

City Council Meeting Minutes  
September 3, 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, Sean Honer Nathan Adams, and Sharon Haun also present were the City Administrator Nick Jones and City Attorney Molly Priest, Others attending were Jan Sciacca, Josh Sciacca, Ryan McDonald, Angie Schwertfeger, Karen Exon, Pastor Billy Kryger, Ben Moore, Taylor Helpingstine, Brett Waggoner, James Crosby, Shelley Dunham, Vern Hay.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

**INVOCATION:**

PASTOR BILLY KRYGER

**PUBLIC HEARING:**

- EXCEEDING REVENUE NEUTRAL RATE

Mayor Debi Schwertfeger opened the Public Hearing for Exceeding the Revenue Neutral Rate with Resolution 090324-01, which stated the city would be exceeding the RNR calculated by the Morris County Clerk to be 66.747 mills to collect the same tax revenue as last year. The city proposed a mill levy of 67 mills, which is a reduction from the 70 mills collected for 2024 budget year a difference of 3.037 mill reduction saving taxpayers \$49,730.88 in new taxes. The city will still collect \$4,215 in new taxes. There was no comment, and a motion was made by Councilperson Jason Booker to pass Resolution 090324-01 to Exceed Revenue Neutral Rate. The motion was seconded by Councilperson Sean Honer. Motion carried 5 – 0

- BUDGET HEARING

Mayor Debi Schwertfeger opened the Budget Hearing for the Proposed 2025 Budget and opened the floor for anyone who had questions or concerns. No comments were made, and a motion was made by Councilperson Mark Berner to approve the 2025 Budget. The motion was seconded by Councilperson Sharon Haun. Motion carried 5 – 0

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Jim Crosby with the Council Grove Softball Club said they will have their first tournament on Sunday September 8<sup>th</sup> to benefit Faith Campbell who is battling cancer. Mr. Crosby said in the 9 years the Softball Club has been around that they have raised around \$99,000 dollars. Mr. Crosby invited everyone to the game.

**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:

- August 19, 2024, Minutes
- August 27, 2024, Special Meeting Minutes
- August 19, 2024, to Current Appropriations.
- Cabin Transfers: N/A

**OLD BUSINESS**

- **Safe Routes to School: Update**

City Administrator Nick Jones informed the Council that Bettis Construction has started the Safe Routes to School project and will start by the High School and work west and then move to the east side of town.

**NEW BUSINESS**

- **Katy Depot: Ben Moore Studio, LLC – Ben Moore – Governmental Assistance Services – Brett Waggoner:**

Ben Moore and Taylor Helpingstine with Ben Moore Studio, LLC presented design plans to the Council for the Katy Depot. Discussion center mostly around ADA compliant restrooms and if there was a need for 4 bathrooms. The Council decided to focus on just two restrooms. One restroom for the Chamber Office and one public restroom that is accessible from outside and would be on a timer to lock and unlock. Ben Moore said the

estimated cost of all the renovations at this time is \$864,000 without any items being removed or added.

Brett Waggoner with Governmental Assistance Services and Western Consultants updated the City Council regarding the LMI Survey his company is doing on behalf of the city. Mr. Waggoner said the survey is going well and should be completed around the middle of the month. Mr. Waggoner said the city will have a 25% match toward the grant. Waggoner also said that if the city could get an outside entity to contribute 10% toward the match that it would add 10 points to the score total for when CDBG decides who to award funding to. Waggoner said there are also state tax credits that could be reimbursed to the city of around \$80,000.

- **Planning and Zoning Recommendation: Building Application**

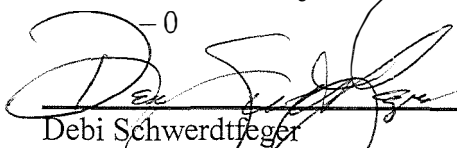
City Administrator Nick Jones read the recommendation from the Planning and Zoning Commission to the City Council to approve the building application for 121 Liberty in Council Grove for Skip Cansler to building a storage building with a variance to allow it to be built in the 5-foot setback to line up with the existing building that is located on the property line. After discussion Councilperson Sean Honer made a motion to approve the recommendation from the Planning and Zoning Commission. The motion was seconded by Councilperson Mark Berner. Motion carried 5 – 0


- **Work Study: Council Grove Area Trade and Tourism:**

The Council set a work study with the Chamber board on Tuesday September 10, 2024, at 5:30pm at the Katy Depot.

**GOVERNING BODY COMMENTS**

- Mayor Debi Schwerdtfeger – N/A
  - Councilperson Mark Berner – N/A
  - Councilperson Denise Hartman – Absent
  - Councilperson Sean Honer – N/A
  - Councilperson Nathan Adams – N/A
  - Councilperson Sharon Haun – N/A
  - Councilperson Jason Booker – N/A
  - City Attorney Brian Henderson – Absent
  - Assistant City Attorney Molly Priest – N/A
  - City Administrator Nick Jones – N/A
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- Mayor Schwerdtfeger asked for a motion to adjourn. Councilperson Jason Booker made a motion to adjourn. Councilperson Nathan Adams seconded the motion. Motion carried 5

-0  
  
Debi Schwerdtfeger Mayor

ATTEST:   
Nick Jones City Administrator

