

City Council Meeting Minutes
August 1, 2017

WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Steve Shepard called the regular City Council Meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance. Council members present were: Jesse Knight, Sharon Jones, Jeff Blosser, Mark Brooks, Betty Hughey, and Sharon Haun. City Attorney Randy Heilman and City Administrator Danny Matthews were also present. Others attending were: Robert Herbig, Shannon Reid-Wheat, Kelly Judd, Diane Wolfe, Adam Dirks, Sharon Amos, John Cosgrove, Rick Farr, Adam Reichart, Building Inspector Larry Siegrist, Deputy Building Inspector James Masters, Road and Parks Superintendent Jeff Barbo, Utilities Superintendent Derrick Craige, Marcus Hernandez, and Megan Glotzbach.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD I

Randy Heilman, representing the Council Grove Rotary Club, thanked the City for allowing them to participate in the City's 4th of July Celebration, and for allowing the use of the Council Grove Aquatic Center's slide for the Kan Ducky Derby race. Mr. Heilman noted the Rotary Club felt using the slide for the race worked out really well and wishes to continue hosting the Kan Ducky Derby during future City 4th of July Celebrations. Mr. Heilman noted as thanks the Rotary Club would like to present a \$100.00 check to the Council Grove Aquatic Center.

Diane Wolfe, Director of the Council Grove/Morris County Chamber of Commerce, noted the Chamber is hosting a sanctioned Kansas City BBQ Society BBQ Contest on October 6 and 7, 2017 and is requesting the use of the Fairgrounds Park and the area where the flea Market is held to the north of the ball parks for onsite camping and the contest grounds. Ms. Wolfe noted the BBQ Contest is called Firing up the Flint Hills, this event is open to anyone who wishes to participate, and check-in will be on the 6th with the actual contest on the 7th. After discussion Councilperson Mark Brooks made a motion to approve use of the Fairgrounds Park area for October 6 and 7, 2017. Councilperson Betty Hughey seconded the motion and the Council voted 6-0 in favor. Motion carried.

CONSENT AGENDA

Councilperson Jeff Blosser made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented in the packet. Councilperson Sharon Haun seconded the motion. The consent agenda consisted of:

- A. July 18, 2017 Special Minutes.
- B. July 18, 2017 to Current Appropriations.
- C. 2017 Audit Agreement.

The Council voted 5-0 in favor with Councilperson Betty Hughey abstaining. Motion carried.
6/0

OLD BUSINESS

D. Blighted Structures Update.

Deputy Building Inspector James Masters reported on June 6, 2017 the Council gave an order for the mobile home on 115 N. 4th Street to be demolished and removed within 45 days. The deadline has now passed without the mobile home being removed. Deputy Building Inspector Masters requests direction from the Council regarding this property. John Cosgrove, owner of Cosgrove Farms, noted he has tried to help the owner and has offered to demolish and remove the mobile home in question, but he has not received a response from the owner. He has a promissory note for the back taxes he paid on behalf of the current owner that is still owed to him. City Attorney Randy Heilman noted Cosgrove Farms has a recorded lien hold for the land at 115 N. 4th Street. After discussion City Attorney Heilman noted the City can contract out the demolition or have the City crews demo the mobile home. Councilperson Jeff Blosser made a motion to enforce the demolition of the mobile home and request bids for the demo. Councilperson Betty Hughey seconded the motion and the Council voted 6-0 in favor. Motion carried.

E. Rockin-Z-Ice Request.

Councilperson Mark Brooks reported the recommendation from the Utility Committee is to charge Steve Zerr, owner of the Rockin-Z-Ice House, the minimum sewer charge due to the location not having any sinks or restrooms on site and very little goes to the sewer. Councilperson Mark Brooks made a motion to approve the recommendation from the Utility

Committee and charge Rockin-Z-Ice House the minimum for sewer. Councilperson Sharon Haun seconded the motion and the Council voted 6-0 in favor. Motion carried.

F. Zoning Appeals Board Creation.

City Attorney Randy Heilman noted the Zoning Appeals Board must consist of three to seven members. If the City chooses to zone the three mile area surrounding Council Grove there must be one member that is represented within that three mile area. Mayor Steve Shepard inquired if the Council was interested in having five members for the Zoning Appeals Board, three Councilmembers, with one from each ward, and two members from the three mile area outside of Council Grove. Councilperson Jesse Knight suggested to table this until the Work-Study that is currently planned with Planning & Zoning and get their input on the formation of the Zoning Appeals Board. After discussion Councilperson Jesse Knight made a motion to table the Zoning Appeals Board Creation until the first Council meeting in September. Councilperson Jeff Blosser seconded the motion and the Council voted 6-0 in favor. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

G. Council Grove Lake Association.

Robert Herbig, president of the Council Grove Lake Association, noted the Lake Association feels there is much to learn from Mr. Skinner, who presented two weeks ago on the City Lake Water Proposal. The Lake Association has invited Mr. Skinner to speak with their Water Committee. Mr. Herbig continued with the Lake Association report; there are many new improvements at the City Lake; the City Lake's 4th of July was very successful; and there have been very few complaints about the buoy placements on the Lake.

