

WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Debi Schwerdtfeger called the regular City Council Meeting to order. Council members present were Jason Booker, Keith Wessel, Mark Berner, Sharon Haun, Larry Siegrist, City Administrator Nick Jones, and City Attorney Bill Halvorsen were also present. Others attending were Mindy Andres, Marcus Hernandez, Tracy Henry, Susan Harris, Zoey Bond, Jon Wadick.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD I

Susan Harris with the Council Grove/Morris County Chamber introduced Zoey Bond who is now employed by the Chamber and will be working with Mrs. Harris on a variety of items. Mrs. Bond said she looks forward to working with the city and is excited for the opportunity.

CONSENT AGENDA

Councilperson Keith Wessel made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented in the packet. Councilperson Jason Booker seconded the motion. Motion Carried 4 – 0 with 1 abstention Larry Siegrist. The consent agenda consisted of:

- Oct. 5, 2021, Minutes
- Oct 5, 2021, to Current Appropriations.
- Cabin Transfer: N/A

OLD BUSINESS

- **North Riverwalk Extension – Update:**

City Administrator Nick Jones reported that the North Riverwalk Extension is complete and the lights have been rewired for LED lights and the Streets and Parks Department will place a couple bench on the extension.

NEW BUSINESS

- **GMDC – Tracy Henry**

Tracy Henry with the Greater Morris County Development Corporation addressed the Council about the commitment that GMDC made to have a housing study done for Morris County. Mrs. Henry said the study would start in January 2022 and be completed mid to late June. Mrs. Henry said that GMDC is working with RDG Design to complete the housing study and now is the perfect time to do a housing study with all the new census information coming out. RDG Design worked on the Kansas housing study along with Dickinson and Lyon Counties. Mrs. Henry said the estimated cost for the study was \$10,000, which GMDC has the funding available to complete and that the study would allow the city to apply for State and Federal grants and funding that is only available with having a housing study completed. Mayor Schwerdtfeger and the Council spoke in favor of the study. After discussion Councilperson Jason Booker made a motion to contribute \$2,500 to the study coming from infrastructure. The motion was seconded by Councilperson Mark Berner. Motion Carried 6 – 0

- **Gathering on the Santa Fe Trail**

City Administrator Nick Jones presented to the Council a request from Gathering on the Santa Fe Trail Committee to allow for the consumption of wine at their event during Candle Light Charm event. Administrator Jones said there would be no sale of alcohol at the event and alcohol would not be allowed to leave the premises. After discussion a motion was made by Councilperson Mark Berner to approve the request and waive any fees. The motion was seconded by Councilperson Keith Wessel. Motion Carried 6 – 0

- **Utilities Committee Recommendation – Jesse Pavak and David Siemers**

Mayor Debi Schwerdtfeger presented the recommendation from the Utilities Committee To give pay increases to Jesse Pavak and David Siemers in the amount of .50 cents for passing cross connection control and backflow prevention certification. Jesse Pavak's new payrate would be \$14.50 and David Siemers new payrate would be \$15.78. After discussion Councilperson Mark Brooks made a motion to approve the Utilities Committee recommendation. The motion was seconded by Councilperson Sharon Haun. Motion Carried 6 – 0

- **Police and Fire Committee Recommendation: Appoint Matthew Cook to part-time Police Officer**

Mayor Debi Schwerdtfeger presented the recommendation from the Police and Fire Committee

to appoint Matthew Cook to part-time Police Officer at a payrate of \$13.86 an hour. This appointment is contingent on passing a drug/alcohol screening, background check and physical. Councilperson Keith Wessel made a motion to approve the recommendation of the Police and Fire Committee. The motion was seconded by Councilperson Jason Booker. Motion Carried 6 – 0

- **Executive Session – City Lake**

Councilperson Mark Brooks made a motion to go into executive session concerning the City Lake, which include the City Council, Mayor, City Attorney, and City Administrator for 30 minutes. The motion was seconded by Councilperson Keith Wessel. Motion Carried 6 - 0. On returning to the Council meeting no action was taken.

GOVERNING BODY COMMENTS

- **Councilperson Jason Booker** – N/A
- **Councilperson Mark Berner** – N/A
- **Councilperson Keith Wessel** – Thanked City Administrator Nick Jones and Police Chief Shawn Wangerin on receiving a grant for the Council Grove Police Department to get new radios.
- **Councilperson Mark Brooks** – Memorial Tree Committee will get together and pick new spots for trees on the North Riverwalk Extension.
- **Councilperson Larry Siegrist** – N/A
- **Councilperson Sharon Haun** – N/A
- **City Attorney Bill Halvorsen** – N/A
- **City Administrator Nick Jones** – Informed the City Council that APAC out of Emporia who completed the Chip N Seal downtown was presented with a letter from the city and BG Consultants regarding workmanship on the Chip N Seal. Administrator Jones reported that APAC is not taking ownership of the work. Administrator Jones informed the Council that we at an impasse with APAC and that Bill Halvorsen will be dealing with APAC on the matter moving forward.
- **City Administrator Nick Jones** clarified a letter to the editor regarding the Social Media Policy the City adopted in July 2021. Administrator Jones pointed out the letter was inaccurate, and the policy was based on guidance from the League of Municipalities.
- **Mayor Debi Schwerdtfeger** – Inquired about the Chip N Seal completed by the County and how long the chips would remain on the road. City Administrator Nick Jones said the chips are usually for up to 6 months before being sweep with the street sweeper.

Councilperson Sharon Haun made a motion to adjourn. Councilperson Mark Brooks seconded the motion. Motion carried 6 – 0


Debi Schwerdtfeger
Mayor

ATTEST:

Nick Jones
City Administrator

