

City Council Meeting Minutes  
January 07, 2025

**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 through Zoom, also present were the City Administrator Nick Jones Others attending were Jan Sciacca, Karen Exon, Ryan McDonald, Brian Foster (Attended Virtually), Brett Waggoner (Attended Virtually), Angie Schwertfeger, Vern Hay, Jim Crosby, Rebecca (Becky) Catlin, Gary Catlin, Cody Catlin.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

**INVOCATION:** Jim Crosby

**PUBLIC MEETING: Presentation and discussion for wastewater improvements for the City of Council Grove.**

Mayor Debi Schwertfeger opened the Public Hearing and asked if there were any questions about the proposed project. Brian Foster with BG Consultants and Brett Waggoner with Governmental Assistance Services attended the meeting virtually to answer any questions regarding the wastewater collection system project for the City of Council Grove. The project consists of the following: Wastewater collection system improvements consist of televising, cleaning, and lining an estimated 10,050 linear feet of piping, repairing approximately 175 service taps, replacing approximately 1,750 linear feet of 4" service pipe, repairing approximately 35 sewer main point defects, installation of approximately 800 linear feet of 8" sewer main, replacing a sewer main aerial crossing, and making repairs or replacing approximately 21 manholes. The project will also include associated pavement replacement, pre- and post-construction CCTV inspection, and other related miscellaneous appurtenances. The proposed project has an estimated cost of \$3,162,750.00. After no questions Mayor Schwertfeger

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** N/A

**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 5 – 0 The consent agenda consisted of:

- December 17, 2024, Minutes
- December 17, 2024, to Current Appropriations.
- Cabin Transfers: N/A
- Renewal: Club Liquor License – Hays House

**OLD BUSINESS**

- **City Lake Platt: Kaw Valley Engineering: Update**
  - City Administrator Nick Jones informed the Council that Kaw Valley Engineering will attend the February 4<sup>th</sup> City Council meeting to present the proposed plat for the City Lake.
- **Swab Eaton – City Lake Water/Sewer: Update**
  - City Administrator Nick Jones informed the Council that he spoke to Stuart Porter with Swab Eaton spoke with USDA Mike Pan regarding the City Lake project and as discussed before funding is very competitive and Mr. Pan said we need submit our project to all of the State funding agencies (KDHE, CDBG, KWO (Kansas Water Office) before submitting the project to USDA because cause of the lack of available funding and also due to the potential of jeopardizing grant funding if we were to receive State grant dollars when USDA funding were already awarded. Mr. Porter has reached out to USDA to loop them into the conversation. Mr. Porter is setting up a team's meeting for later in the month with USDA and KDHE to talk about the project.
- **Economic Impact Study: Update**
  - City Administrator Nick Jones presented to the Council the Economic Impact Study that is underway with (Our City Planning LLC) with a cost not to exceed \$10,000. Administrator Jones said he spoke with the Mayor and Office Committee regarding the Impact Study before moving forward. The impact report will address the 14 areas required by the County Commission per KSA 12-520c: Impact on property tax rates, Availability and costs of municipal services, Effects on property values and assessments, Impact on public infrastructure and facilities, Changes to land use and zoning, Public safety and law enforcement implications, Environmental and natural resource effects, Economic development opportunities or constraints, Fiscal impact on the city and county budgets, Changes in governance or representation, Effects on existing utilities and services agreements, Impact on local school districts, Potential benefits to the community and residents, Anticipated challenges or adverse effects of annexation The Impact Study will also include 3 presentations, Community

## **NEW BUSINESS**

- **Water Plant Ozone Options Evaluation: Professional Engineering Consultants Utilities**
  - Utilities Superintendent Derrick Craige spoke to the Council regarding a quote from Profession Engineering Consultants with two different options. Option 1 Ozone System Options Evaluation costing \$12,500 and Option 2 Existing Facility Evaluation at a cost of \$36,000. Superintendent Craige went through the issues with the Ozone building system and said parts are hard to get as the system when it was installed in 2005 uses different computer system then what was recommended and the age of the plant. Carige also said that the generators are oversized and based off the population of the City of Wichita and not the City of Council Grove. The overall Existing Facility Evaluation would look at other parts of the Water Plant and make recommendations for upgrades and help with planning for those expenses. After discussion Councilperson Jason Booker made a motion to approve both options from PEC at a cost of \$48,500 to come from the Water Systems Maintenance Fund. The motion was seconded by Councilperson Nathan Adams. Motion carried 5 – 0
- **Veterans Fall Festival – Jim Crosby**
  - Jim Crosby with Together with Veterans spoke to the Council about a proposal to relocate the Veterans Fall Festival to Council Grove. Crosby said in years past the event was held in Allen but will not be moving forward. Mr. Crosby proposed moving the Festival to Council Grove and use the park over by the old army tank where the Legion places it flags and the surrounding area. After discussion Councilperson Sean Honer made a motion to approve the proposal. The motion was seconded by Councilperson Jason Booker. Motion carried 5 – 0
- **Riverwalk Park/Amphitheater Fence Quote – Tim King**

City Administrator Nick Jones presented the Council with 4 different options for fence at Riverwalk Park/Amphitheater from Tim King.

