question and he noted some of the trees have knots holes in them, branches broken off, and one appears to be split at the base. City Attorney Randy Heilman requested the number of trees in dispute. Deputy Building Inspector James Masters noted there are three trees that appear dangerous, one in the front yard and two in the back yard. City Attorney Heilman requested Allen or Becky Blosser give their account regarding the complaint. Allen Blosser presented photos showing one tree split all the way to the ground and noted 40 feet of their privacy fence was damaged during the fall of 2018. City Attorney Heilman requested Kerry Long speak on his behalf. Kerry Long noted he does not feel his trees are dangerous and requested a professional exam the trees in question. Councilperson Mark Brooks noted the City can request the State Arborist to exam the trees and if she says they need to be removed then Mr. Long will remove them or if she says they are fine the trees can stay. Mr. Long noted he has removed the ones he believed to be dead and will remove more if a professional arborist deems they need to be removed. City Attorney Randy Heilman reviewed the City Council's finding for the Public Hearing. The City will request Kim Bomberger from KSU to check the status of the trees at 225 E. Conn Street. Mr. Long will follow her recommendations in regard to the trees on his property.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD I

None

CONSENT AGENDA

Councilperson Mark Brooks made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented in the packet. Councilperson Keith Wessel seconded the motion. The consent agenda consisted of:

- October 16, 2018 Minutes.
- October 16, 2018 to Current Appropriations.
- City Lake Cabin Transfers: G-03 from Karen Lungwitz Trust to Shirley Power Living Trust, Hutchinson, KS
J-04 from Jon & Angie Pope to Shirley Bogner Living Trust, Dodge City, KS
D-37 from Ayrian & Marilee Grove to Eric Nelson, Council Grove, KS

The Council voted 5-0 in favor. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

- **14 N. Neosho Update**
City Administrator Nick Jones noted debris has been removed. Councilperson Mark Brooks suggested placing short term parking signs on the lot.
- **Elm Creek Dike Repair: Update**
City Administrator Nick Jones the project is underway now and hopes to be done soon.
- **Ben I. Smith: Snack Shack**
City Administrator Nick Jones noted the old shack is down and the City will need to start considering what they will be replacing it with.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Tax Grant Committee Recommendations**
City Administrator Nick Jones reviewed the Sales Tax Grant Committee Recommendations.

- Council Grove Disk Golf Club requested \$4,900.00 – Recommendation to approve. After discussion Councilperson Mark Brooks made a motion to approve the recommendation for the Council Grove Disk Golf Club. Councilperson Jesse Knight seconded the motion and the Council voted 5-0 in favor. Motion carried.
- Kansas Historical Society & Kansas Historical Foundation requested \$10,000.00 – Recommendation to approve. After discussion Councilperson Jesse Knight made a motion to approve the recommendation for the Kansas Historical Society & Kansas Historical Foundation. Councilperson Sharon Haun seconded the motion and the Council voted 3-0 in favor with Councilperson Mark Brooks abstaining. Motion carried. 4-0
- **Chamber of Commerce**
Diane Wolfe, Council Grove/Morris County Chamber Director, presented an update regarding how the Chamber is doing. It was noted there have been many successful events held in town including Candle Light Charm and Evening on the Riverwalk. The chamber is working on the Christmas Lights on Downtown Council Grove and noted they may need to be replaced soon.
- **Lake Association**
Robert Herbig, Council Grove Lake Association President, noted they are working on the goals included in their master plan. The Lake Association plans to come to the Lake Committee with recommendations regarding education and regulation for the City Lake.
- **Community Events Application – USD 417**
Mika Doornbos, representing USD 417, reviewed the details of the Community Events Application and requested the fee for the application be waived. After discussion Councilperson Jesse Knight made a motion to approve the Community Events Application and waive the application fee. Councilperson Jeff Blosser seconded the motion and the Council voted 4-0 in favor with Councilperson Mark Brooks abstaining. Motion carried. 5-0
- **Fair Grounds Park – Entrance Sign**
Councilperson Jeff Blosser noted the Recreation Committee have a plan for a new Fair Grounds Park sign and there are possible donations that will go toward the sign. Councilperson Blosser noted he will come back when the drafts for the main and possible smaller signs labeling each area are ready.
- **Council Grove Dog Park**
City Administrator Nick Jones noted the Riverwalk Committee has proposed placing a Dog Park in the Ax Property that is located on the North East side of the Riverwalk on Valley Street. City Administrator Jones noted the City can reuse the ball park fence, purchase new fence poles and dog watering stations, and will need to come up with a design and rules for the park. After discussion Councilperson Jeff Blosser made a motion to hire a consultant to draft a proposal for a dog park with RV parking including drainage and the trail that will be going through the area as well as how to move forward with the project. Councilperson Sharon Haun seconded the motion and the Council voted 4-0 in favor with Councilperson Keith Wessel abstaining. Motion carried. 5-0
- **Appointment of Jim Crosby to Recreation Assistant**
Mayor Debi Schwerdtfeger appointed James (Jim) Crosby to Recreation Assistant at \$12.00 per hour. Councilperson Jeff Blosser confirmed the appointment. Councilperson Mark Brooks seconded the confirmation and the Council voted 5-0 in favor.
City Attorney Randy Heilman noted he has drafted a new Ordinance reflecting the new wage for a Recreation Assistant and will need to be approved. Councilperson Jeff Blosser made a motion to approve the Recreation Assistant Wage Ordinance. Councilperson Sharon Haun seconded the motion and the Council voted 5-0 in favor. Motion carried. Ordinance # 2207
- **Riley Construction – Wood Street Repair**
Councilperson Jeff Blosser noted the corner of Wood Street and Chick Street needs to be repaired due to surface water runoff collecting at the corner. Councilperson Blosser noted the area has had drainage problem in the past but it has gotten worse when the new parking lots were installed. City Administrator Nick Jones noted there is currently not Ordinance that address storm water drainage. After discussion Councilperson Sharon Haun made a motion to seek bids to repair the road. Councilperson Jeff Blosser seconded the motion and the Council voted 5-0 in favor. Motion carried.

