

City Council Meeting Minutes  
March 16, 2021

**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 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, Aron Doty, Darci Bowman, Angie Schwerdtfeger, Deidra Knight, Max Byram

**PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD I**

*Barbara* Darci Bowman spoke to the Council concerning a water leak that occurred at her business Bowman Interiors. Mrs. Bowman asked the Council for help with her water bill that was high due to the water leak. City Administrator Nick Jones informed the Council and Mrs. Bowman that her water bill was not as high as she originally thought. The total of the bill was \$538.06. and that the City will work with her to make payments on the water bill. Councilperson Mark Brooks let Mrs. Bowman know that the City understands, but the City ordinance states that any water leak on the customers side is the responsibility of the customer. Councilperson Mark Brooks said that the City does allow payments to be made and added to the next moth bill. City Administrator Nick Jones told Mrs. Bowman that the City would contact her and set up the payment plan.

Aron Doty with US D417 spoke to the Council regarding the 2021 High School Prom and requested the use of the Riverwalk Park and Riverwalk Bridge for promenade. Mr. Doty said the school district would have a company setup a tent for the event and the area would be cleaned up the same night. Councilperson Jason Booker made a motion to allow the use of the Riverwalk Park and bridge for the USD 417 Prom. The motion was seconded by Councilperson Sharon Haun. Motion Carried 6 – 0

Aron Doty with USD 417 also spoke to the Council regarding bleachers and concrete for the Ben I. Smith Field. Mr. Doty said the agreement made was that USD 417 would provide the bleachers and the City would provide the concrete for the bleachers. The plans were put on hold because of the pandemic. Mr. Doty said that USD 417 has accepted the invitation to host KSHSAA baseball regionals this year. City Administrator Nick Jones asked the Council to allow himself and the Recreation Advisory Committee to move forward and make the decision on who would complete the concrete work for the City. Councilperson Mark Brooks requested that the Council allow up to \$16,000 be spent on the concrete work at Ben I. Smith Field. Councilperson Mark Brooks made a motion to allow the City Administrator and Recreation Advisory Committee to select a contractor to complete the work at Ben I. Smith Field not to exceed \$16,000. The Motion was seconded by Councilperson Mark Berner.

Motion Carried 6 – 0

**CONSENT AGENDA**

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

- March 16, 2021 Minutes
- March 16, 2021, to Current Appropriations.
- Cabin Transfer:

Motion carried 6 – 0

**OLD BUSINESS**

- **CTS Group – Update:**  
City Administrator Nick Jones reported the CTS Group was finishing up the meters installs and is on schedule to be done by the end of the month.
- **North Riverwalk Extension – Update:**  
City Administrator Nick Jones reported KDOT had approved the redesign of the new North Riverwalk Extension from BG Consultants and that the City is awaiting at start date from Bryant and Bryant Construction.

**NEW BUSINESS**

- **Community Events Applications:**
  - G.B.O Concert & Beer Garden – Ball Fields/Swimming Pool Park

Max Byram requested the use of Swimming Pool Park for the purpose of having a Beer Garden and Concert for the Glass Blow Open, that would take place from 5pm to 10pm on April 28,2021. A motion was made by Mark Berner to allow the event at the Swimming Pool Park. The motion was seconded by Councilperson Mark Brooks

Motion Carried 6 – 0

- **Santa Fe Trail 200 – Blue Grass Festival – Riverwalk Park:**

Application was pulled as the event has been moved to sometime in October 2021 because the Riverwalk Amphitheater would not be ready for use.

- **Drive in Concert – City Lake:**

Max Byram requested the use of the Caretakers Shack area at the City Lake for the purpose of having a Drive in Concert, that would take place on June 26, 2021 from 6pm to 10pm. A motion was made by Jason Booker to allow the event at the Caretakers Shack area at the City Lake. The Motion was seconded by Councilperson Keith Wessel.

Motion Carried 6 – 0

- **Pride Committee**

- **Resolution:**

Deidra Knight with the Pride Committee asked for the renewal of the Kansas Pride Committee Resolution that is done annually to participate in the program. A motion was made by Councilperson Keith Wessel to approve the renewal of the Pride Committee's Resolution. The motion was seconded by Councilperson Mark Berner.

