

City Council Meeting Minutes
July 18, 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, and Sharon Haun. Councilperson Betty Hughey was absent. City Attorney Randy Heilman and City Administrator Danny Matthews were also present. Others attending were: Robert Herbig, Kurt Skinner, Will Skinner, Connie Skinner, Steven Zerr, Larry Fischer, Laci Thibodeaux, Wayne Kohler, Cindy Jensen, Diane Wolfe, Kelly Judd, Neter Schamberger, Building Inspector Larry Siegrist, Utilities Superintendent Derrick Craige, Marcus Hernandez, and Megan Glotzbach.

2018 Budget Hearing

Mayor Steve Shepard opened the 2018 Budget Hearing.

Mayor Steve Shepard opened the floor for the public to comment on the 2018 Budget. Wayne Kohler, Twin Lakes Lawn Service, requested more funds to be added to Contracted Mowing, allowing the Cemetery's to be mowed more often than every 12 to 14 days. Mayor Steve Shepard noted the City will not be adding any additional funds due to the Budget has already been raised to the CPI limit and cannot go any higher without an election, the Road & Parks Committee could see if there are any funds elsewhere within the budget for additional mowing. Councilperson Mark Brooks made a motion to approve the 2018 Budget as presented. Councilperson Sharon Haun seconded the motion and the Council voted 5-0 in favor. Motion carried.

Mayor Steve Shepard Closed the 2018 Budget Hearing.

Stella Marquee Hearing

Mayor Steve Shepard opened the Stella Marquee Hearing.

Mayor Steve Shepard noted the City received one bid to take down the Stella/Ritz Theater Marquee; Hartman Masonry, labor and material to remove the Stella/Ritz Theatre Marquee sign and place into storage with Morris County Historical Society, \$1,500.00 plus tax. Mayor Shepard passed around a photo of the Stella Theatre in the late teens or early 20s showing there was no marquee on the building at that point. Councilperson Mark Brooks noted the marquee might have been added during the 1940s renovation. Building Inspector Larry Siegrist noted the City has been trying to get the owner to fix the building starting in 2010. The Stella has been through two owners from 2010 to present and the City cannot locate the current owner, all attempts are returned undeliverable. Building Inspector Siegrist noted a structural engineer, VMT Engineering, deemed the Stella/Ritz Theater Marquee to be unsafe and the City must take it down or repair for public safety, it was also stated there is no need to repair the marquee if the building is not repairable. Neter Schamberger, being present, feels the building needs to be saved as it is an important landmark of the Historical Downtown area. Mayor Shepard noted the City does not own the Stella and as such cannot do anything about the building itself, but the Marquee was deemed dangerous by a structural engineer and the City must now remove or repair it for public safety. After discussion Councilperson Jeff Blosser made a motion to accept the bid from Hartman Masonry, not exceeding \$1,500.00 plus tax, and store the marquee at the Morris County Historical Society. Councilperson Jesse Knight seconded the motion. Councilperson Sharon Haun, representing the Morris County Historical Society, noted they are mostly concerned with the center portion of the marquee. The Council voted 5-0 in favor. Motion carried.

Mayor Steve Shepard closed the Stella Marquee Hearing.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD I

Laci Thibodeaux, representing the Morris County 4-H Fair Association, requested approval to hang banners on the Main Street Bridge and poles for the 2018 Morris County 4-H Fair.

Councilperson Jesse Knight made a motion to allow the banners to be hung on the Main Street Bridge and have City crews place banners on the poles. Councilperson Sharon Haun seconded the motion and the Council voted 5-0 in favor. Motion carried.

Robert Herbig, representing the Lake Association, presented a letter to the Council containing the Lake Associations feelings on the importance of the CGCLA Water Proposal.

CONSENT AGENDA

Councilperson Mark Brooks 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 5, 2017 Special Minutes.
- B. July 5, 2017 to Current Appropriations.
- C. Evening on the Riverwalk Special Event License – Alcohol.
The Council voted 5-0 in favor. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

D. Comp Plan & Updates.

Councilperson Jesse Knight noted there was nothing new to discuss at the moment but still need to make contact with the Comprehensive Plan Committee members to get everyone on the same page.

