

City Council Meeting Minutes
March 5, 2024

WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Debi Schwerdtfeger called the regular City Council Meeting to order. Council members present were Jason Booker, Mark Berner, Denise Hartman, Sean Honer, Nathan Adams, and Sharon Haun, also present were the City Administrator Nick Jones and City Attorney Brian Henderson and Molly Priest, Others attending were Jan Sciacca, Josh Sciacca, John Messer, Pastor Billy Kryger, Ryan McDonald, Brian Foster. Andrew Fagan, Marty Wright, Sharon McVay, Fred Bammes, Karen Exon, Chris Sederlin, Jason Loader, Zoey Bond,

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

INVOCATION:

John Messer

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Andy Benning asked the Council if he could ask questions during the presentation from Kaw Valley Engineering regarding the City Lake Plat. Mayor Schwerdtfeger said she would allow some questions.

CONSENT AGENDA

Councilperson Sean Honer made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented in the packet. Councilperson Jason Booker seconded the motion. Motion Carried 6 – 0. The consent agenda consisted of:

- February 6, 2024, Minutes
- February 6, 62024, to Current Appropriations.

OLD BUSINESS

• **Animal Ordinance #2265:**

City Brian Henderson presented Animal Ordinance #2265, which incorporated all of the changes the City Council agreed to change. After discussion Councilperson Jason Booker made an emotion to approve Ordinance #2265. The motion was seconded by Councilperson Mark Berner. Motion carried 6 – 0

NEW BUSINESS

• **Kaw Valley Engineering: Chris Sederlin: City Lake Plat:**

Chris Sederlin and Jason Loader with Kaw Valley Engineering presented the City Lake Plat to the City Council. The plat consisted of defining roads and easements and right of way. The Plat also consisted of estimated water and sewer placement in the easements. Jason Loader said there are some areas in D section that are not currently in the boundary lines of the City Lake property. Chris Sederlin said the water and sewer will need adjusted to fit or adjust the easement to make them fit. No Action Taken

• **BG Consultants: Brian Foster - Preliminary Engineering Reports for Water and Sewer:**

Brian Foster with BG Consultants presented to the Council the Water and Sewer Preliminary Engineering Reports. Mr. Foster started the meeting by informing the Council that GIS mapping is complete, and they are ready to assist the city in getting the benefit of the system. Mr. Foster presented the overview below of the Water Distribution System along with recommendations for replacement of the Distribution System.

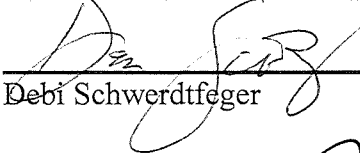
- Average Water loss of 21.1%
- The total length of the system is approximately 139,664 feet (≈26.5 miles)
- The system was started in 1887 with 21,000 feet of cast iron mains.
- There is currently 78,500 feet (56% of the system) of cast iron mains in the system that is believed to be at or over 100 years old.
- iv) About half the system is 4" in diameter or less, which is generally considered undersized for fire protection.
- Average about 20 Leaks per year
- Distribution Recommendations
 - It is recommended to replace all of the 78,500' of old cast iron main, which could cost over \$16 million.
- ii) Highest Priority
 - Project 1 - Neosho River Crossings
 - Project 2 - Chautauqua & Columbia Street (Upsize)

