

WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Debi Schwerdtfeger called the regular City Council Meeting to order. Council members present were Jason Booker, Mark Berner, Larry Siegrist and Sharon Haun, also present were the City Administrator Nick Jones, City Attorney Brian Henderson, and Molly Priest. Others attending were Jan Sciacca, Mindy Andres, Ben Sachs, Rev. Adam Reichart.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

INVOCATION:

Rev. Adam Reichart

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

N/A

CONSENT AGENDA

Councilperson Jason Booker made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented in the packet. Councilperson Sharon Haun seconded the motion. Motion Carried 4 – 0. The consent agenda consisted of:

- Dec. 5, 2023, Minutes
- Dec. 5, 2023, to Current Appropriations.

OLD BUSINESS

- **Safe Routes to School: Update**

City Administrator Nick Jones said BG Consultants will be the Construction Engineers of the Safe Routes to School Project. Jen Brendel with KDOT sent out an AS Needed Advertisement to other firms and gave them until Dec. 12th to respond with letters of interest. BG Consultants is the only firm that responded. Normally there would be a selection process, but since only one firm responded we do not need to go through the selection process.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Unbound Gravel: Ben Sachs:**

Unbound Gravel Race Director Ben Sachs addressed the City Council about the upcoming race that will go through Council Grove on June 1, 2024. The 100-mile, 200-mile, and resupply point for the 350-mile race will all go through Council Grove. Mr. Sachs asked the Council for approval of the route through town and alerting the residents of the event. After discussion Councilperson Mark Berner made a motion to approve the request for the Unbound Gravel bike race. The motion was seconded by Councilperson Jason Booker. Motion Carried 4 – 0

- **Building and Trades Board: Appointment of Ron Wooden:**

Mayor Debi Schwerdtfeger appointed Ron Wooden to the Building and Trades Board for a term of 3 years. Mayor Schwerdtfeger asked for a motion to approve the appointment. Councilperson Mark Berner made a motion to approve the appointment. The motion was seconded by Councilperson Sharon Haun. Motion carried 4 – 0

- **Police and Fire Committee Recommendation: Appointment of John Scarce**

Mayor Debi Schwerdtfeger read the Police and Fire Committee recommendation to appointment of John “Wesley” Scarce to the Council Grove Fire Department as a Volunteer Fire Fighter. After discussion Councilperson Jason Booker made a motion to approve the appointment. The motion was seconded by Councilperson Sharon Haun. Motion carried 4 – 0

- **Streets and Parks Committee Recommendation: Appointment of Dawn Stanford**

Mayor Debi Schwerdtfeger read the Streets and Parks Committee recommendation to appointment of Dawn Stanford from Temp Worker with Express Employment to part-time city employee with the Streets and Parks Department at a pay rate of \$15.00 per hour. Effective January 1, 2024. After discussion Councilperson Jason Booker made a motion to approve the appointment. The motion was seconded by Councilperson Larry Siegrist. Motion carried 4 – 0

- **Streets and Parks Committee Recommendation: Raises**

Mayor Debi Schwerdtfeger read the recommendation from the Streets and Parks Committee to approve a raise of \$1.25 per hour for the following Street and Park Department Employees. Effective January 1, 2024.

- Jeff Barbo
- Rodney Yowell
- Allen Blosser
- Dale Everett
- Mark Meador
- Wyatt Miller

The Streets and Parks Department took over care of Greenwood Cemetery after no bids were received for mowing and weed eating in 2023. The cost to contract mow and weed eat in 2022 was \$36,000 per year. The \$1.25 raise per full-time Street and Parks employee will cost the city \$15,600 per year saving \$20,400 per year. After discussion Councilperson Sharon Haun made a motion to approve the recommendation. The motion was seconded by Councilperson Mark Berner. Motion carried 4- 0

- **Executive Session – Non – Elected Employees**

Mayor Debi Schwerdtfeger asked for a motion to go into Executive Session for Non-elected Employees. Councilperson Mark Berner made a motion to go into Executive Session for 45 minutes and to include the Mayor, City Council, City Attorney and City Administrator for part of the session. The motion was seconded by Councilperson Sharon Haun Motion carried 4 – 0. No Action was taken.

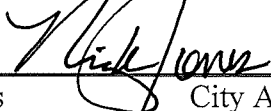
GOVERNING BODY COMMENTS

- **Mayor Debi Schwerdtfeger** – Thanked everyone for the prayers for Rick and wished everyone a Merry Christmas.
- **Councilperson Mark Berner** – Wished everyone a Merry Christmas
- **Councilperson Denise Hartman** – Absent
- **Councilperson Sean Honer** – Absent
- **Councilperson Larry Siegrist** – N/A
- **Councilperson Sharon Haun** – Wished everyone a Merry Christmas
- **Councilperson Jason Booker** – Wished everyone a Merry Christmas
- **City Attorney Brian Henderson** – Presented the changes to the Animal Ordinance for the Council to review.
- **Assistant City Attorney Molly Priest** – N/A
- **City Administrator Nick Jones** – Wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Mayor Debi Schwerdtfeger asked for a motion to adjourn. Councilperson Jason Booker made a motion to adjourn. Councilperson Sharon Haun seconded the motion. Motion carried 4 – 0



Debi Schwerdtfeger Mayor

ATTEST: 

Nick Jones City Administrator