E. Vacant Structure Ordinance.

City Attorney Randy Heilman noted the Ordinance presented in the packet has been updated and is the current draft after the Joint Work-Study with the Economic Development Committee and the Blighted Structures Committee. Mayor Steve Shepard feels this should go back to the individual committees to be reviewed and have Work-Study on August 14, 2017 to finalize the Ordinance. After discussion Councilperson Jeff Blosser made a motion to have a Joint Work-Study at City Hall between the Economic Development Committee and the Blighted Structures Committee on August 14, 2017 at 5:30 P.M. Councilperson Jesse Knight seconded the motion and the Council voted 5-0 in favor. Motion carried.

F. Clean Drinking Water Fee Election.

City Administrator Danny Matthews reviewed the Clean Drinking Water Fee Election Cost, more details of the Election is presented in the Packet for the Council to review. The estimated cost are as follows; \$0.03 per 1,000 gallons, based on last year's usage, approximately \$4,762.59 per year or \$396.87 per month. After discussion Councilperson Mark Brooks made a motion to approve the Clean Drinking Water Fee Election, starting October 1, 2017 or as early as possible, paying \$0.03 per 1,000 gallons. Councilperson Sharon Jones seconded the motion and the Council voted 5-0 in favor. Motion carried.

G. 2nd Reading of Sign Ordinance.

Mayor Steve Shepard briefly presented the changes to the Sign Ordinance as presented in the packet for the Council's review. Some of the changes noted by Mayor Shepard were; gives the Building Inspector authority to approve sign permits; if a variance is required the permit will go before the Planning & Zoning Commission then presented to the Council for approval. City Attorney Randy Heilman explained how the changes were presented in the Ordinance. After discussion Councilperson Jeff Blosser made a motion to approve the Sign Ordinance as presented. Councilperson Sharon Jones seconded the motion and the Council voted 5-0 in favor. Motion carried. This is now ordinance 2188.

NEW BUSINESS

H. Audit Report

Cindy Jenson, Aldrich & Company CPA's, reported to the Council on the 2016 audit conducted. Some notes made by Cindy Jenson; funds are very complex, cross train office employees, have backup person review payroll checks, there are many old checks that have not been cashed and should be voided out, water and sewer rates are very complex and may need to be simplified. Mrs. Jenson noted the audit report is unmodified and comparing amount spent to the budget there was spending authority for all expenses. City Administrator Danny Matthews noted the City has been considering simplifying the water rates and making it less complex and new Police software was just approved that does tie to the State software.

I. Will Skinner Presentation.

Will D. Skinner, P.E., from Skinner Design Studios, presented a technical evaluation of the Council Grove Raw Water Source and Delivery System. The PowerPoint slides were given to the Council to follow along, a copy will be in the council meeting folder for future review. Highlights from the presentation: Federal Reservoir is murkier than the City Lake and will require more filtration to clean the water, loss of water volume between 2010 to 2017 drought was 31% retaining 70% of capacity, there have only been five major water leaks within the last 20 years, and the pipeline is in excellent condition. Mayor Steve Shepard thanked Mr. Skinner for his time putting together the evaluation. Robert Herbig, president of

the Lake Association, thanked Mr. Skinner for the comments and research, and presented the Lake Association feelings on the importance of the CGCLA Water Proposal; the water shortage issue needs to be solved now, the Lake Association wishes to supplement the city's water supply source, maintain property values & improve local economy, improve watercraft & water sports safety, reduce reliance on a 70 year old system, and improve emergency management. Mr. Herbig noted the Lake Association would like to work with Mr. Skinner on clearing up the misunderstanding with the CGCLA Water Proposal.

