

WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Debi Schwertfeger called the regular City Council Meeting to order. Council members present were Jason Booker, Keith Wessel, Mark Brooks and Sharon Haun, Mark Berner, Larry Siegrist. City Attorney Bill Halvorsen and City Administrator Nick Jones were also present. Others attending were Mindy Andres, Marcus Hernandez, Jeff Blosser, Kay Hutchinson, and Susan Harris.

PUBLIC HEARING – Cares Grant – Evaluating the performance of Grant No. 20-CV-076
City Administrator Nick Jones explained to the City Council that the purpose of the second Public Hearing was to inform the citizens of the project’s successful or unsuccessful completion and to obtain input on the grantee’s performance. City Administrator Nick Jones informed the City Council that the 9 businesses were very appreciative of the City’s willingness to apply for the grant and that it helped get them through the COVID19 lockdown. City Administrator Nick Jones told the City Council he would recommend that in the future that the City hire a Grant Administrator to handle the grant. Councilperson Keith Wessel agreed that with the amount of paperwork and time committed to administer the grant it would be a good move to hire a Grant Administrator in the future.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD I

Kay Hutchinson spoke to the City Council regarding the Scenic Byway Radio System and wanted the City Council to consider getting the radio system going again with the Santa Fe Trail 200 events and activities coming up. Mr. Hutchinson also informed the City Council that the radio system could be used to broadcast bad weather that may be moving in. Councilperson Mark Brooks said he thought getting the radio going again was a good ideal with all the activities and historic sites that could be broadcast on the station. Councilperson Mark Berner also expressed that he thought that radio system would be good for informing the public of events and historic sites in Council Grove. Councilperson Jason Booker agreed with Councilperson Mark Brooks and Mark Berner regarding the radio station being used to promote Council Grove. City Administrator Nick Jones let the Council know that the system has not been used in 2 years and that the message on the machine was the same from 2004 to 2018 when the Girl Scout cabin was torn down. City Administrator Nick Jones suggested a group work on the project. Mayor Debi Schwertfeger asked Councilperson’s Mark Brooks, Mark Berner, and Jason Booker work on the project with City Administrator Nick Jones.

CONSENT AGENDA

Councilperson Jason Booker made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented in the packet. Councilperson Mark Berner seconded the motion. The consent agenda consisted of:

- April 6, 2021 Minutes
- April 6, 2021, to Current Appropriations.
- Cabin Transfer: N/A

Motion carried 6 – 0

OLD BUSINESS

- **North Riverwalk Extension – Update:**

City Administrator Nick Jones informed the City Council that he contacted BG Consultants regarding adding additional lights to the old Dam, which would be utilized by the public for several activities. KDOT was contacted to see if the adding the lights was possible.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Riverwalk Amphitheater Concrete Bids:**

City Administrator Nick Jones and Jeff Blosser who is contracted with the City to work on the Riverwalk Amphitheater presented to the City Council the one bid received on the project. Creed Construction of Manhattan bid price was for \$164,245.36. The scope of work covered was the concrete work for the stage, apron, and stairs. Jeff Blosser said he felt the bid was a fair bid based off similar projects that KDOT has done this year. City Administrator Nick Jones let the Council know that a majority of the funds for the project were from grants and donations. Councilperson Mark Berner made a motion to approve the bid from Creed Construction for \$164,245.36. The motion was seconded by Councilperson Sharon Haun. Motion Carried 6 – 0

- **Cares Grant:**
 - **Adoption of Code of Conduct**
 - **Adoption of Procurement Procedure Ordinance**

City Administrator Nick Jones presented to the City Council the need to adopt a Code of Conduct to follow the HUD requirement to close out the Cares Grant. City Administrator Nick Jones also pointed out that the requirement is a formality as it does not apply to the grant, the State tried to get HUD to waive the requirement. Councilperson Keith Wessel made a motion to adopt the Code of Conduct. The motion was seconded by Councilperson Mark Berner. Motion Carried 6- 0

City Administrator Nick Jones presented to the City Council the need to adopt a City ordinance for a Procurement Procedure to follow the HUD requirement to close out the Cares Grant. City Administrator Nick Jones also pointed out that the requirement is a formality as it does not apply to the grant, the State tried to get HUD to waive the requirement. City Administrator Nick Jones said the ordinance was a needed as the City does not have a formal Procurement Procedure. A motion was made by Councilperson Larry Siegrist to approve the Procurement Procedure ordinance. The motion was seconded by Councilperson Sharon Haun. Motion Carried 6 – 0, Ordinance #2245
 - **Street and Parks Committee Recommendation – South 11th Street – Speed Limit**
 - **Utilities Committee Recommendation: Water/Sewer Rates Ordinance**
 - **Office Committee Recommendation: BCBS Renewal**
- City Administrator Nick Jones presented the recommendation of the Street and Parks Committee to the City Council regarding changing the speed limit on South 11th Street from 30mph to 20mph. The recommendation is based of complaints from residents with children and based off the recommendation from Police Chief Shawn Wangerin. A motion was made by Councilperson Mark Berner to approve the speed limit change on South 11th from 30mpn to 20mph. The motion was seconded by Councilperson Jason Booker. Motion Carried 6 – 0
- City Administrator Nick Jones presented the recommendation for the Street and Parks Committee to the City Council regarding changing the speed limit on South 11th Street from 30mph to 20mph. The recommendation is based of complaints from residents with children and based off the recommendation from Police Chief Shawn Wangerin. A motion was made by Councilperson Mark Berner to approve the speed limit change on South 11th from 30mpn to 20mph. The motion was seconded by Councilperson Jason Booker. Motion Carried 6 – 0
- City Administrator Nick Jones presented the recommendation for the Utilities Committee. The recommendation is based off a 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. The proposed new rates are as followed:
- Water Rates within City would go from \$5.25 per 1,000 gallons to \$5.41 per 1,000 gallons. Sewer Rates within the City would go from \$1.86 per 1,000 gallons to \$1.92 per 1,000 gallons.
- Water Rate outside City would go from \$10.50 per 1,000 gallons to \$10.82 per 1,000 gallons. Sewer Rates outside the City would go from \$3.72 per 1,000 gallons to \$3.83 per 1,000 gallons.
- Councilperson Keith Wessel made a motion to approve the recommendation from the Utilities Committee for a water and sewer rate increase of 3%. The motion was seconded by Councilperson Mark Brooks. Motion Carried 6 – 0
- City Administrator Nick Jones also asked the City Council to approve the ordinance for the new water and sewer rates. A motion was made by Councilperson Keith Wessel to approve the ordinance. The motion was seconded by Councilperson Jason Booker. Motion Carried 6 – 0. Ordinance #2246
- City Administrator Nick Jones presented to the City Council the recommendation from the Office Committee to approve the BlueCross BlueShield Health and Dental insurance for the City Employees. City Administrator Nick Jones told the City Council that he looked at and talked to several provides before this year’s renewal and that BlueCross BlueShield had the better rates and coverage. City Administrator Nick Jones also told the City Council that the insurance being provided through the Morris County Hospital and the Chamber of Commerce maybe a viable option in the future. The BlueCross BlueShield Health renewal starting on June 1, 2021 will cost the City approximately \$25,986.91 per month for a total of \$311,842.93 per year. The City budgeted \$341,000

