

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
October 15, 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, Clint Bass, Ben Anderson, Gina Gregory and Matt Stamm.

Members Absent: Clint Bass, Chris Evans, Dale Kerstetter

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

Press present: Ark Valley News

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Wilson made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Anderson seconded the motion. Vote: Aye  
Unanimous Motion carried.

**ADMINISTRATION AGENDA –**

**OCTOBER 1, 2024, CITY COUNCIL MINUTES-**

Stamm moved to approve the minutes of the October 1, 2024, City Council meeting as presented, seconded by Gregory. Vote Aye: Unanimous. Motion Carried.

**PRESENTATIONS/PROCLAMATIONS –**

**FIRST RESPONDERS’ DAY**

Mayor Truman read a proclamation declaring October 28, 2024, as First Responders Day. Honoring nurses, paramedics, emergency medical service personnel, firefighters, police officers, 911 dispatchers, and search and rescues teams.

**NATIONAL AMERICAN INDIAN HERITAGE MONTH PROLCAMATION**

Mayor Truman read a proclamation for National American Indian Heritage Month to be observed in the month of November.

**MILITARY APPRECIATION MONTH PROCLAMATION**

Mayor Truman read a proclamation declaring November as Military Appreciation Month and recognizing November 11<sup>th</sup> as Veterans Day.

**LONGEVITY EMPLOYEE AWARDS**

The League of Kansas Municipalities recognizes long term city employees each year at the annual meeting. Public Safety Director Lloyd Newman recognized 20-years of service to Kris Coffman as one of our volunteer firefighters. Also 15-years of service to Josh Tormey who has been instrumental for fire training within the department. Police Sargeant Jason Easley has been with the Police Department for 15 years. He has served the city as patrol officer, SRO, investigations and now Sargeant. Finance Director Miller presented award to Amanda Park for 15-years of service to the City of Valley Center. He stated that she has been a tremendous help to him in the few months he has worked as the Finance Director, and she can probably cover any position in City Hall if necessary.

**PUBLIC FORUM –**

Brian Johnson, 560 N Emporia addressed Council with concerns regarding crosswalk on 5<sup>th</sup> Street by the Public Safety Building. He stated on September 14<sup>th</sup> a child was struck while crossing the street and the following week another incident with a child being hit occurred. He requested better signaling options to make the crossing safer. The flashing beacon lights are not effective in his opinion.

**APPOINTMENTS –****OLD BUSINESS –****A. VALLEY CENTER CEMETERY**

Nikki Hipps, 446 Meeds Drive again requested the refund of the transfer fee she and her husband paid to bury her father-in-law in the plot owned by her husband Steven Hipps. City Attorney Arbuckle stated that his opinion after reviewing the Resolutions and Ordinances is that the City did properly charge the non-resident fee. Mayor Truman asked if City staff could notify owners of plots purchased in previous years could be notified so that families are aware of transfer fees. Anderson stated that this situation is a bad deal all around, but noted that staff might not have a way to notify deed holders, Gregory moved to deny request for reimbursement to Steven Hipps in the amount of \$800.00. Motion seconded by Wilson. Vote Yea: Wilson, Anderson, Gregory and Stamm. Opposed: Colbert. Motion carried.

**NEW BUSINESS-****A. APPROVAL OF PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH GARVER FOR RIO BELLA SUBDIVISION:**

Eric Glover, Garver LLC, presented professional services agreement for roadway and drainage portion of the Rio Bella Subdivision. Gregory questioned the meaning of the wording in 3.2. It was determined that the City “owners” cannot change an invoice/statement. Anderson verified that the cost will be paid with the specials.

Stamm made motion to approve agreement with Garver LLC, for professional services for the Rio Bella Subdivision not to exceed \$64,000.00 and authorize Mayor or City Administrator to sign. Motion seconded by Anderson. Vote Aye: unanimous. Motion carried

**B. EXECUTIVE SESSION: CONSULTATION WITH ATTORNEY:**

Anderson moved for Council to recess into executive session for consultation with attorney which would be deemed privileged pursuant, K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(1). Session to include Governing Body, Mayor, City Administrator, City Attorney and T. Chet Compton, Attorney. The open meeting will resume in the City Council Chamber in fifteen minutes. Vote Yea: Unanimous. Motion carried.

Session started at 7:45pm.

Mayor Truman called meeting back to order at 8:00 pm.

Anderson stated no official action was taken by Council while in executive session.

**C. RESOLUTION 767-24: AUTHORIZATION FOR INTRAFI ACCOUNT-FIDELITY BANK:**

Finance Director Miller presented resolution to open IntraFi account with Fidelity Bank. He explained this will be like the Resolutions passed at the October 1, 2024, council meeting for Intrust and Emprise Banks. Following approval of Resolution, a second motion to name the authorized signers is needed. Wilson moved to adopt Resolution 767-24, expanding the investment option with Fidelity Bank for the City of Valley Center with an IntraFi account. Motion seconded by Stamm. Vote Yea: unanimous. Motion carried.

Wilson moved to approve Clint Miller, Desirae Womack, Mayor James Truman and Council President Anderson as authorized signers on Fidelity Bank – City of Valley Center IntraFi account. Motion seconded by Stamm. Vote Yea: unanimous. Motion carried.