J. Rockin-Z-Ice Request.

Steve Zerr, owner of Rockin-Z-Ice House, noted the sewer is charged based on water usage but feels this is not applicable to him due to all the water being used goes out the door and very little goes down the sewer. Mr. Zerr is requesting to not pay the sewer charge as he feels the sewer usage is the same as the water usage due to his nature of business. Mr. Zerr noted, upon purchasing the ice house, there were two water leaks discovered that have now been taken care of and the amount of water going to the sewer has been greatly decreased. Through discussion it was discovered one of the leaks mentioned by Mr. Zerr was a backflow device that was not maintained and was removed by Mr. Zerr. After discussion, Utility Superintendent Derrick Craige noted if the backflow device was requested by the City then it must be maintained. City Administrator Danny Matthews noted the Council can approve to place a meter on the sewer line then he will only be charged for what goes through the meter. Councilperson Sharon Haun suggested the Utility Committee look at this request and come back to the Council with a recommendation.

K. Planning & Zoning Commission/Zoning Appeals Board.

Building Inspector Larry Siegrist noted the Planning & Zoning Commission considered and turned down the recommendation to become the Zoning Appeals Board in addition to being the Planning & Zoning Commission. The Planning & Zoning Commission wish to remain as such and have the Council remain as the Zoning Appeals Board. City Administrator Danny Matthews noted Planning & Zoning would set the zoning regulations and if there were any appeals to the regulations the Zoning Appeals Board would be the Council plus one other person within the three mile extraterritorial area.

L. Planning & Zoning Recommendations.

Building Inspector Larry Siegrist reported the Planning & Zoning recommendations. The suggestion is to have City Attorney Randy Heilman, City Inspector Larry Siegrist, and anyone else needed to draft an ordinance define zoning in the new extra-territorial zoning areas outside the city limits, as proposed in the Comprehensive Plan. Mayor Steve Shepard noted the Council may want to consider only zoning along the main highways coming into Council Grove. Councilperson Jesse Knight suggested having a work-study with Planning & Zoning to make sure everyone is on the same page. After discussion Councilperson Mark Brooks made a motion to have a Work-Study with Planning & Zoning at City Hall on August 28, 2017 at 5:30 P.M. Councilperson Jesse Knight seconded the motion and the Council voted 5-0 in favor. Motion carried.

M. 4th of July Discussion.

Mayor Steve Shepard noted it was a good 4th of July event with many great activities. Mayor Shepard inquired if the Council wished to book the same DJ for next year, it was noted the DJ is already booked for the weekend after the 4th of July in 2018 and may not be available if the Council chooses to wait. After discussion Councilperson Mark Brooks made a motion to book DJ Hicks on July 4, 2018 for the City's 4th of July Celebration. Councilperson Sharon Haun seconded the motion and the Council voted 5-0 in favor. Motion carried.

GOVERNING BODY COMMENTS

Councilperson Mark Brooks requested the Council look at replacing the brick road on Wood Street from Main Street to Hockaday Street and replacing the street lights with LED lights. Councilperson Jeff Blosser noted the Council could also look at solar lighting for the street lights.

Councilperson Jesse Knight requested the Riverwalk Committee meet soon and noted having new trash bins placed at City Parks should be revisited.

Councilperson Jeff Blosser noted the City Lake Water and Sewer Committee met and received four qualification packets and should be able to bring a recommendation to the Council by the August 15, 2017 Council Meeting.


City Attorney Randy Heilman noted 121 Spencer Street is encroaching onto City property and would like to see if the City would sell that portion rather than having them remove there encroachment. After discussion the Council directed City Attorney Randy Heilman to discuss with the property owner the possibility of squaring up his section of land, with all related cost to be paid by the property owner, and discuss a fair price to be brought to the Council for consideration.

Mayor Steve Shepard noted Adams Lumber is now keeping Rodeo in stock, also noting it cannot be sprayed directly onto the water.

ADJOURNMENT

Councilperson Mark Brooks made a motion to adjourn. Councilperson Jeff Blosser seconded the motion and the Council voted 5-0 in favor. Motion carried.


Steve Shepard Mayor

ATTEST:

Danny Matthews City Administrator