- **City Council Meeting Day/Time**

Mayor Debi Schwerdtfeger noted City Administrator Nick Jones will be attending a City Administrator Class that may make him to be late to the Council meetings. City Administrator Nick Jones noted the Council meeting could be moved to another day or moved to a later time. After discussion Councilperson Jeff Blosser made a motion to have the City Attorney draft an Ordinance setting the Council meeting days to the first and third Tuesday of every month at 6:00 P.M. effective January 1, 2019. Councilperson Keith Wessel seconded the motion and the Council voted 5-0 in favor. Motion carried.

- **Executive Session**

Councilperson Keith Wessel made a motion to go into an executive session for 15 minutes to discuss financial affairs of an individual proprietor in relation to a possible charitable donation to the City of Council Grove. Present shall be the Governing body present, the City Attorney and the City Administrator. Councilperson Sharon Haun seconded the motion and the Council voted 5-0 in favor. Motion carried.

Upon return no action was taken.

GOVERNING BODY COMMENTS

- Councilperson Jesse Knight suggested having a Work-Study to discuss property within the City Limits that are delinquent on their taxes and blighted to start a process of getting them cleaned up. Councilperson Knight noted a land bank may be an option to look into.
- Councilperson Mark Berner – Absent
- Councilperson Jeff Blosser reminded the public about the 177 Highway Public Hearing taking place this Friday in Manhattan.
Councilperson Blosser noted the City has received a donation from the Bill Young Trust to pay for one full batting cage.
- Councilperson Mark Brooks thanked the City for supporting the Kaw Mission.
- Councilperson Keith Wessel thanked the past Councilmembers for their vision they had for the City and the work they have done to get us where we are now.
- Councilperson Sharon Haun noted she is very proud of what the Economic Development Committee has completed with the Minnesota Housing Project.
- City Attorney Randy Heilman – Nothing
- City Administrator Nick Jones noted his child will be born soon and will be in and out of the office.
- Mayor Debi Schwerdtfeger noted the lights at the hospital can be seen from 177 as you are coming in to town from the North side.

ADJOURNMENT

Councilperson Sharon Haun made a motion to adjourn. Councilperson Mark Brooks seconded the motion and the Council voted 5-0 in favor. Motion carried.


Debi Schwerdtfeger Mayor

ATTEST:


Nick Jones City Administrator

