

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
November 19, 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, Dale Kerstetter and Matt Stamm.

Members Absent: Chris Evans

Staff Present: Lloyd Newman, Public Safety Director  
Neal Owings, Parks and Public Building Director  
Rodney Eggleston, Public Works Director  
Kyle Fiedler, Community Development Director  
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**

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

**ADMINISTRATION AGENDA –**  
**NOVEMBER 5, 2024, CITY COUNCIL MINUTES-**

Stamm moved to approve the minutes of the November 5, 2024, City Council meeting as presented, seconded by Kerstetter. Vote Aye: Unanimous. Motion Carried.

**PRESENTATIONS/PROCLAMATIONS –**

Public Works Director Eggleston introduced Nicholas Manning and Skylar Fleetwood. Nic Manning is the Utilities Manager overseeing the water and wastewater departments. Skylar is an equipment operator with the streets department.

**PUBLIC FORUM –**

Jim Gregory with the Lions Club invited the community to the annual Thanksgiving Dinner. The Lions Club will be serving a dinner from 12:30 -1:30pm on Thanksgiving Day at the United Methodist Church. Carry out or delivery is also available to shut ins.

James Bogart, 703 N. Wakefield requested Council consider the installation of speed bumps or signage to address traffic speeding in his neighborhood. He is also asking for restricted parking along one side of street. Administrator Clark stated that staff has begun exploring “no parking” in the neighborhood.

**APPOINTMENTS – NONE**

**OLD BUSINESS – NONE**

**NEW BUSINESS-**

**A. FROM THE GROUND UP DONATION REQUEST:**

Sarah Warren, president of the non-profit “from the Gound Up” requested donation to aid in the distribution of aid to local families this holiday season. She reported that in 2023, 245 kids and 85 families received assistance. The year the need has increased to 315 kids and 108 families. Finance Director Miller reported that approximately \$2700.00 in available, but he doesn’t know if other organizations will request funding. The distribution is scheduled from 9:00am to noon on December 14<sup>th</sup>.

Wilson moved to approve a \$1000.00 donation to “From the Ground Up” Seconded by Bass. Vote Aye: unanimous. Motion carried.

**B. WATER TREATMENT PLANT PHASE 2 CONTRACT WITH BURNS & MCDONNELL:**

Travis Stryker, CAS Constructors and Jake White, Burns & McDonnell reported to Council regarding the original goals in the early planning process. They discussed the selection of the treatment process and then showed design concepts. With approval of phase 2 contract construction can begin August of 2025. Anderson stated that discussions regarding a water treatment plant have been shelved over and over. The costs have just been increasing and the need to break dependence on Wichita water is necessary for the future of Valley Center residents.

Kerstetter moved to approve contract with Burns & McDonnell/CAS Constructors in the amount of \$19,734,790.00 and authorize Mayor or City Administrator to sign. Motion seconded by Gregory. Vote Yea: unanimous Motion carried.

**C. FENCE DISCUSSION – 748 N WAKEFIELD:**

Community Development Director Fiedler reported on utility easements and fence installation. He stated fences may be installed in utility easement provided there is not a surface inlet. Property owners that install a fence in a regular utility easement are made aware that they must allow access and that the fence can be taken down in the easement when necessary to construct or maintain infrastructure. A lengthy discussion was held. Some Council members wondered whether a comprise of wrought iron fence could be installed, Staff access is still the biggest issue. Stamm stated that this is a public utility that must not be closed in, like a fire hydrant. Jeremy Johnson, 748 N Wakefield, addressed council stating that there are other inlets that are fenced in. Kerstetter inquired whether a written policy could be written.

No action was taken.

**D. RESOLUTION 770-24: STORMWATER MANAGEMENT FEES:**

Finance Director Miller presented Resolution 770-24 regarding the Stormwater Management Fees. He recommends that rates remain the same according to the schedule for four more years. Clark stated that a request for funding from the stormwater fund will be made later in the meeting.

Stamm moved to approve Resolution 770-24 regarding Stormwater Management Fees and authorize Mayor to sign. Seconded by Anderson. Vote Yea: unanimous. Motion carried.

**E. APPROVAL OF RFP – 2025 ROADWAY UPGRADES:**

Public Works Director Eggleston presented an RFP (request for proposals) for 2025 Roadway Upgrades. He explained that in anticipation of closure of 69<sup>th</sup> & Meridian staff recommends removal of surface and replace with asphalt and base on South Seneca from 69<sup>th</sup> St S. to 61<sup>st</sup>. Council expressed concern that this project will take most of the 2025 paving budget leaving numerous other streets in disrepair. Clark stated that he has tried for years to secure additional funding for Seneca St. through the State, County or WAMPO without success. Stamm confirmed that engineering standards will be followed. Members of Council still would like streets in the core area of Valley Center repaired. Public Safety Director Newman stated that section of Seneca isn't safe.

