

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
July 2, 2024
CITY HALL
121 S. MERIDIAN

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

Members Absent: Clint Bass

Staff Present: Lloyd Newman, Public Safety Director
Neal Owings, Parks and Public Building Director
Rodney Eggleston, Public Works Director
Clint Miller, Finance Director
Barry Arbuckle, City Attorney
Gage Scheer, City Engineer
Desirae Womack, City Treasurer
Kristi Carrithers, City Clerk/HR Director
Brent Clark, City Administrator

Press present: Ark Valley News

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Gregory made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Kerstetter seconded the motion. Vote: Aye unanimous Motion carried.

ADMINISTRATION AGENDA –

JUNE 18, 2024, CITY COUNCIL MINUTES-

Kerstetter moved to approve the minutes of the June 18, 2024, City Council meeting as presented, seconded by Stamm. Vote Aye: unanimous Motion Carried.

PRESENTATIONS/PROCLAMATIONS –

The Insurance Guys

Marsha Tormey with The Insurance Guys presented a dividend check from EMC in the amount of \$16,486.31.

Proclamation – Leroy Cammerer

Mayor Truman read a proclamation honoring Leroy Cammerer for his long-time service to Smith Phipps Post 73. Ronald Colbert also recognized other Veterans with Smith Phipps Post 73 for successfully achieving 100 percent of its annual 2024 membership goal.

PUBLIC FORUM – None

APPOINTMENTS –

Anderson moved to appoint Christian Cartwright to fill an open position on the Valley Center Library Board. The appointment will expire April 2025. Motion seconded by Wilson. Vote Aye: unanimous Motion Carried.

OLD BUSINESS – None

NEW BUSINESS-

A. ORDINANCE 1407-24; ALCOHOL COMMON CONSUMPTION AREA:

City Administrator Clark presented Ordinance 1407-24 which establishes an alcohol common consumption area during Fall Fest. This change follows other events in the State of Kansas. Allison Clubb, Executive Director of Chamber of Commerce stood for any questions. Stamm stated his appreciation of this Ordinance as he has been inquiring about a larger area for several years. Kerstetter moved to approve for 1st reading, Ordinance 1407-24, which establishes an alcohol common consumption area during fall fest. Motion seconded by Evans. Vote Aye: unanimous. Motion carried.

B. APPROVAL OF FINAL PLAT: SM ESTATES SUBDIVISION:

City Administrator Clark presented for approval plat for SM Estates Subdivision. Kerstetter verified that city water could be accessed just across the road and lines could be placed under road without damage. Clark verified this but stated that there are no sewer lines, but the larger lots allow for septic lines. Stamm asked if the change affects current Rural Water customers. Clark stated that there is a good working relationship, and the city pays a small one-time fee to Rural Water if someone switches to City water. Kerstetter moved to approve final plat for SM Estates Subdivision Seconded by Stamm. Vote Aye: unanimous. Motion carried.

C. 2025 BUDGET COMPREHENSIVE DISCUSSION:

City Treasurer Womack and Finance Director Miller presented the comprehensive FY25 Budget outlining two options as requested by Councilmember Kerstetter. Cuts to the Parks and Public Building budget would be necessary if Council chooses option B. This would be a .281 mill reduction. The average annual reduction for residents is \$6.47. They presented the department requests and funding sources. Miller presented comparisons of the Ad Valorem tax levies for other municipalities in Sedgwick County. Valley Center sits squarely in the middle. Stamm, Anderson and Wilson stated they like the first option, but Wilson requested Owings speak regarding how option 2 would impact his department and staff. Owings stated that cuts to the budgeted contractual labor would force his staff to do more of the seasonal mowing. Having an outside contract allows his staff to focus on more high dollar labor items such as irrigation and building maintenance and repair. Womack stated that the final decision between the 2 options is not necessary tonight, but she will need to file the intent to exceed the Revenue Neutral Rate with Sedgwick County. Wilson moved to file the intent to exceed the Revenue Neutral Rate with Sedgwick County and set the Revenue Neutral Rate Hearing for September 3, 2024, at 7:00pm located at Valley Center City Hall, 121 S. Meridian, Valley Center Kansas. Motion seconded by Stamm. Vote Yea: Unanimous. Motion carried.

D. EXECUTIVE SESSION: NON-ELECTED PERSONNEL

Wilson moved to recess into executive session including mayor, city council and city administrator to discuss an individual employee's performance pursuant to the non-elected personnel matter exception, K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(1). The open meeting will resume in the City Council Chamber in 15 minutes. Motion seconded by Anderson. Vote yea: unanimous. Motion Carried. Session started at 7:50 pm. Mayor Truman called the meeting back to order at 8:05 pm.

Wilson stated no official action was taken during the executive session.

Wilson made a motion regarding City Administrator Clark's employment agreement. The new agreement will extend to 2028. The agreement includes a 4% salary increase, increase cell phone stipend to \$125.00, and increase from 8% to 10% the employer contribution to KPERS457 account. Kerstetter seconded the motion. Vote Yea: Unanimous. Motion carried.

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE – JULY 2, 2024
- B. DELINQUENT ACCOUNT REPORT – APRIL 2024

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

STAFF REPORTS

PARKS AND PUBLIC BUILDINGS DIRECTOR OWINGS

Reported that the swimming pool walls have been installed. The steering committee will be touring the center on July 10th.

Electricity to the city sign on Ford Street should be installed next week.

PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR EGGLESTON

Work on Meridian continues. The east side is almost complete. In response to Kerstetter, a reminder was made that the schedule is on the website. Wilson remarked that he was very impressed with the progress on Meridian and the crew was hard at work last Saturday.

Stamm asked Eggleston if a plan is in place if/when the City of Wichita moves to level two water restrictions.

FINANCE DIRECTOR MILLER

City Treasurer Womack stated that she misspoke when asked about reporting the proposed mill levy. The City will want to report the higher proposed mill levy in option one, as it can always go lower, but cannot increase once it is reported to Sedgwick County.

Miller reminded Council the financial audit is complete with no deficiencies noted. Sean Gordon with Gordon CPA will present audit for year end 2023 at the July 16th Council meeting.

CITY CLERK/HR DIRECTOR CARRITHERS

Reported that an offer has been made for the position of Community Development Director. Hopefully, we'll be able to report at the next meeting.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR CLARK

Thanked the City Council for new contract. Stated that it was 5 years ago that he took the oath of office as City Administrator. He is extremely proud to be a Valley Center resident and raise his family here.

GOVERNING BODY REPORTS-

MAYOR TRUMAN

Raised concerns about watering of trees and lawns along Meridian upon completion of Meridian Ave. project. While it would be a Council decision, inquired if water bills could be frozen for those residents for a specific period.

Congratulations to Brent Clark and Leroy Cammerer.

COUNCILMEMBER COLBERT

Colbert thanked Clark and is looking forward to another 5 years.

COUNCILMEMBER WILSON and ANDERSON

Thanked Administrator Clark and congratulated Mr. Cammerer for his service to the Veteran post.

COUNCILMEMBER GREGORY

The SCAC will hold meeting in Goddard on July 13th.

COUNCILMEMBER STAMM

Has spoken with someone with the BNSF railroad and the double tracks are nearing completion near Emporia. That will reduce the train traffic traveling through Valley Center.

Stamm moved to adjourn, second by Kerstetter. Vote Aye: Unanimous.

ADJOURN -

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 PM.

Kristi Carrithers, City Clerk/HR Director