- Project 3 - Sunset Drive and Hwy 56
 - Project 4 - 11th, 4th, and Welch Street
 - Total Opinion of Cost = \$2,248,526
 - Mr. Foster presented the overview below of the Sewer Collection System along with recommendations for replacement of the Sewer Collection System.
 - Collection System
 - The total length of the system is approximately 69,588 feet (≈13 miles)
 - ii) City has performed improvements/rehabilitation throughout the system, however approximately 12,000' of old clay mains still require rehabilitation.
 - iii) CCTV and Manhole inspections were performed in these areas.
 - Significant amounts of groundwater was observed entering the system
 - (2) 35 Point Repairs were identified.
 - Collection System Recommendation
 - Project 1 – Point Repairs, Pipe Lining, and Taps on Main St \$1,660,815
 - ii) Project 2 – Manhole Rehabilitation, and remaining taps. \$1,370,005
 - iii) Total Opinion of Cost Projects 1 & 2 \$3,030,820
 - Potential Funding
 - KDHE SRF
 - Pre-Applications to get on IUP previously submitted (due June 15th)
 - ii) The collection system was not eligible for any loan forgiveness
 - iii) The Water Project was eligible for \$660,000 in loan forgiveness but fell below the funding line.
 - b) USDA Rural Development
 - 40 Year Loan with potential for Grant based on User Rates
 - c) Kansa Water Office (KWO) Grants
 - New program for about anything water related and is split into two categories.
 - Prioritizes populations under 2,000
 - (2) Prioritizes projects with early start dates, permits obtained
 - (3) Prioritizes conservations and/or climate change resiliency
 - (4) Considers community factors (Pubic Health, socioeconomic, need)
 - ii) Technical Assistance Category for studies and design and additional grant applications
 - Limit of \$1M
 - iii) Projects Category for construction or repayment of KDHE Loans
 - Limit of \$8M
 - Additional programs through the Infrastructure Act?
 - 5. Potential Rate Impacts
 - 20-year KDHE Loan @2.25% would have a Annual Payment of \$62,642 for every \$1M borrowed.
 - Based on 1,258 users, that would add \$4.15 per month to the average water bill.
-
- **Council Grove Area Trade & Tourism Association: Executive Director Zoey Bond:**
Zoey Bond with the Council Grove Area Trade & Tourism Association presented to the Council the First Quarter 2024 Summary. Executive Director Bond said that the current membership is 101 & counting, and that the website has had 5,449 visitors along with being #4 on TravelKS.com. Executive Director Bond said the goals for 2024 are to increase networking opportunities, outreach to surrounding communities, focus on out signature events, and continue to grow marketing initiatives. Executive Director Bond said the city's website traffic has increased by 3% with a 12% increase in Facebook engagement. There have been 12 Amphitheater inquires fielded and 32 website updates made.
-
- **Discussion: Transportation Alternatives projects (TA Program) Grant: Street Scape**
City Administrator Nick Jones informed the Council that the city has submitted a concept map to the KDOT TA Program for streetscape project for the East and West sides of town. The project will focus on ADA sidewalk replacement, crossing improvements and beautification. The project is estimated to be 1.6 million with an 25% to 30% match. Administrator Jones said we should receive a response by the end of March if they will fund the projec

GOVERNING BODY COMMENTS

- **Mayor Debi Schwerdtfeger** – asked City Attorney Brian Henderson to draw up verbiage to change the number of chickens allowed in Council Grove from 4 to 8. The mayor also scheduled a work session for Tuesday, March 26th at 5:30pm.
- **Councilperson Mark Berner** – N/A
- **Councilperson Denise Hartman** – said the Community Theater was awesome!
- **Councilperson Sean Honer** – asked whether Council Grove should have an annual fireworks display. Administrator Jones said that it cost \$25,000 - \$30,000 annually for the show. Councilmen Honer said he did not think it brought extra people to town and suggested it take place every other year.
- **Councilperson Nathan Adams** – said with all the expenses it made sense to sacrifice next year’s fireworks show.
- **Councilperson Sharon Haun** – Thanked the city crews for cleaning off the roads
- **Councilperson Jason Booker** – N/A
- **City Attorney Brian Henderson** – N/A
- **Assistant City Attorney Molly Priest** – N/A
- **City Administrator Nick Jones** – said the bid results of the Highway 56 resurfacing are complete. Shilling Construction won with a bid of \$306,699. Other bidders were APAC-Kansas Inc. \$327,175.83 and Bettis Asphalt and Construction \$331,698.01. The engineer estimate was \$426,601. Administrator Jones also asked for permission to submit a application for Mill N Overlay on the west portion of Highway 56 from Belfry to West City Limits. The Council gave the ok to move forward. Jones also thanked the John E. Termby Foundation Committee for the \$5,000 grant for the 4th of July Fireworks Show.

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



Debi Schwerdtfeger Mayor

ATTEST: 

Nick Jones City Administrator

