

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, Sean Honer, Larry Siegrist, Sharon Haun also present were City Administrator Nick Jones and City Attorney Bill Halvorsen. Others attending were Marcus Hernandez, Pastor Billy Kryger, James Crosby, Mindy Andres, Monn Metzger, Kelly McDiffett, Deidra Knight, Angie Schwerdtfeger.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Kelly McDiffitt with USD #417 requested the city allow students to be shuttled to the Riverwalk bridge on UTV's for the promenade and back to the gym for prom on Saturday April 23rd. After discussion Councilperson Sharon Haun made a motion to approve the request. The motion was seconded by Councilperson Jason Booker. Motion Carried 6 – 0

CONSENT AGENDA

Councilperson Sean Honer made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented in the packet. Councilperson Mark Berner seconded the motion. Motion Carried 6 – 0. The consent agenda consisted of:

- April 5, 2022, Minutes
- April 5, 2022, to Current Appropriations.
- Cabin Transfer: N/A
- Club Liquor License: El Rancho Viejo

OLD BUSINESS

- N/A

NEW BUSINESS

- **Together with Veterans: Jim Crosby**

Jim Crosby presented Together with Veterans program aimed at reducing suicide among veterans and residents in Morris County. Mr. Crosby said that there have been 16 deaths by suicide in the last 8 years in Morris County. The focus of the program is to have an on-call licensed mental health clinician available for when the Council Grove Police or Morris County Sheriff office responds to a call of a mental health crisis. Mr. Crosby said the program received a \$100,000 dollar grant over 3 years, but that law for the funding prohibits the funds be used for hiring a mental health clinician. Mr. Crosby proposed that the city provide \$125 an hour for not more the 4 hours a month for when the Council Grove Police Department needs assistance with a mental health crisis. Mayor Debi Schwerdtfeger asked Mr. Crosby for a written proposal on how the program would work and function and bring it back to Council and noted that the city is very supportive of a mental health first responder.

- **Daughters of the America Revolution: Monna Metzger**

Monna Metzger with the Daughters of the America Revolution requested permission to plant 2 bur oak and 4 serviceberry trees at the Madonna Park. After discussion Councilperson Sean Honer made a motion to approve the request. The motion was seconded by Councilperson Jason Booker. Motion Carried 6 – 0

- **Transportation Alternative Program Application: Safe Routes to School**

City Administrator Nick Jones presented a Resolution to the Council to declare the eligibility of the City to submit an application to the Kansas Department of Transportation for use of Transportation Alternatives program funds for the Safe Routes to school Phase 1 improvements project and authorizing the City Administrator to sign this application. After discussion Councilperson Keith Wessel made a motion to approve the resolution. The motion was seconded by Councilperson Sharon Haun. Motion Carried 6 – 0 Resolution #041922-01

- **Sales Tax Grant Committee Recommendations:**

City Administrator Nick Jones presented to the Council the recommendations from the Sales Tax Grant Committee.

- **Flint Hills Rebuilders:** Requested \$5,000 in Sales Tax Grant funding. The Sales Tax Grant Committee voted to recommend the approval of the grant request for \$5,000 from the Sales Tax Grant fund to the City Council. A motion was made by

Councilperson Jason Booker to approve the recommendation. The motion was seconded by Councilperson Mark Berner. Motion Carried 6 – 0

- **Council Grove/Morris County Chamber of Commerce:** Requested \$25,000 in Sales Tax Grant funding. The Sales Tax Grant Committee voted to recommend the approval of a modified amount of \$20,000 from the Sales Tax Grant fund to the City Council. A motion was made by Councilperson Sharon Haun to approve the recommendation. The motion was seconded by Councilperson Sean Honer. Motion Carried 6 – 0
- **Washunga Days:** Requested \$20,000 in Sales Tax Grant funding. The Sales Tax Grant Committee voted to recommend the approval of the grant request for \$20,000 from the Sales Tax Grant fund to the City Council. A motion was made by Councilperson Sean Honer to approve the recommendation. The motion was seconded by Councilperson Keith Wessel. Motion Carried 6 – 0
- **Police and Fire Committee Recommendation: Markese Godley**