for the renewal. The City will recoup \$39,997.68 making the actual amount spent on Health and Dental insurance \$271,845.25. A motion was made by Councilperson Keith Wessel to approve the BlueCross BlueShield Health and Dental Insurance for the City employees. The motion was seconded by Councilperson Sharon Haun.
Motion Carried 6 – 0

- **City Committee Appointments:**

Mayor Debi Schwertfeger announced the 2021 Committee Appointments and noted that she will be adding to the Economic Development Committee soon:

Public Works - Utilities: Mark Brooks, Mark Berner

Public Works - Roads & Parks: Keith Wessel, Jason Booker

Police & Fire: Sharon Haun, Keith Wessel

Parks & Rec: Mark Brooks, Mark Berner

Office: Jason Booker, Keith Wessel

Council President: Mark Brooks

GMDC: Debi Schwertfeger

Chamber Rep: Sharon Haun

Flint Hills Regional Rep: Sharon Haun

Sales Tax Grant: Keith Wessel, Mark Berner, Max Byram, Angie Schwertfeger, Dawn Palmquist

City Economic Development: Jason Booker, Debi Schwertfeger

City Lake, City Lake Advisory & City Lake Sewer: Larry Siegrist, Keith Wessel

Historic Sites: Mark Brooks, Sharon Haun

Riverwalk: Sharon Haun, Mark Brooks, Debi Schwertfeger

July 4th: Jason Booker, Mark Berner, Mark Brooks, Jason Zeigler

Blighted Structure: Larry Siegrist, Mark Berner, Jason Booker

Comp Plan: Larry Siegrist, Mark Brooks, Jason Booker

Santa Fe Trail Bicentennial Task Force: Mark Brooks, Sharon Haun

City Lake Annexation Committee: Keith Wessel, Jason Booker, Larry Siegrist, Sharon Haun, Debi Schwertfeger, Gary Catlin, Jan Troxell, Julie Hower, Chris Bolton

Mayor Debi Schwertfeger asked for a motion to approve the appointments. A motion was made by Councilperson Mark Berner to approve the appointments. The motion was seconded by Councilperson Jason Booker. Motion Carried 6 – 0.

- **Executive Session: Non-Elected Official**

Mayor Debi Schwertfeger asked for a motion to go into Executive Session regarding Non-Elected Officials. A motion was made by Councilperson Mark Brooks to go into Executive session for 15 minutes regarding a Non-Elected Official to include The City Council, Mayor, City Attorney, and City Administrator. The Motion was seconded by Councilperson Sharon Haun. Motion Carried 6 – 0
After returning from Executive Session no action was taken

GOVERNING BODY COMMENTS

- **Councilperson Jason Booker** – Commented on a resident who had concerns with UTV's being driven on the Highways. City Administrator Nick Jones said he spoke to Chief of Police Shawn Wangerin regarding the issues and that he will have Chief Wangerin post on-line and in the paper regarding the rules for operating a UTV in town.
- **Councilperson Mark Berner** – Explained to Councilperson Sharon Haun that the Utilities Committee will need to look at employees pay at the Water Department as it is getting harder to find and keep employees.
- **Councilperson Keith Wessel** – talked about zoning and of Commercial property and the junk cars that are piling up on some of these properties. City Attorney Bill Halvorsen is going to investigate what is required to rezone some of these properties. Councilperson Keith Wessel also encouraged everyone to support the G.B.O tournament.
- **Councilperson Mark Brooks** – asked the Council about the City parking lot at 14 Neosho street and having a time limit on parking there. City Administrator Nick Jones suggested posting no over night parking from 2am to 6am. The Council agreed to post no over night parking signs.
- **Councilperson Larry Siegrist** – None

- **Councilperson Sharon Haun** – Thanked Jeff Blosser and everyone working on the Riverwalk Amphitheater project.
- **City Attorney Bill Halvorsen** – None
- **City Administrator Nick Jones** – None
- **Mayor Debi Schwerdtfeger** – Appointed Neil Julian to volunteer fire fighter and asked for a confirmation of the appointment. Councilperson Keith Wessel made a motion to approve the appointment. The motion was seconded by Councilperson Sharon Haun.

Motion Carried 6 – 0

ADJOURNMENT

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

