

WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Debi Schwerdtfeger called the regular City Council Meeting to order. Council members present were Sharon Haun, Jason Booker, Mark Berner, Denise Hartman, Larry Siegrist, also present were the City Administrator Nick Jones, City Attorney Brian Henderson, Assistant City Attorney Molly Priest. Others attending were Jan Sciacca, Karen Exon, Marty Wright, Ryan McDonald, Randell Dickson.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

INVOCATION:

Denise Hartman

PUBLIC HEARING:

• **EXCEED REVENUE NEUTRAL RATE**

Mayor Debi Schwerdtfeger calls the Public Hearing for Exceeding Revenue Neutral Rate to order. The city is proposing raising the Mill Levy from 68.381 mills to 70 mills, the revenue neutral rate is 63.563. City Administrator Jones said that during and after covid the city made an effort to not change the mill levy and only collect the increase from property and ad valorem tax. Administrator Jones said the from 2021 – 2022 the percentage increase was 2.9% and from 2022 – 2023 the percentage was 6.19% and from 2023 – 2024 the percentage increase will be 10.13%. Administrator Jones said the average over the 4 years equities to 4.8% per year over a 4-year period. Resident Ryan McDonald questioned why the city was not pulling from the .7% and 1% funds to offset a mill levy increase. Councilperson Sean Honer and Administrator Jones both had spoken to the City’s Auditor regarding using sales tax funds to offset a Mill Levy increase to which the Auditor advised they would recommend against it. Councilperson Honer also provided statistics that compared comparable cities and Council Grove landed in the middle. After discussion Councilperson Jason Booker made a motion to Exceed Revenue Neutral Rate. The motion was seconded by Councilperson Sharon Haun. Motion Carried 6 – 0. A motion was made by Councilperson Sharon Haun to adjourn the hearing. The motion was seconded by Councilperson Denise Hartman. Motion carried 6 – 0

• **BUDGET HEARING**

Mayor Debi Schwerdtfeger called the Budget Hearing to order. Mayor Schwerdtfeger asked if anyone had any questions or concerns. After little discussion a motion was made by Councilperson Sharon Haun to approve the 2024 Budget. The motion was seconded by Councilperson Jason Booker. Motion carried 6 – 0. A motion was made by Councilperson Jason Booker to adjourn the hearing. The motion was seconded by Councilperson Denise Hartman. Motion carried 6 – 0

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

N/A

CONSENT AGENDA

Councilperson Mark Berner 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:

- August 15, 2023, Minutes
- August 15, 2023, to Current Appropriations.
- Cabin Transfer: F-2, D-5

OLD BUSINESS

N/A

NEW BUSINESS

- **Community Events Applications:**

- Voices of the Wind People/The Topsy Gypsy

The Voices of the Wind People requested the use of the Amphitheater for:

- Date of the Event: September 15th & 16th
- Time of Event: 8:00pm both evenings
- On Site Supervisor: Sharon Haun, Zoey Bond

The Topsy Gypsy requested to be allowed to serve Alcohol at the Voices of the Wind People event, which include security plans and ID checking and banding.

- Date of the Event: September 15th & 16th
- Time of Event: 8:00pm – 10:00pm both nights

After discussion Councilperson Jason Booker made a motion to approve the Community Events Application for the Voice of the Wind People event and the Topsy Gypsy. The motion was seconded by Councilperson Denise Hartman. Motion carried 6 – 0

- Hays House 1857 Restaurant and Tavern: Oktoberfest Brat & Biergarten

The Hays House requested to hold a Community Event Oktoberfest Brat & Biergarten on September 30th on North Neosho. Along with the request North Neosho would be closed from North Main Street to the alley. Setup will start at 3:30pm and the event starts at 5pm and runs until 9pm. Cleanup and teardown should be complete by 10:30pm. After discussion Councilperson Denise Hartman made a motion to approve the Community Events application. The motion was seconded by Councilperson Sean Honer. Motion carried 6 – 0

- **City Lake Committee Recommendation: I-4 Rob Eichman**

The City Lake Committee recommends the City Council approve the installation of a water slide at I-4 Rob Eichman, Eichman Family LLC. The slide must be installed to the correct water depth and location of the end of the slide. The slide will not restrict or interfere with the neighboring cabins or access. Administrator Jones recommended to the Council that some rules be put into place before allowing more slides. After discussion Councilperson Jason Booker made a motion to approve the Lake Committees Recommendation. The motion was seconded by Councilperson Larry Siegrist. Motion carried 6 – 0

- **North 8th Street Speed Limit:**

City Administrator Nick Jones and Police Chief Shawn Wangerin recommended to the Council that the speed limit on North 8th Street be posted as 15mph with flags alerting motorists of the speed limit. Both Administrator Jones and Chief of Police Wangerin have received complaints regarding motorist's speeds on North 8th street next to the Elementary School. After discussion Councilperson Mark Berner made a motion to approve the recommendation to post the speed limit on North 8th Street as 15mph. The motion was seconded by Councilperson Sean Honer. Motion carried 6 – 0.

- **Constitution Week Proclamation:**

Mayor Debi Schwertfeger read the Constitution Week Proclamation and proclaimed September 17th – 23rd as Constitution Week. Mayor Schwertfeger asked for a motion to approve the Proclamation. Councilperson Sharon Haun made a motion to approve the Proclamation. The motion was seconded by Councilperson Sean Honer. Motion carried 6 – 0.

- **Executive Session – City Lake Property:**

Councilperson Jason Booker made a motion to go into Executive Session regarding City Lake Property for 20 minutes and to include the City Council, Mayor, City Attorney, Assistant City Attorney, and City Administrator. The Motion was seconded by Councilperson Sharon Haun. Motion carried 6 – 0
No Action was taken when the meeting reconvened.

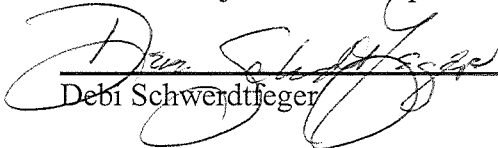
GOVERNING BODY COMMENTS

- **Mayor Debi Schwertfeger** – N/A

- Councilperson Mark Berner – N/A
- Denise Hartman – N/A
- Councilperson Sean Honer – N/A
- Councilperson Larry Siegrist – N/A
- Councilperson Sharon Haun – N/A
- City Attorney Brian Henderson – N/A
- Assistant City Attorney Molly Priest – N/A
- City Administrator Nick Jones – said that the city has received some response from the property owners regarding the Safe Routes to School easements. Administrator Jones said that another round of letters will go out again to those that have not responded and follow up with phone calls.

Adjournment:

Mayor Debi Schwerdtfeger asked for a motion to adjourn. Councilperson Sean Honer made a motion to adjourn. Councilperson Jason Booker seconded the motion. Motion carried 6 – 0



Debi Schwerdtfeger Mayor

ATTEST: 

Nick Jones City Administrator

