

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
September 19, 2023
CITY HALL
121 S. MERIDIAN

Mayor Cicirello called the council meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. with the following members present: Matt Stamm, Clint Bass, Ben Anderson, Gina Gregory, Dale Kerstetter, Robert Wilson, and Ronald Colbert.

Members Absent: Chris Evans

Staff Present: Ryan Shrack, Community Development Director
Lloyd Newman, Public Safety Director
Rodney Eggleston, Public Works Director
Neal Owings, Parks and Public Buildings Director
Barry Arbuckle, City Attorney
Barry Smith, Assistant City Administrator
Brent Clark, City Administrator
Kristi Carrithers, City Clerk
Desirae Womack, City Treasurer

Press present: Ark Valley News

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Stamm moved to approve the agenda as presented, seconded by Bass. Vote yea: unanimous. Motion carried.

ADMINISTRATION AGENDA –
SEPTEMBER 5, 2023, CITY COUNCIL MINUTES-

Gregory moved to approve the minutes of the September 5, 2023, City Council meeting as presented, seconded by Kerstetter. Vote yea: Unanimous Motion Carried.

PRESENTATIONS/PROCLAMATIONS –

Ryan Baty, Sedgwick County Commissioner, addressed Council. He presented information regarding the Sedgwick County Budget. He explained that with 46 departments the process begins in February. Employee compensation was a priority in this budget, especially public safety employees. Colbert inquired whether a Citizens Advisory Board was being formed. Baty stated that a board has been formed and has met once. In response to Bass, Baty stated that the 2023 budget was \$520,000,000 with the 2024 budget being \$546,200,000.

James Krstolich, Ideatek, reported that they have begun connecting services in Valley Center. Mayor Cicirello stated that he has been very impressed with the whole process, from the contractors to the installers. Mr. Kystrolich said that Ideatek wants to keep the personal “local” touch for customers.

PUBLIC FORUM –

Robert Reed, USD 262 Asst Superintendent announced that the district is seeking public input regarding the recent defeat of the Bond election. They hope to find out why the bond failed and what the citizens want for the schools. He stressed that the district would continue to find solutions to accommodate the students.

APPOINTMENTS – None

OLD BUSINESS –

A. ORDINANCE 1395-23; RE-ZONE 116 S ASH AVE

Comm. Dev. Director Shrack presented for final approval Ordinance No. 1395-23. This Ordinance would rezone the property from C-2 to R-1B.

Stamm moved to approve Ordinance 1395-23; to re-zone property at 116 S. Ash from C-2 to R-1B for 2nd reading, seconded by Bass. Vote Yea: unanimous. Motion carried.

B. ADOPTION OF 2024 BUDGET

Assistant City Administrator Smith requested approval of the 2024 budget. He presented two options for Council consideration. Option A was the budget presented at the September 5, 2023, meeting. Option B lowered the mill from 54.856 to 54.226. The equivalent amount of .630 mills is \$44,050 and would need to be cut from the general fund. He explained that funding cuts would eliminate streetlights, flock camera and some professional services. Kerstetter stated that he appreciates the work Mr. Smith has done regarding the budget. Anderson, Stamm and Gregory all spoke in favor of option A, stating trust in the staff to submit a fiscally responsible budget. Cuts proposed in option B are directly tied to public safety and are necessary for citizens. Mayor Cicirello explained that his analysis of the RNR and the effect between large cities and small municipalities needs to be addressed. He also stated that just like the county, budget processes begin up to 14 months in advance with no definite tax values. Cicirello and Mr. Smith urged citizens to engage in the budget process early.

Colbert moved to adopt the City of Valley Center 2024 budget, partially funded by a property tax levy of \$3,834,623 which is approximately equivalent to 5.4856 mills, subject to review and technical adjustments. Motion seconded by Wilson. Vote yea: Unanimous Motion Carried.

NEW BUSINESS-

A. EXECUTIVE SESSION; DISCUSSION ON NON-ELECTED PERSONNEL

Anderson moved for Council to recess into executive session to discuss an individual employee's performance pursuant to the nonelected personnel matter exception, K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(1). This will include the Mayor and Council. The open meeting will resume in the City Council Chamber in ten minutes, seconded by Bass. Vote Yea: unanimous. Motion carried.

Executive Session began at 7:43pm

Executive Session ended at 7:53pm

Anderson stated that no official action was taken.

City Attorney Arbuckle stated that the motion made by Councilmember Colbert regarding the 2024 budget was made with an incorrect mil amount. He recommended a motion be made to withdraw previous approval of budget and a new motion be made.

Colbert moved to withdrawal budget motion, seconded by Wilson. Vote yea: Unanimous. Motion carried.

Wilson moved to adopt the City of Valley Center 2024 budget, partially funded by a property tax levy of \$3,834,623 which is approximately equivalent to 54.856 mills, subject to review and technical adjustments. Motion seconded by Stamm. Vote yea: Unanimous Motion Carried.

B. RESPONSE FOR POLITICAL SIGN QUESTIONS

Community Development Director Shrack presented information regarding questions asked about political signs. Shrack explained the designated right of way and placement and removal of all signs. Cicirello stated that the city took the questions and complaint very seriously. Tami Miller 650 Scott St. stated that the person who saw a sign pulled tried to find the city employee. Kerstetter stated he would like a "formal" policy regarding political signs on city property. Wilson urged any citizens that have a concern to come to City Hall. No action needed.

