

City Council Meeting Minutes
January 19, 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, Larry Siegrist, Mark Berner and Sharon Haun. City Attorney Bill Halvorsen and City Administrator Nick Jones were also present. Others attending were Mindy Andres, Marcus Hernandez, Brian Brown, Shawn Tiffany, Nicky Tiffany, Rose Mary Saunders, Kelley Judd, and Susan Harris.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD I

Rose Mary Saunders with the CDBG, Shawn Tiffany and Nicky Tiffany inquired if the City would be willing to sponsor an application for the CDBG grant for the restoration of a downtown building that was purchased by the Tiffany's. The Tiffany's are working with architect Ben Moore rehabbing the building. The plan is to have offices, meeting space, kitchen, and Airbnb rentals. Mayor Debbie Schwerdtfeger asked how the administrative duties of the grant would be handled. Rose Mary Saunders said that she would be the administrator for the grant and the City would just be the sponsor sense only City and County's can apply for the grant and the City would just be a pass through for the funds. Councilperson Mark Brooks asked the Tiffany's if they were working with the State Historical Society on the restoration of the building. Shawn Tiffany said that their plans were to keep the historic fabric of the building intact and he has been in contact with Christy Davis who recently restored a building in downtown Council Grove. City Administrator Nick Jones informed the Council that City Inspector James Masters and Ben Moore have communicated regarding the restoration of the building and the requirements. Councilperson Jason Booker made a motion for the City to sponsor the application for the CDBG grant. The motion was seconded by Mark Brooks Motion carried 5 – 0 with 1 abstention – Councilperson Larry Siegrist

CONSENT AGENDA

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

- January 19, 2021 Minutes
- January 19, 2021, to Current Appropriations.
- Cabin Transfer – C-34
- License to Sell Cereal Malt Beverages – El Rancho Viejo
Motion Carried 6 - 0.

OLD BUSINESS

- **CTS Group – Update**
City Administrator Nick Jones reported the CTS Group and Services Unlimited are currently working on installing LED lighting at the Library. City Administrator Nick Jones also reported the RTS group is working on replacing water meters around town and is on schedule to be done by the end on January.
- **North Riverwalk Extension – Update**
City Administrator Nick Jones reported that Bryant and Bryant Construction would be taking over the North Riverwalk extension project. The anticipated start date is set for January 25, 2021. The plan is to start with the dirt work and lighting until the weather warms to complete the concrete work.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Fire Committee Recommendation**
City Administrator Nick Jones presented to the Council the recommendation of the Fire Committee. The Fire Committee recommended the purchase of ATT-65-COAX-WRC Simo pump with rollage, 550106 flat coupler to COAX adapter set, and shipping cost in the total of \$8,100. The new equipment will replace worn equipment that no longer passes testing standards. Councilperson Sharon Haun made a motion to approve the Fire Committees recommendation for the purchase of the equipment in the amount of \$8,100 from TNT Rescue Systems to come from equipment reserve. The motion was seconded by Councilperson Jason Booker.
Motion Carried 6 – 0

- **Fire Committee Recommendation**

Mayor Debi Schwerdtfeger appointed Sean Gooding and Brian Brown to the Council Grove Fire department as volunteer firefighters contingent on passing a background check, physical, and drug and alcohol screening. Mayor Debi Schwerdtfeger asked for confirmation of the appointments. Councilperson Keith Wessel made a motion to confirm the appointments of Sean Gooding and Brian Brown to the Council Grove Fire Department contingent on passing a background check, physical, and drug and alcohol screening. The motion was seconded by Councilperson Jason Booker.

Motion carried 6 – 0

- **Sales Tax Grant Committee Recommendation**

City Administrator Nick Jones presented to the Council the recommendation made by the Sales Tax Grant Committee. The Sales Tax Grant Committee recommended the approval of the 4th of July Committee’s application, with the committee amending the application to give the remaining 4th quarter sales tax money to the Council Grove 4th of July Committee in the amount of \$15,759. Councilperson Keith Wessel made a motion to approve the recommendation of the Sales Tax Grant Committee. The motion was seconded by Councilperson Mark Brooks.

Motion Carried 6 - 0

- **Morris County Neighborhood Revitalization Plan Participation/Agreement**

City Attorney Bill Halvorsen went through the County’s revitalization plan explaining to the Council that the plan relates to commercial property on main street and side streets connecting to downtown. The plan removes tax requirements on improvements with an appraisal increase of \$25,000 for a five-year period. A motion was made by Councilperson Keith Wessel to participate in the County’s Neighborhood Revitalization plan. The motion was seconded by Councilperson Sharon Haun.

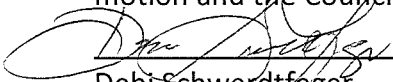
Motion Carried 6 – 0

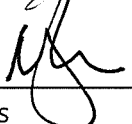
GOVERNING BODY COMMENTS

- **Councilperson Jason Booker** – None
- **Councilperson Mark Berner** – Asked about planning for the swimming pool for this coming Summer.
- **Councilperson Keith Wessel** – Be Safe and wear a mask.
- **Councilperson Mark Brooks** – Asked if the Council would approve the use of Crème Park for a Sanctioned BBQ event (Grilling on the Trail) on August 28th and 29th. A motion was made by Councilperson Jason Booker to approve the use of Crème Park for the event. The motion seconded by Councilperson Larry Siegrist. Motion Carried 6 - 0
- **Councilperson Larry Siegrist** – None
- **Councilperson Sharon Haun** – Be safe and wear a mask.
- **City Attorney Bill Halvorsen** – None
- **City Administrator Nick Jones** – Asked for Council to approve the audit engagement letter with Cindy Jensen for the 2020 audit in the amount of \$11,000. A motion was made by Councilperson Sharon Haun to approve the engagement letter. The motion was seconded by Councilperson Jason Booker. Motion Carried 6 – 0
City Administrator Nick Jones also asked the Council if they would approve the use of the Armory and Swimming Pool Park for the Morris County Health Department in the event they do a large round of COVID19 vaccinations. Councilperson Sharon Haun made a motion to allow the use of the City Facility’s. The motion was seconded by Councilperson Mark Brooks. Motion Carried 6 – 0.
- **Mayor Debi Schwerdtfeger** – Excited about the future of Council Grove

ADJOURNMENT

Councilperson Sharon Haun made a motion to adjourn. Councilperson Mark Brooks seconded the motion and the Council voted 5-0 in favor. Motion carried.


Debi Schwerdtfeger Mayor

ATTEST:

Nick Jones City Administrator