  - **Option 1:**
    - 683ft Black Chain Link 6’ Tall
    - 149ft Black Steel 3 Rail 5’ Tall
    - COST: Materials \$13,708.33 + Labor \$12,000 Total = \$25,708.33
  - **Option 2:**
    - 832ft Black Chain Link 6’ Tall
    - COST: Materials \$12,505.76 + Labor \$12,000 Total = \$24,505.76
  - **Option 3:**
    - 683ft Black Chain Link 6’ Tall – No Fence in front of John White Memorial Pavilion
    - COST: Materials \$10,016.15 + Labor \$10,000 Total = \$20,016.1
  - **Option 4:**
    - 149ft Black Steel 3 Rail 5’ Tall – Fence only in front of John White Memorial Pavilion
    - COST: Materials \$3,692.18 + Labor \$2,007.82 Total = \$5,700


After discussing the 4 options the Council decided to table the project until the next Council meeting to allow the Council members to go look at the area where fencing is being proposed.
- **Request for Water Service/Annexation – Stacy Edwards**
  - City Administrator Nick Jones presented to the Council a request from Stacy Edwards for water service from the City of Council Grove Water Department and agrees to annexation to receive the water service. Administrator Jones said Mr. Edwards contracted BG Consultants to look at the project and see if there should be a new line or hook up to an existing line and BG Consultants recommended running a new line. After discussion Councilperson Mark Berner made a motion to approve the request from Stacy Edwards. The motion was seconded by Councilperson Sean Honer. Motion carried 5 – 0
- **4<sup>th</sup> of July Discussion**
  - Mayor Debi Schwerdtfeger said she had heard from some in the community that they would like to see a Fireworks Show this year. The Council discussed possibly doing a scaled down version of 4<sup>th</sup> of the Forth of July show. Exploring grants and sponsorships was discussed. The Council requested feedback from the public.
- **Time Capsule Discussion: Nathan Adams**
  - Councilperson Nathan Adams proposed doing a time capsule to celebrate the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Council Grove. The capsule would not be opened for 100 years. The Council discussed locations for the time capsule and decided on the Guardian of the Grove Park at the southeast entrance of Riverwalk Park. Councilperson Nathan Adams made a motion to approve the location of the time capsule. The motion was seconded by Councilperson Sean Honer. Motion carried 5 – 0

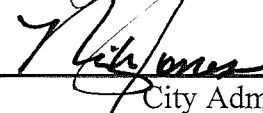
- **GOVERNING BODY COMMENTS**

- **Mayor Debi Schwerdtfeger** – said she echoes the others and thanked Evergy for getting the lights back. Mayor said she will appoint the new city committees at the next Council meeting and told the Council to let her know if they want to change committees.
- **Councilperson Mark Berner** – recognizes street crews and all those that helped with snow removal.
- **Councilperson Denise Hartman** – Have a safe and Merry Christmas and end of year.
- **Councilperson Sean Honer** – Echoed the other in thanking the street department and thanked those that have also helped their neighbors remove snow.
- **Councilperson Nathan Adams** – Echoed the others in thanking the street department.
- **Councilperson Sharon Haun** – Thanked the street crews for their hard work.
- **Councilperson Jason Booker** – said Happy New Year and be careful on the ice.
- **City Attorney Brian Henderson** – N/A
- **Assistant City Attorney Molly Priest** – N/A
- **City Administrator Nick Jones** – said the Kansas Association of Trail Towns (KATT) has evolved into Kansas Association of Trail Stewards and is now registered as a non-profit 501-C3. KATS was awarded a \$250,000 grant from the Mackenzie Scott Grant through the Sunflower Foundation. The goal in the coming years is to preserve our grant, establish our association and diversify the revenues (memberships/donations/corporate partnerships) that we receive -- with the ultimate goal of leveraging trails to promote the cities/counties of Kansas and the businesses in those communities. Next BIG KATS meeting is January 24, 2025, in Topeka. Administrator Jones also welcomed the new Court Clerk/Administrative Assistant Kamryn Smith. Administrator Jones also thanked the Streets and Parks Department for their hard work on snow removal.
  
- City Attorney Brian Henderson requested to have a motion and a second for a 10-minute Executive Session Attorney Client Privilege relating to the Attorney General inquiry regarding KOMA. City Attorney Brian Henderson said the motion to go into Executive Session with the Council, City Manager, Attorney's for a period of 10 minutes for the purposes of Attorney Client Privileges relating to the Attorney Generals inquiry regarding KOMA. Councilmember Mark Berner made the motion and included the Mayor. The motion was seconded by Councilperson Sean Honer. Motion carried 5 – 0.

Mayor Schwerdtfeger called the meeting back into session. City Attorney Brian Henderson provide background that this was not an agenda item that there was a complaint reported to the Attorney Generals Office that we were in violation of the Kansas Open Meetings Act. City Attorney Henderson said he and Assistant City Attorney Molly Priest had a chance to review that complaint and information around the meeting in questions, the agenda that was published prior to the meeting, minutes from the meeting and prepared a response to the Attorney General's Office and City Attorney Henderson asked that there be a motion from the Council approving the response that was prepared and be authorized to submit it to the Attorney Generals Office. Councilperson Nathan Adams made the motion. The motion was seconded by Councilperson Mark Berner. City Attorney Brian Henderson said to be clear that motion was for the entire body to approve the response that we prepared and that we be authorized to submit that to the Attorney Generals Office. Motion carried 5 – 0

- Mayor Schwerdtfeger asked for a motion to adjourn. Councilperson Jason Booker made a motion to adjourn. Councilperson Sharon Haun seconded the motion. Motion carried 5 – 0

  
Debi Schwerdtfeger Mayor

ATTEST:   
Nick Jones City Administrator