H. Employee Raise Recommendations.

Mayor Steve Shepard appointed Brad Martin to Road & Parks Forman II @ \$15.81/hour, Jeff Barbo to Road & Parks Superintendent II @ \$18.02/hour, and Derrick Craige to Utility Superintendent II @ \$21.63/hour. Councilperson Betty Hughey confirmed all appointments. Councilperson Sharon Jones seconded the confirmation and the Council voted 6-0 in favor. Motion carried. All appointments will be effective at the start of the next payroll 8-9-17.

I. CG Library Air Conditioning Bids.

Mayor Steve Shepard noted the City has received two bids to replace two AC units at the Council Grove Public Library. Mayor Shepard noted both bids are to remove and replace the two AC units. The first bid is from Services Unlimited costing \$14,340.40 and the second bid is from KPK costing \$17,445.00. Shannon Reid-Wheat, Director of the Council Grove Public Library, noted the current AC units are 20 years old and have bad compressors. There is also concern about the damage the heat may cause to the books if the AC units are not fixed. Councilperson Mark Brooks inquired where the funding would come from. City Administrator Danny Matthews noted the funding would come from Infrastructure. Councilperson Mark Brooks made a motion to accept the bid from Services Unlimited for \$14,340.40 with payment coming out of Infrastructure. Councilperson Jesse Knight seconded the motion and the Council voted 6-0 in favor. Motion carried.

J. 14 N. Neosho Discussion.

City Attorney Randy Heilman noted he has received the deed from Mr. Seedeak for the property located at 14 N. Neosho and there is a possibility that the individual who purchases the neighboring old bank building at the upcoming auction may be interested in purchasing the 14 N. Neosho property as well. City Administrator Danny Matthews noted he could bring back more information as it comes available on removal and cleaning up the area.

Mayor Steve Shepard added to the agenda a discussion on the Fairmont Property.

Mayor Steve Shepard noted the Fairmont property is cleaned up now and would like to see it put up for sale. Councilperson Jesse Knight suggested getting more information and ideas from the Economic Development Committee. Councilperson Mark Brooks suggested going to the Economic Development Committee for ideas and then take those to GMDC as they are currently working on getting large businesses into Council Grove. Councilperson Jesse Knight noted the City may want to look at other areas of City property that may be able to be sold.

GOVERNING BODY COMMENTS

Councilperson Betty Hughey noted on October 8, 2017 in the afternoon, there will be a breast cancer awareness activity on the Riverwalk. Activities will include a stiletto stomp and a balloon liftoff.

Councilperson Mark Brooks noted the Utility Committee met and recommend the City continue working as they have been in regard to the backup water system. Councilperson Brooks noted the Utility Committee feels the backup system that is currently in place is sufficient and there is an immediate backup water option to pull from if the need arises.

Councilperson Brooks noted the electrical at the Fairgrounds Park currently does not support campers and feels this is a missed opportunity for the City. Councilperson Jeff Blosser suggests the Street and Parks Committee look into upgrading the Fairgrounds Park electricity to 50-amps to support campers. After discussion Councilperson Mark Brooks made a motion to seek bids to upgrade the electrical at the Fairgrounds Park to 50-amps. Councilperson Jesse Knight seconded the motion and the Council voted 6-0 in favor. Motion carried.

Councilperson Jesse Knight inquired on the timeline for removing the Stella marquee. Mayor Steve Shepard noted approval has been received from the Kansas Historical Society and Hartman has been notified and should begin soon.

Mayor Steve Shepard noted the Office Committee needs to schedule a meeting to review the applications for the City Administrator, City Clerk, and Public Works Supervisor. Councilperson Knight suggested next Thursday over the lunch hour to review and schedule phone interviews.

Councilperson Knight inquired if anything had been done about the trashcans for the City parks. City Administrator Danny Matthews noted he has found one option and will send it out to the Council.

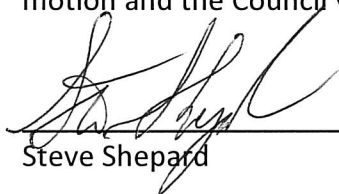
Councilperson Jeff Blosser noted the Lake Sewer and Water Committee will be meeting soon to narrow down the bids and bring a recommendation to Council on their choice.

Councilperson Blosser informed the Council on the vote going before Washington to increase the amount of weight allowed on State and Local Highways to 90,000 lbs. over three axles. Councilperson Mark Brooks noted Emporia charges a fee for heavy loads to pass though the City and the Council may want to look into that. Mayor Steve Shepard requested City Attorney Randy Heilman look into the City of Emporia's ordinance on heavy loads passing though their City.

City Administrator Danny Matthews noted he was contacted by a PEC Structural Engineer, who is an alumni of Council Grove High School, and he is concerned with the City losing the Stella and will be coming to Council Grove in Mid-September to evaluate the building, at no cost, and determine if the Stella can be saved.

ADJOURNMENT

Councilperson Betty Hughey made a motion to adjourn. Councilperson Mark Brooks seconded the motion and the Council voted 6-0 in favor. Motion carried.



Steve Shepard Mayor

ATTEST:



Danny Matthews City Administrator

