

City Council Meeting Minutes
February 4, 2025

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, Assistant City Attorney Molly Priest. Others attending were Jan Sciacca, Karen Exon, Ryan McDonald, Andy Benning, Chris Sederlin, Jason Loader, Pastor Billy Kryger, Marty Wright, Deidre Knight, Jesse Knight, Larry Karns.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

INVOCATION: Pastor Billy Kryger

PUBLIC HEARING: Wastewater Collection System Project

Brett Waggoner with Governmental Assistance Services (GAS) went through the City of Council Groves application process and KDHE requires two Public Hearings notices, one being 15 days and the other being the 30 day. Mr. Waggoner pointed out that the Public Hearing notice says that the anticipated increase in sewer use charges will be discussed and an estimate was in the packet provided by BG Consultants and once we go through the Public Hearings and get ready to submit the application documents that KDHE has a firm they hire that does a financial capacity analysis and will provide the city will much more up to date numbers on the user rates. Waggoner said the rates the BG Consultants provided are always close and get you right in the ballpark.

Mayor Debi Schwertfeger opened the Public Hearing and asked if there were any questions or concerns. Councilperson Sean Honer asked about the life span of our sewer system after the repairs and how far out it would be before we do repairs like this again. Brian Foster with BG Consultants said the project will only cover a portion of the system and the other portions that are not lined may require repair as those portions start to degrade. Foster said on the portion that we are doing you can read several different life papers on how long these fixes are going to last but the range is 40 plus years and are very comfortable saying these are 40-year fixes. With no more questions Mayor Schwertfeger closed the Public Hearing.

Brett Waggoner with GAS went through the steps to approve the KDHE application documents. Mr. Waggoner said the Council would need to approve the resolution to authorize the execution of the documents. Waggoner said that the other documents do not need formal Council approval. Councilperson Jason Booker asked Assistant City Attorney Molly Priest on how the motion should be worded for the Resolution. Assistant City Attorney said the motion would be to adopt resolution 020425-01 and that the resolution authorizes the Mayor and Nick to sign the required documents. Assistant City Attorney Priest recommended approving the resolution and then discuss the term sense it is an included document. Mayor Schwertfeger asked for a motion to adopt the resolution. Councilperson Jason Booker made a motion to adopt Resolution 020425-01. The motion was seconded by Councilperson Denise Hartman. Motion carried 5 – 0.

Mayor Debi Schwertfeger started the discussion on a 20- or 30-year term. Councilperson Nathan Adams said he was in favor of the 20-year term to get this behind us. Mayor Schwertfeger asked Councilperson Adams if he would like to make the motion. Councilperson Nathan Adams made a motion for a 20-year term. The motion was seconded by Councilperson Jason Booker. Motion carried 5 – 0

Mayor Debi Schwertfeger asked what's the next step and Assistant City Attorney Molly Priest said the Council would need to approve the administrative services contract with Governmental Assistance Services (GAS). Mayor Schwertfeger asked for a motion to approve the contract with GAS. Councilperson Jason Booker made a motion to approve the contract. The motion was seconded by Councilperson Sharon Haun. Motion carried 5 – 0

PUBLIC COMMENT: Andy Benning addressed the Council and asked if while Kaw Valley Engineering was going through their presentation of the City Lake plat if the public could ask questions. Mayor Schwertfeger said that we would let KVE go through the presentation and ask questions at the end.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Councilperson Jason Booker 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:

- January 21, 2025, Minutes
- January 21, 2025, to Current Appropriations.

OLD BUSINESS

- **City Lake Plat – Kaw Valley Engineering – Chris Sederlin**
Chris Sederling and Jason Loader with Kaw Valley Engineering presented the preliminary City Lake Plat to the City Council. Sederling and Loader went through a number of items including, boundary lines, shared driveways, easements for utilities, common areas, property line boundaries, access to the water and shared driveways, after discussion between the Council and public the Council decided to post the preliminary City Lake Plat on the city website for 30 days to allow time for leaseholders to look at the preliminary plat and message the city with any questions of concerns.

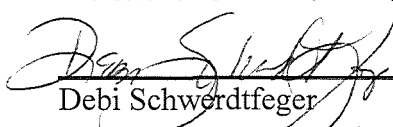
- **Downtown Streetscape: Update**
 - City Administrator Nick Jones updated the Council that 3 Engineering Firms responded to the Request for Qualifications (RFQ) by the due date of January 23, 2025. The companies were:
 - BG Consultants
 - Swab Eaton
 - Kaw Valley Engineering
 - Administrator Jones said evaluations and ranking will take place later this week or at the beginning of next week when he can get the Streets and Park Committee together and then award the firm that scored highest.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Planning and Zoning Commission: Appointment of Mark Brooks:**
Mayor Debi Schwerdtfeger appointed Mark Brooks to the Planning and Zoning Commission for a 3-year term. Mayor Schwerdtfeger asked for confirmation of the appointment. Councilperson Nathan Adams made a motion to approve the appointment. The motion was seconded by Councilperson Sharon Haun. Motion carried 5- 0

- **GOVERNING BODY COMMENTS**
 - **Mayor Debi Schwerdtfeger** – Dittoed what Councilperson Haun said and also wanted to thank everyone on Council and said she was approached by someone complementing the work the city is doing and that we are doing a good job. Mayor Schwerdtfeger said there is a group that thinks we are not doing a good job but we are and she is proud of everyone.
 - **Councilperson Denise Hartman** – asked about how long the HWY177 project would take. Administrator Jones said from Belfry to the west city limits would take a couple weeks and the suggestion from KDOT is to do a 2in overlay.
 - **Councilperson Sean Honer** – asked where we were on the sidewalks. Administrator Jones said once the weather improves, and they can pour concrete they will be back.
 - **Councilperson Nathan Adams** – N/A
 - **Councilperson Sharon Haun** – said big thank you to Nick and his work on the grants for the depot and streetscape and that she is excited about the Depot grant because it is close to her heart.
 - **Councilperson Jason Booker** – N/A
 - **City Attorney Brian Henderson** – Absent
 - **Assistant City Attorney Molly Priest** – N/A
 - **City Administrator Nick Jones** – said he will be attending a Grantee workshop meeting on Thursday, February 13, 2025, at the Salina Area Technical College for the CDBG Grant for the Katy Depot restoration.

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