C. ORDINANCE 1396-23; ISLAND ANNEXATION

City Administrator Clark presented Ordinance 1396-23 for 1st reading. A request to annex approximately 146.39 acres north of corner of Ridge and 77th was received from the property owners. The City of Valley Center received approval from Sedgwick County to proceed with island annexation at the September 6, 2023, meeting. Community Development Director Shrack explained that it is currently zoned RR1, (rural residential) and will come into Valley Center the same pending annexation approval.

Deana Bushell, 8032 N. 63rd St. W spoke in opposition of the annexation. She feels that this annexation fails to meet the City's Comprehensive plan and the estimates cost of possible utility extension is cost prohibitive.

Kerstetter asked whether the land can continue to be used as farmland following annexation. Clark responded that the Strategic Plan does include an area of influence extending west to Ridge, south to 53rd and north to 109th. Future expansion of city limits could include any of that area. Installation of utilities to that area would be considered at the request of the property owner. Clark also explained that future developments are considered with the planning of the water treatment plant.

Wilson moved to approve for 1st reading, Ordinance 1396-23, island annexing approximately 146.39 acres at the northeast corner of Ridge and 77th St. Seconded by Gregory. Vote Yea: unanimous. Motion carried.

D. ORDINANCE 1397-23: ISLAND ANNEXATION

City Administrator Clark presented Ordinance 1397-23 for 1st reading. This request would annex two tracts of land, approximately 160 acres southeast of corner of Ridge and 85th.

Wilson moved to approve for 1st reading, Ordinance 1397-23, island annexing approximately 160 acres at the southeast corner of Ridge and 85th St. Seconded by Kerstetter. Vote Yea: unanimous. Motion carried.

E. RATIFY SHERIDAN LIFT STATION PUMP PURCHASE

Public Works Director Eggleston requested ratification of the purchase of a Flygt 3102 pump for the Sheridan Lift Station. His staff compared the cost to repair vs purchase of new pump and determined that a new pump was the better option, especially with repair lead times. Kerstetter verified that this purchase will be made from the sewer, enterprise fund.

Anderson moved to ratify the purchase of a Flygt 3102 pump for the Sheridan lift station in the amount of \$14,827.00. Motion seconded by Stamm. Kerstetter inquired how many more pumps are of this age. Anderson asked if the city could make the creation of an inventory of pumps and ages a priority. Vote Yea: unanimous. Motion carried.

F. APPROVAL OF A SUPPLEMENTAL AGREEMENT WITH KDOT; MERIDIAN AVE.

City Administrator Clark presented Supplemental Agreement #1 with KDOT for Council approval. He does anticipate another supplemental agreement will be needed as there was a discrepancy in the wording on this agreement. This is a KDOT project in partnership with Sedgwick County. Bidding for the project should go out within the next couple of weeks with construction starting January 2024.

Kerstetter moved to motion to approve Supplemental agreement between City of Valley Center and KDOT and authorize Mayor or City Administrator to sign. Motion seconded by Anderson. Vote Yea: unanimous. Motion carried.

CONSENT AGENDA

A. APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE – SEPTEMBER 19, 2023

B. CHECK RECONCILIATION – AUGUST 2023

C. TREASURER'S REPORT – AUGUST 2023

D. REVENUE AND EXPENSE REPORT – AUGUST 2023

E. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BOARD MINUTES – SEPTEMBER 6, 2023

Stamm moved, seconded by Bass to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Vote Yea: Unanimous. Motion carried.

STAFF REPORTS

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR SHRACK

Announced that FEMA has given preliminary approval for Class C community for Valley Center. This CRS approval allows any homeowner with flood insurance to receive a 15% discount for the next 5 years. Urges everyone to check with their insurance agent regarding the discount.

PARKS AND PUBLIC BUILDINGS DIRECTOR OWINGS

Recognized one-year anniversaries of Cody Buchanan and Paul Weber. Owings also talked about the training and certification that his staff have been working toward. William Dillman has begun working with his department as Parks and Public Buildings Supervisor. Owings will be working with members of Riverlawn Church on service projects.

PUBLIC SAFETY DIRECTOR NEWMAN

Reported that unfortunately the new fire truck will not be delivered by Fall Fest but hopes to have it by Fire Safety Week in October.

ASST CITY ADMINISTRATOR SMITH

Smith wanted to remind Council and residents of the importance of outside Federal or WAMPO funding for projects. He stated that the Ford St project was 5.7 million and the amount financed by the city was only 2.1 million. The estimate for Meridian is 12.3 million and he anticipates financing of 2.2 million. Due to foresight beginning in 2020 and cash payments these projects can be accomplished within two CIP cycles instead of 9 cycles. Grants and planning are how the city keeps the mil level steady.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR CLARK

Thanked Smith and all staff for their work on the budget. Reminded everyone of Fall Fest beginning this weekend. Clark also took a moment to recognize Parks and Public Buildings Director Owings. He has been with the City of Valley Center for 25 years. He began as a grounds keeper.

GOVERNING BODY REPORTS-

COUNCILMEMBER WILSON

Appreciates the cameras installed at the aquatic center so that citizens can watch progress. He also commended Mr. Smith for making the budget process easier to understand.

Colbert moved to adjourn, second by Kerstetter. Vote Yea: Unanimous.

ADJOURN -

The meeting adjourned at 8:54 PM.

Kristi Carrithers, City Clerk