Motion Carried 6 - 0

- **Spring Clean Up/Madonna Park Landscaping:**

Deidra Knight with the Pride Committee inquired if the City would be willing to do the Spring Clean up as in years past. Mrs. Knight said the dates for household items would be April 19 – 23 and the leaves and brush pickup would occur May 17 – 21. A motion was made by Councilperson Jason Booker to have the Spring Clean up like in years past on April 19 – 23 for household items and May 17 – 21 for leave and brush. The motion was seconded by Sharon Haun. Motion Carried 6 – 0

Deidra Knight also asked the Council if the Pride Committee would be able to landscape the Madonna Park and provided pictures of the proposed landscaping designed by Kris Gant. Councilperson Mark Brooks recommended that the Pride Committee contact DAR, as they have been taking care of the landscaping around the Madonna Statue. Mrs. Knight and Mrs. Schwerdtfeger said they would reach out to DAR. A motion was made by Councilperson Jason Booker to allow the landscaping and for the Pride Committee to work with the DAR. The motion was seconded by Councilperson Sharon Haun. Motion Carried 6 – 0

- **Recreation Committee Recommendation:**

Mayor Debi Schwerdtfeger appointed Remy Marsteller, Kohin Swalley, Camryn Frazier, Casaiia Mullen, Drew Buchman, Ethan Lif, Cienna Good, Dax Myers, and Ella Kirk to Concession Workers at a pay rate of \$7.69 per hour. Mayor Debi Schwerdtfeger asked the Council for a motion to approve her appointments. Councilperson Mark Brooks made a motion to approve the appointments made by Mayor Debi Schwerdtfeger. The motion was seconded by Councilperson Jason Booker. Motion Carried 6 – 0

- **Police and Fire Committee Recommendation:**

Mayor Debi Schwerdtfeger read the recommendation from the Police and Fire Committee to promote Hunter Burger from Class B officer to Class A officer at a payrate of \$18.32 per hour. Officer Burger has completed his 6 month probationary period and has shown the necessary aptitude for promotion from Class B officer to Class A officer. Mayor Debi Schwerdtfeger asked for a motion to approve the promotion. Councilperson Keith Wessel made a motion to approve the promotion of Hunter Burger to Class A officer. The motion was seconded by Councilperson Mark Berner. Motion Carried 6 – 0

- **Streets and Parks Committee Recommendation:**

Mayor Debi Schwerdtfeger presented the recommendation from the Streets and Parks Committee to the Council to purchase a 2014 Dodge 2500 4x4 from Schwerdtfeger Auto in the amount of \$19,500. The purchase would replace the 2002 Dodge 1500 that continues to have mechanical issues. Both the City Mechanic and Bachura Automotive have recommended the replacement of


the truck. A motion was made by Councilperson Jason Booker to purchase the 2014 Dodge 2500 4x4 from Schwerdtfeger Auto in the amount of \$19,500 from equipment reserves. The motion was seconded by Councilperson Larry Siegrist. Motion Carried 6 – 0

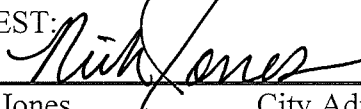
**GOVERNING BODY COMMENTS**

- **Councilperson Jason Booker** – None
- **Councilperson Mark Berner** – None
- **Councilperson Keith Wessel** – None
- **Councilperson Mark Brooks** – Asked the Council to extend the days for the Gun Fight on the Riverwalk to Thursday thru Saturday.
- **Councilperson Larry Siegrist** – None
- **Councilperson Sharon Haun** – None
- **City Attorney Bill Halvorsen** – None
- **City Administrator Nick Jones** – informed the Council that the split rail fence at Riverwalk Park was removed and large limestone rocks have been put in place. City Administrator Nick Jones also informed the City Council that Jay Troxell has offered to allow a camera to be mounted on the rear of Tiptoz Dance Studio to help with security concerns in Riverwalk Park.
- **Mayor Debi Schwerdtfeger** – informed the City Council that a group has requested that the City allow open containers in the 300 block of downtown Council Grove. City Administrator Nick Jones is going to check with the City Attorney and City Inspector about the legalities regarding the request.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Councilperson Keith Wessel made a motion to adjourn. Councilperson Larry Siegrist seconded the motion. Motion carried 6 – 0

  
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Debi Schwerdtfeger Mayor

ATTEST:  
  
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Nick Jones City Administrator

