

City Council Meeting Minutes
December 17, 2024

WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Debi Schwertfeger called the regular City Council Meeting to order. Council members present were Jason Booker, Mark Berner, Denise Hartman, Sean Honer, Nathan Adams and Sharon Haun through Zoom, also present were the City Administrator Nick Jones Others attending were Jan Sciacca, Karen Exon, Shelley Dunham, Ryan McDonald, Brian Foster, Angie Schwerdtfeger, Pastor Billy Kryger, Taylor Adams, Vern Hay, Joe Kyas, Jesse Knight

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

INVOCATION: Pastor Billy Kryger

PUBLIC COMMENT: N/A

CONSENT AGENDA:

Councilperson Denise Hartman made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented in the packet. Councilperson Sean Honer seconded the motion. Motion Carried 6 – 0 The consent agenda consisted of:

- December 3, 2024, Minutes
- December 3, 2024, to Current Appropriations.
- Cabin Transfers: N/A
- Renew Application for License to sell Cereal Malt Beverages: SaddleRock Café
- Renew Application to sell Cereal Malt Beverages in original and unopened containers and not for consumption on the licensed premise: SaddleRock Café

OLD BUSINESS

• **Swab Eaton Water and Sewer Update: Stuart Porter**

Stuart Porter with Swab Eaton presented to the Council updated cost and options for water and sewer at the Council Grove City Lake. Porter estimated the total construction cost for urban water distribution system and enhanced fire protection at \$8,446,405, Sewer collection system with onsite treatment at the airport \$17,025,971.60, and overhead cost of \$2,963,000.00 for a total of \$19,988,971.60. Porter also updated the original option to pump sewer to the city lagoons and rehabilitation of the existing sewer lines and manholes at a total construction cost of \$731,720 along with adding a wetland cell with irrigation at total construction cost of \$1,368,400. Porter said this option will go along with the urban water distribution system with enhanced fire protection total construction cost of \$22,876,731.40. Porter said funding would come from USDA and KDHE and he said we need to engage the funding agencies and see what is available for a project of this size. Porter also said that it is currently hard to predict what kind of grant funding is available with KDHE and USDA funding other large projects. City Administrator Nick Jones said the current annual inspections found 27 septic systems had failed inspection and 23 of those systems have been repaired with 4 systems still not in compliance. Administrator Jones also said that there are currently 33 septic systems that have not had an inspection or have not submitted inspection results. After discussion Councilperson Jason Booker made a motion to engage with the funding agencies. The motion was seconded by Councilperson Sean Honer. Motion carried 6 – 0

• **BG Consultants - City Sewer Project: Contract: Brian Foster**

Brian Foster with BG Consultants joined the meeting virtually to go through the contract agreement and answer any questions from the Council. Foster went through the Sanitary Sewer Improvements, Option 1 – Collection System Pipelining & Repairs with a project cost of \$3,162,750. Foster said the cost of a KDHE 20-year with the city not paying the \$223,000 for design user fee will be an additional \$17.40 a month per user and if the city paid the design fee of \$223,000 the user fee will be \$16.20 a month. If the city chooses the KDHE 30-year loan with the city not paying \$223,000 for design the user fee will be an addition \$13.50 a month and if the city paid the design fee of \$223,000 the user fee will be \$12.60 a month. Foster recommended the Council apply for the full amount including the design fee and said the amount can be adjusted if need be. A motion was made by Councilperson Sean Honer to approve the contract agreement. The motion was seconded by Councilperson Mark Berner. Motion carried 6 – 0

• **Safe Routes to School: Update**

- City Administrator Nick Jones told the Council that Bettis will shut down starting on December 20th until the end of January and will be back when weather allows.

Administrator Jones said Bettis will finish up ramps the sidewalk entrances and make them useable.

NEW BUSINESS

• **Office Committee Recommendation: Appointment of Kamryn Smith – Court Clerk/Admin. Assistant**

Mayor Debi Schwerdtfeger read the recommendation from the Office Committee for the Council to appoint Kamryn Smith to Court Clerk/Administrative Assistant at a pay rate of \$17.25 per hour with the possibility of going to \$17.50 after a 3-month probationary period. The appointment is contingent on passing a background check and drug and alcohol screening. This appointment will be effective on January 6, 2025. A motion was made by Councilperson Jason Booker to approve the appointment. The motion was seconded by Councilperson Mark Berner. Motion carried 6 – 0

• **GAAP Wavier: 121724-01**

Mayor Debi Schwerdtfeger the read GAAP Waiver Resolution 121724-01 waiving the generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP) in preparation of the financial statements and reports for the City of Council Grove, Kansas for 2024 to be prepared in conformity with the requirements of K.S.A 75-1120a(a). A motion was made by Councilperson Sean Honer to approve the resolution. The motion was seconded by Councilperson Jason Booker. Motion carried 6 – 0

• **Employee Holiday:**

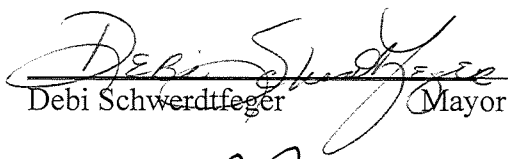
City Administrator Nick Jones told the Council that he spoke to the Department Heads, and they would like Monday December 23rd off as the Holiday bonus for their departments in lieu of a gift card. Administrator Jones said essential personnel who are scheduled to work or be on-call would receive an alternate day off. A motion was made by Councilperson Denise Hartman to approve the day 23rd off. The motion was seconded by Councilperson Nathan Adams.

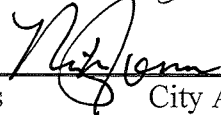
Motion carried 6 – 0

GOVERNING BODY COMMENTS

- Mayor Debi Schwerdtfeger – N/A
- Councilperson Mark Berner – N/A
- Councilperson Denise Hartman – Have a safe and Merry Christmas and end of year.
- Councilperson Sean Honer – N/A
- Councilperson Nathan Adams – N/A
- Councilperson Sharon Haun – Wished everyone a Happy Holidays
- Councilperson Jason Booker – Thanked the Mayor for the Chocolate
- City Attorney Brian Henderson – Absent
- Assistant City Attorney Molly Priest – Absent
- City Administrator Nick Jones – Wished everyone a Merry Christmas

- Mayor Schwerdtfeger asked for a motion to adjourn. Councilperson Denise Hartman made a motion to adjourn. Councilperson Mark Berner seconded the motion. Motion carried 6 – 0


Debi Schwerdtfeger Mayor

ATTEST: 
Nick Jones City Administrator