**D. GOLD STAR AWARD- APPROVAL OF END OF YEAR BONUS AND ADDITIONAL DAY OFF:**

City Administrator Clark announced that the City of Valley Center again received the Gold Star award from the Kansas Municipal Insurance Trust. A municipality is awarded a Gold Star based on safety

procedures and accident claims. A discount is applied to workman's compensation premiums depending on level of award. He recommended Mayor and Council recognize the hard work employees have done to earn the Gold Award by granting one additional paid day off on December 24, 2024, and a \$100.00 after tax bonus be paid to full time employees and a \$50.00 bonus be paid to less than full-time employees who have worked at least 100 hours.

Anderson moved to grant one additional paid day off on December 24, 2024, and a \$100.00 after tax bonus be paid to full time employees and a \$50.00 bonus be paid to less than full-time employees who have worked at least 100 hours. Seconded by Colbert. Vote Yea: unanimous. Motion carried.

**E. CHAMBER OF COMMERCE – STREET CLOSURE REQUEST:**

Chamber Director Allison Clubb request closure of the 100-200 blocks of W. Main Street on October 29<sup>th</sup> for the annual Trick or Treat event. While the actual event will be held from 5:00 to 7:00pm. The street will need to close from 3:00-8:00pm.

Anderson moved to approve request to close 100-200 W. Main St. on October 29, 2024, from 3:00pm to 8:00pm for annual Trick or Treat event. Motion seconded by Colbert. Vote Yea: unanimous. Motion carried.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

- A. APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE – OCTOBER 15, 2024
- B. TREASURER'S REPORT – SEPTEMBER 2024
- C. CHECK RECONCILIATION – SEPTEMBER 2024
- D. REVENUE AND EXPENSE REPORT – SEPTEMBER 2024
- E. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BOARD MINUTES – OCTOBER 2, 2024
- F. PLANNING AND ZONING BOARD MINUTES – SEPTEMBER 24, 2024

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

**STAFF REPORTS**

**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR FIEDLER**

The final Farmer's Market will be Thursday.

Encouraged all residents to complete Comprehensive Plan survey before October 22<sup>nd</sup>. It consists of 20 questions. An open house to review the comprehensive plan will be held Thursday, October 24, 2024. It will be held in the Cottonwood Room from 6:00-7:30pm.

Fiedler also announced that a new text program is being launched that will replace the current app. TextMy Gov will allow residents to text questions or receive message alerts via text. Text number is 316-618-9333 for info or report issue. Text 91896 "VALLEYCENTER" to receive alerts.

**PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR EGGLESTON**

The center section on South Meridian will be poured beginning Friday at 5:00pm through Saturday morning. Only local traffic will have access during this time.

Water restrictions remain in place. The conservation efforts have reduced usage in Valley Center by approximately 35%. Only 8 door hanger warnings have been issued since the restrictions went into effect. 3 high usage notices have been sent. Thanked residents for doing their part in conservation of water.

Eggleson announced that letters will be going out regarding the Federal "Get the Lead Out" program. Lead piping was banned in 1989, so the city is working to identify any pipes from the meter into the houses that might have lead pipes or solder. Scheer stated that the Federal requirement currently is only an inventory. It will probably be much later before new requirements are announced.

**CITY CLERK/HR DIRECTOR CARRITHERS**

The KMIT annual meeting was October 10<sup>th</sup>. The City of Valley Center was recognized as a charter 30-year member of KMIT as well as receiving the Gold Award. The League recognizes employees with the longevity awards each year. In addition to Valley Center's employees announced earlier tonight. Councilmember Stamm was listed as serving the City of Derby for 20 years.

**FINANCE DIRECTOR MILLER**

Is reviewing many areas to increase income or to reduce expenses. The Firefighter fund has been receiving a negligible interest rate for years. By getting a 2.64% interest rate on this account it will earn substantially more in the coming years. He has also negotiated with our current webpage design company to reduce their fees by approximately \$25,000.00.

Three bids for financial audits have been received. They will be reviewed, and a recommendation will be presented at the November 5<sup>th</sup> City Council meeting.

The bonds funds were deposited last Friday. IntraFi rates are currently from 4.4% to 4.74%. He plans on getting them invested by the end of this week.

#### **CITY ADMINISTRATOR CLARK**

Recognized and Thanked Chris Strunk and Amy Stamm with Main Street Valley Center for all their hard work this year in organizing and working with the Farmer's Market.

The Recreation Center is scheduled to open late January.

Thanks to the Chamber of Commerce and all the volunteers for the successful Fall Fest.

#### **GOVERNING BODY REPORTS-**

##### **MAYOR TRUMAN**

Presented the Red Cross Blood Drive trophy to Valley Center. It will remain in Valley Center throughout the coming year as the winner between the Valley Center/Park City donor challenge. Mayor Truman also challenged everyone to donate next year and increase the number of donors.

Truman thanked Pearson Construction for their hard work on the Meridian Project.

##### **COUNCILMEMBER GREGORY**

Attended the LKM Conference last week. Was very informative.

##### **COUNCILMEMBER STAMM**

Thanked Director Miller for his diligent work.

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

#### **ADJOURN -**

**The meeting adjourned at 8:45 PM.**

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**Kristi Carrithers, City Clerk/HR Director**