Mayor Debi Schwerdtfeger asked for a motion to approve the recommendation of the Police and Fire Committee to appoint Markese Godley from Class B Officer to Class A Officer at a payrate of \$18.32 per hour. Officer Godley successfully completed the Kansas Law Enforcement Training and since his return has been active in the community and shown good work ethic. A motion was made by Councilperson Mark Berner to approve the appointment at a payrate of \$18.32 per hour. The motion was seconded by Councilperson Sharon Haun. Motion Carried 6 – 0
- **Utilities Department Recommendation: John Veh**

Mayor Debi Schwerdtfeger asked for a motion to approve the recommendation of the Utilities Department to appointment of John Veh to Utilities Foremen at a payrate of \$20.00 an hour. Mr. Veh will be required to complete his water and sewer certifications in his first 3 years of employment. This appointment is contingent upon completing a physical, drug/alcohol screening, and background check. A motion was made by Councilperson Sean Honer to approve the appointment. The motion was seconded by Councilperson Jason Booker. Motion Carried 6 – 0
- **Utilities Department Recommendation: David Siemers**

Mayor Debi Schwerdtfeger asked for a motion to approve the recommendation of the Utilities Department to give David Siemers a pay increase from \$16.82 to \$18.82 per hour for successfully passing his Class II Water Operator Certification. A motion was made by Councilperson Mark Berner to approve the pay increase. The motion was seconded by Councilperson Jason Booker. Motion Carried 6 – 0
- **Utilities Department Recommendation: Michael Stover**

Mayor Debi Schwerdtfeger asked for a motion to approve the recommendation of the Utilities Department to give Michael Stover a retention raise from \$15.00 to \$16.00 per hour. A motion was made by Councilperson Jason Booker to approve the retention raise. The motion was seconded by Councilperson Keith Wessel. Motion Carried 6 – 0
- **Utilities Department Recommendation: Water Sewer Rates**

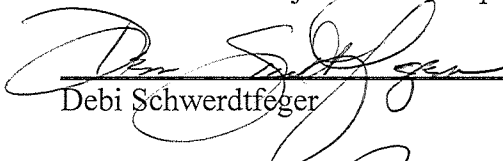
City Administrator Nick Jones presented to Council that the Utilities Department recommends a water and sewer rate increase of 3% based off recommendation from the water rate analysis done in 2019 by Carl Brown with Getting Great Rates. The analysis calls for a water and sewer rate increase over the next 5 years of 3% per year and a new analysis in year 6. With the following rate increases. After Discussion a motion was made by Councilperson Mark Berner to approve the recommendation from the Utilities Department for water and sewer rate increases of 3%. The motion was seconded by Councilperson Sean Honer. Motion Carried 6 - 0

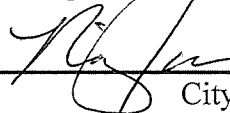
- **Water Rates within City** would go from \$5.41 per 1,000 gallons to \$5.57 per 1,000 gallons.
- **Sewer Rates within the City** would go from \$1.92 per 1,000 gallons to \$1.98 per 1,000 gallons.
- **Water Rate outside City** would go from \$10.82 per 1,000 gallons to \$11.14 per 1,000 gallons.
- **Sewer Rates outside the City** would go from \$3.83 per 1,000 gallons to \$3.95 per 1,000 gallons.
- **Executive Session - City Lake**
 Mayor Debi Schwerdtfeger asked for a motion to go into Executive Session. A motion was made by Councilperson Keith Wessel to go into executive session for attorney client privilege regarding the City Lake, which included the Mayor, City Council, City Attorney, and City Administrator for 30 minutes. The Motion was seconded by Councilperson Mark Berner. Motion Carried 6 – 0
 Upon returning to regular session no action was taken.

GOVERNING BODY COMMENTS

- Councilperson Jason Booker – N/A.
- Councilperson Mark Berner – N/A
- Councilperson Keith Wessel – N/A
- Councilperson Sean Honer – N/A
- Councilperson Larry Siegrist – N/A
- Councilperson Sharon Haun - N/A
- City Attorney Bill Halvorsen – N/A
- City Administrator Nick Jones – N/A
- Mayor Debi Schwerdtfeger – N/A

Mayor Debi Schwerdtfeger asked for a motion to adjourn. Councilperson Keith Wessel made a motion to adjourn. Councilperson Jason Booker seconded the motion. Motion carried 5 – 0


 Debi Schwerdtfeger Mayor

ATTEST:

 Nick Jones City Administrator