Following confirmation that approving the RFP does not mean the project is approved. Wilson moved to approve the RFP for 2025 Roadway Upgrades and authorize staff to collect proposals and present selected bidder at future City Council meeting. Seconded by Colbert. Vote Yea: unanimous. Motion carried.

**F. PERSONNEL POLICY REVISION:**

City Clerk/HR Director presented proposed revisions to the 2023 personnel policy. She explained that while most of the changes are minor wording, a section regarding AI has been added. Hours of operation for Public Works, Parks, Community Development and Public Safety Lobby will be standard for all. Monday-Thursday 7:00am to 4:30pm and Friday 7:00am to 12:00 pm. City Hall will remain open Monday-Thursday until 5:00pm The City Organizational Chart has also been updated to reflect the Public Safety restructuring of officers. Kerstetter noted that a page was omitted regarding the AI policy, Carrithers stated that she did miss including that, but will send out. If approved the policy will go into effect November 23, 2024.

Bass moved to approve proposed revisions to the current 2023 personnel policy effective November 23, 2024. Motion seconded by Anderson. Vote Yea: unanimous. Motion carried

**G. OCTOBER 2024 FINANCIAL REPORT REVIEW:**

Finance Director Miller presented the October 2024 Revenue and Expense Financial Report. He stated that the City is entering into the final 2 months of the year in good financial standing.

Wilson moved to accept and file the October 2024 financial report. Seconded by Kerstetter. Vote Yea: unanimous. Motion carried.

#### H. FORD FLOOD CONTROL PUMP REPAIR:

Public Works Director Eggleston presented for approval two quotes for the repair of pumps at the Ford Flood Control. Eggleston recommend the repair of 2 40HP Flygt submersible pumps for the Ford flood control at \$37,024.52 each for a total of \$74,049.04. Anderson asked what possibility to mitigate objects reaching the pumps. Eggleston stated that there is a screen in place but the size of these balls allowed them to pass through. They also couldn't be sure that the baseballs cause the pump failure. It could have been a lightning strike.

Kerstetter moved to approve the repair and accept the 2 quotes from MEM Industrial for two Ford Flood Control Pumps in the amount of \$37,024.52 each totaling \$74,049.04 and authorize the mayor or city administrator to sign. Motion seconded by Gregory. Vote Yea: unanimous. Motion carried.

#### **CONSENT AGENDA**

A. APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE – NOVEMBER 19, 2024

B. CEREAL MALT BEVERAGE LICENSE APPROVAL

C. CHECK RECONCILIATION – OCTOBER 2024

D. TREASURER'S REPORT – OCTOBER 2024

E. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BOARD MINUTES – NOVEMBER 6, 2024

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

#### **STAFF REPORTS**

##### COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR FIEDLER

There will be a Planning and Zoning meeting Thursday, November 21, 2024. December 7<sup>th</sup>, Main Street Valley Center will host the Hometown Christmas event and lighting of the Christmas tree.

##### PARKS AND PUBLIC BUILDING DIRECTOR OWINGS

Mayor Truman asked for report on the signs at the cemetery as well as mailing of letters to plot holders that might be affected with resident/nonresident rates. Owings stated that signs are ready, but with recent rains installation is delayed. Owings is unsure about status of letters.

##### PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR EGGLESTON

Reported that the lights for North Meridian are still scheduled to be shipped on December 6<sup>th</sup>.

##### CITY CLERK/HR DIRECTOR CARRITHERS

The open enrollment benefit meeting for employees will be tomorrow morning. It is a very busy time of the year with bio-metric screening, wellness activities, Christmas party and chili cookoff all happening before the end of the year.

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

##### COUNCILMEMBER COLBERT

Information will be coming out regarding the new Kansas Legislative Session. He will report on relevant items. Clark stated that new this year regarding the budget process will be review of 3 different budget proposals.

##### COUNCILMEMBER GREGORY

Stated that she attended a recent Sedgwick County Emergency Response Team meeting. Also continues to work with Main Street Valley Center and looks forward to the Christmas event. She also attended a Sedgwick County Association of Cities meeting and toured the Clinic in a Can facilities. Very impressive.

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

**ADJOURN -**

**The meeting adjourned at 9:07 PM.**

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