

City Council Meeting Minutes
August 6, 2024

WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Debi Schwertfeger called the regular City Council Meeting to order. Council members present were Jason Booker, Denise Hartman, Sean Honer Nathan Adams, and Sharon Haun also present were the City Administrator Nick Jones and City Attorney's Brian Henderson by video, Others attending were Jan Sciacca, Vernon Hay, Zoey Wadick, Sharon McVay, Fred Bammes, Steve White, Pat Rioden, Karen Jantz, Ron Jantz, Daniel Fox, Kirk Dunham, Shelley Dunham, Taylor Adams, Annette Adams, James Crosby, Marty Wright, Kevin Lepper, Stan Bartley, Dan Winter.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

INVOCATION:

Jim Crosby

CONSENT AGENDA

Councilperson Sean Honer made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented in the packet. Councilperson Sharon Haun seconded the motion. Motion Carried 5 – 0 The consent agenda consisted of:

- July 16, 2024, Minutes
- July 16, 2024, to Current Appropriations.
- Cabin Transfers: R-3, I-1

OLD BUSINESS

• **Safe Routes to School: Update**

City Administrator Nick Jones informed the Council that the Safe Routes to School project has been delayed to the middle to end of August. The drop-dead date for the project to start is September 1.

• **LMI Survey: Update**

City Administrator Nick Jones informed the Council that the LMI survey is going well with about 20% of the city complete. Western Consultants hopes to have the surveys finished up in the next 3 to 4 weeks.

NEW BUSINESS

• **Lake Committee Recommendations: Ronnie & Karen Jantz**

City Administrator Nick Jones presented the recommendation from the City Lake Committee that denied the request to allow a deck extension of 9 feet into the 100-foot setback from the water's edge in accordance with Ordinance 12-612. Ronnie and Karen Jantz have appealed against the decision of the Lake Committee and as for consideration from the City Council. After discussion the project was approved based on letters of support from the Jantz neighbors and that this extension does not interfere with their view. A motion was made by Councilperson Sean Honer to approve the appeal. The motion was seconded by Councilperson Denise Hartman. Motion carried 5 – 0

• **City Audit Report: Adams Brown Strategic Allies and CPAs: Alex Mittie**

Alex Mittie with Adams Brown Strategic Allies and CPAs presented the 2023 City Audit to the City Council. Mittie went through the entirety of the Audit report noting that the only thing that needed corrected was a couple of encumbrances regarding approval of items approved by Council at the end of the 2023 year but not paid out until 2024. Mittie said this was just a timing issue and not that big of a deal. The items should have been encumbrances in 2023. After discussion a motion was made by Councilperson Jason Booker to approve the 2023 Audit. The motion was seconded by Councilperson Nathan Adams. Motion carried 5 – 0

• **Council Grove Area Trade & Tourism Association: Discussion**

Vice President Steve White with the Council Grove Trade & Tourism Association spoke to the Council regarding gauging the interest from the city to take over the tourism portion of the Association and have the city manage it. Discussion was held on whether the employee for the tourism position would be full-time or contractual. City

Administrator Jones said that is up to the Council. White said they will be meeting with the County to see if they would be willing to work with the city on tourism and transfer the money given to the Association for tourism to the city to promote all of Morris County. It was decided by the Council to explore the possibility of taking over tourism. A motion was made by Councilperson Jason Booker to move forward with exploring taking over the tourism arm of the Association. The motion was seconded by Councilperson Sharon Haun. Motion carried 5 – 0

- **Petition to Vacate Alleys: Set Public Hearings**

City Administrator Nick Jones presented 3 petitions to vacate alleys. A motion was made by Councilperson Denise Hartman to set the Public Hearing on the 17th of September 2024. The motion was seconded by Councilperson Sean Honer. Motion carried 5 – 0

- Bill Rice Jr. requested the vacation of the portion of a dedicated alley lying between Lots 10 – 12 Block 4 and Lots 1,2,3 Block4 & Lot 9 of Whitcomb's Addition to the City of Council Grove, Morris County, Kansas (Commonly known as 1014 Guston St) The hearing will be held on the 17th of September 2024 a 5:30pm at City Hall at 205 N. Union Street Council Grove, KS 66846
- Annette K Adams requested the vacation if the portion of a dedicated alley lying between Lots 3 – 6 and Lots 7 – 12 of Block 38 First Addition to the City of Council Grove, Morris County, Kansas (Commonly known as 11 S. Third and 203 E. Main) The hearing will be held on the 17th of September 2024 a 5:30pm at City Hall at 205 N. Union Street Council Grove, KS 66846
- Stephen Cabezut requested the vacation if the portion of a dedicated alley lying between Lots 1 – 3 Block 4 and Lots 1,2,3 of Block 5 of Huffaker Addition to the City of Council Grove, Morris County, Kansas (Commonly known as 501 Inman) The hearing will be held on the 17th of September 2024 a 5:30pm at City Hall at 205 N. Union Street Council Grove, KS 66846

- **Executive Session: Attorney Client Privilege – City Lake – Pat Riorden**

Councilperson Jason Booker made a motion to go into Executive Session for Attorney Client Privilege for City Lake with Attorney Pat Riorden and to include the Mayor, City Council, City Attorney, and City Administrator for 30 minutes. The motion was seconded by Councilperson Sean Honer. Motion carried 5 – 0

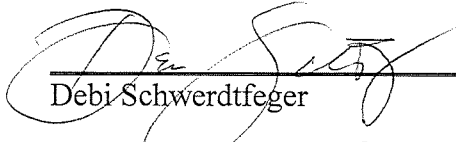
After returning from Executive Session Attorney Pat Riorden said that he and the Lake Association Attorney Kyle Steadman had emailed and spoken regarding issues with the lease violating Cash Basis Law. Riorden said that the Lake Association has indicated that they would not represent the lease holders if there was a lawsuit to which Riorden said creates a different issue and with just getting the response on Monday from the Lake Association Attorney he would like a little more time to review the lease.

GOVERNING BODY COMMENTS

- **Mayor Debi Schwerdtfeger** – N/A
- **Councilperson Mark Berner** – Absent
- **Councilperson Denise Hartman** – said there was a big pothole along the roads edge on 8th street by the school parking. Administrator Jones said the street department is aware and will get it taken care of.
- **Councilperson Sean Honer** – N/A
- **Councilperson Nathan Adams** – N/A
- **Councilperson Sharon Haun** – said to stay cool as it has been hot.
- **Councilperson Jason Booker** – N/A
- **City Attorney Brian Henderson** – N/A
- **Assistant City Attorney Molly Priest** – Absent
- **City Administrator Nick Jones** – said that Been Moore will be at the September 3rd meeting and the again at the September 17th meeting to go over the Katy Depot. Jones said that the Unites Sidecar Association will be using the park behind the Katy Depot on Sept. 7th from 12pm to 2pm. Jones informed the Council that the last day the swimming pool will be open is on August 11th. Jones said all pool managers are back at college and

that school starts for local students on the 14th and there will not be enough staff to run the pool.

- Mayor Schwerdtfeger asked for a motion to adjourn. Councilperson Jason Booker made a motion to adjourn. Councilperson Denise Hartman seconded the motion. Motion carried 5 – 0



Debi Schwerdtfeger Mayor

ATTEST: 

Nick Jones City Administrator

