

City Council Meeting Minutes
August 16, 2022

WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Debi Schwerdtfeger called the regular City Council Meeting to order. Council members present were Keith Wessel, Jason Booker, Mark Berner, Larry Siegrist, Sharon Haun also present were City Administrator Nick Jones. Others attending were Marcus Hernandez, Pastor Billy Kyger, David Laeuenbsteil, Sydney Pursel, Aron Doty.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Superintendent Aron Dody with USD417 requested approval from the City Council to allow fireworks salutes at home games this season. After discussion Councilperson Sean Honer made a motion to approve the request to shot firework salutes at home games. The motion was seconded by Councilperson Jason Booker. Motion Carried 6 – 0

CONSENT AGENDA

Councilperson Keith Wessel made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented in the packet. Councilperson Sharon Haun seconded the motion. Motion Carried 6 – 0. The consent agenda consisted of:

- August 02, 2022, Minutes
- August 02, 2022, to Current Appropriations.
- Cabin Transfer: CW-1

OLD BUSINESS

- **Kansas Association of Trail Towns (KATT): Update**

City Administrator Nick Jones gave an update on a recent Kansas Association of Trail Towns (KATT), which includes Ottawa, Osawatomie, Council Grove, and Herington. Administrator Jones said the group received a grant for \$53,500 from the Sunflower Foundation to buy trackers for the trail to track usage and for promote of the Flint Hills Trail. Administrator Jones said the recent grant received by Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks for \$24.8 million will completed the 40 miles stretch between Council Grove and Herington. Administrator Jones said that he wrote a letter of recommendations on behalf of the city for the grant.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Sacred Red Rock Project: Pauline Sharp**

Pauline Sharp of the Kaw Nation and Sydney Pusel with the University of Kansas Spencer Museum of Art representing the Sacred Red Rock Project spoke to the Council about moving the 28-ton Scared Red Rock from its current location in Lawrence, Kansas where it has been displayed sense 1929. The Lawrence City Commission and Douglas County approved a joint resolution in 2021 to return the rock back to the Kaw Nation. A grant was received by the University of Kansas in the amount of \$5 million from the Mellon Foundation Monuments Project Grant to move the rock to Allegawaho Park in Morris County.

- **Police and Fire Committee Recommendation: Appointments**

Mayor Debi Schwerdtfeger read the recommendation from the The Police and Fire Committee and that it accepts the recommendation of the Fire Board and recommends the Council appoint the following to positions in the Council Grove Fire Department.

Fire Chief – Tyson Stevenson, Assistant Fire Chief – Steve Crichton

Mayor Schwerdtfeger asked for a motion to approve the appointments. Councilperson Mark Berner made a motion to approve the appointments. The motion was seconded by Councilperson Sean Honer. Motion Carried 6 – 0

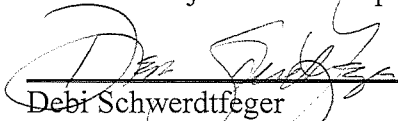
- **Police and Fire Committee Recommendation:**

Mayor Debi Schwerdtfeger presented the recommendation from the Police and Fire Committee recommend the purchase of 15 Scott 4500 Carbon Cylinder and Snap Change Values from Ed M. Feld Equipment Co. to replace cylinders that will be out of date in October 2022 at a price of \$17,636.40. After discussion a motion was made by Councilperson Sharon Haun to approve the recommendation. The motion was seconded y Councilperson Jason Booker with the funds coming from equipment reserve. Motion Carried 6 – 0

GOVERNING BODY COMMENTS

- **Councilperson Jason Booker** – reminded residents about the City Ordinance of grass clippings being left in the street and the potential hazards it can cause to the storm drainage system.
- **Councilperson Mark Berner** – N/A
- **Councilperson Keith Wessel** – N/A
- **Councilperson Sean Honer** – Absent
- **Councilperson Larry Siegrist** – N/A
- **Councilperson Sharon Haun** – Reminded citizens of the City Ordinance regarding blowing or mowing grass clippings into the road.
- **City Attorney Brian Henderson** – N/A
- **City Administrator Nick Jones** – asked the Council if they have any issue with the Moon Rise Bike Ride using the parkin on Friday, Saturday at the Riverwalk Park for rides and on Sunday for parking and registration. The Council had no issue with the request. Administrator Jones also said there was an inaccuracy in a recent letter to the editor in the Council Grove Republican. Administrator Jones noted that the report said the city had no offsetting cost on the \$420,000 in lease money collected. Jones pointed out that on average around \$250,000 of those funds goes back into maintaining the City Lake. Administrator Jones also pointed out that the city is not a taxing entity as some believe and the taxes from the Lake go to Morris County. Administrator Jones also said a recent report that he had been in contact with the Lake Association Attorney Kyle Steadman was inaccurate. Jones said he was referring to a lessee meeting at the Church and not the Lake Association Board meeting. Jones said he was in contact with Kyle Steadman by email following the board meeting.
- **Mayor Debi Schwerdtfeger** – said the America Legion suggested planting Bluegrass on the hill at the cemetery and requested looking into plastic clips for the recently painted flags poles. The America Legion also requested to paint the flag poles at Sunnyslope Cemetery.

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


Debi Schwerdtfeger Mayor

ATTEST: 
Nick Jones City Administrator

