

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
January 7, 2025
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, Gina Gregory, Dale Kerstetter, Chris Evans and Matt Stamm.

Members Absent: Ben Anderson

Staff Present: Kyle Fiedler, Community Development Director
Rodney Eggleston, Public Works Director
Lloyd Newman, Public Safety 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

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

ADMINISTRATION AGENDA –

DECEMBER 17, 2024, CITY COUNCIL MINUTES-

Bass moved to approve the minutes of the December 17, 2024, City Council meeting as presented, seconded by Stamm. Vote Aye: Unanimous. Motion Carried.

PRESENTATIONS/PROCLAMATIONS –

PUBLIC FORUM –

APPOINTMENTS –

OLD BUSINESS –

A. ORDINANCE 1416-24; ESTABLISHMENT OF NO PARKING ZONE ON WAKEFIELD AVE.

Administrator Clark explained that this Ordinance establishes a no parking zone along one side of N. Wakefield. Kerstetter inquired how it was determined to make a no parking zone along the full length of the street when the request by the resident was just for the corner. Clark and Newman stated that the narrowness of the street makes it very difficult for emergency vehicles to pass between parked vehicles. Parking would be allowed on the side of the street opposite from the fire hydrants, mailboxes and sidewalk. The HOA already has restrictions in place for overnight street parking so this would allow the HOA to enforce this restriction.

Kerstetter asked for history of the no parking zone along 3rd. Street.

Bass moved to approve for 2nd. reading Ordinance 1416-24 establishing a no parking zone on North Wakefield. Motion seconded by Colbert. Vote Yea: unanimous Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS-

A. RESOLUTION 773-25; UPDATE OF CITY BOUNDARY LEGAL DESCRIPTION

Updates to boundaries need to be sent to Sedgwick County on annual basis if annexations or de-annexation occur. Administrator Clark presented Resolution 773-25 that will be submitted following Council approval. Evans moved to approve Resolution 773-25 updating the City of Valley Center boundary legal descriptions. Motion seconded by Kerstetter. Vote Yea: unanimous Motion carried

B. APPROVAL OF WATER/SEWER RATES 2025

Finance Director Miller requested approval of water and sewer rates for 2025. He reminded Council of the Wichita rate history and that much financial thought is considered for Valley Center rates. As the water fund balance is currently healthy, city staff are comfortable in not raising rates by the 7.18% to 7.28% that the City of Wichita is increasing. He requested increasing sewer rates and water rates but keep all base rates the same as 2024. Kerstetter thanked Miller for showing the historical rate increases. It was noted that as long as we purchase water from Wichita we are tied to their increases. Our water treatment plant should be operational by 2027.

Evans moved to approve proposed 2025 water/sewer rates for the City of Valley Center.

- Increase sewer rates by the standard 2.5%
- Increase water rates for tier 1, 2, and 3 by 4.5%
- Keep all base rates the same as 2024

Gregory seconded the motion. Vote Aye: Unanimous. Motion carried.

C. ORDINANCE 1417-25; SOLAR ENERGY CONVERSION SYSTEMS

Comm. Dev. Director Fiedler presented Ordinance No. 1417-25, which amends the Valley Center City Code Book to provide a regulatory scheme for the construction and operation of Solar Energy Conversion Systems for 1st reading. He stated that Halstead has an Ordinance but it is only for battery storage not solar. Sedgwick County has not passed an Ordinance, but Fiedler would like Valley Center to be proactive not reactive. Any requests would have to follow current zoning regulations. Fiedler did state that he plans to make one minor change prior to the second reading. Giving a definition of the word "Forbs"

Council discussed existing solar panels on residential or commercial properties, fire suppression and current capabilities of our department as well as how other Cities are addressing this topic.

Wilson moved to approve Ordinance 1417-25 for 1st reading. Motion seconded by Gregory. Vote Yea: Colbert, Wilson, Gregory, Stamm. Opposed Bass and Kerstetter. Evans did not vote. Due to uncertainty on final vote, Mayor Truman called for a roll call vote. Vote Yea: Colbert, Wilson, Gregory, Evans and Stamm. Opposed Bass and Kerstetter. Motion carried.

CONSENT AGENDA

- APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE – JANUARY 7, 2025
- DELINQUENT ACCOUNT REPORT – OCTOBER 2024
- PLANNING AND ZONING BOARD MINUTES – DECEMBER 19, 2024

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

STAFF REPORTS

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR FIEDLER

Reminded Council about the upcoming home show beginning January 30th. He will be seeking volunteers to work in the booth.

PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR EGGLESTON

Eggleston reported that his department was out working the streets the previous weekend due to the snowstorm. He stated that the brine truck was out of operation. Indicators flags were put along the curbs along Meridian so that plows wouldn't hit them. They will be removed following snow removal.

Work on South Meridian is stopped due to the extreme cold. The streetlights along North Meridian have been installed.

Wilson asked why the curbs on the west side of south Meridian had to be replaced. Widening of sidewalks as well as new storm drainage installed necessitated the new curb.

Colbert inquired about the lack snow removal in his neighborhood. Eggleston stated they can look at it, but because his neighborhood is largely chip/seal streets the department must be very careful to not damage the surface.

FINANCE DIRECTOR MILLER

Reported that the transition from .org to .gov is almost complete.

Also reported that he was able to negotiate a lower fee for all credit card transactions.

CITY CLERK/HR DIRECTOR CARRITHERS

Stated that an opening in the Parks and Public Buildings Department is being advertised and applications are currently being accepted.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR CLARK

Looking forward to 2025.

GOVERNING BODY REPORTS-

MAYOR TRUMAN

Ready for the New Year.

COUNCILMEMBER COLBERT

Reported that January 21st is Senior Day with various activities planned.

COUNCILMEMBER BASS

Stated that the lights installed along North Meridian look great.

COUNCILMEMBER GREGORY

Announced that SCAC will be having a meeting January 11th. at the Kechi City Hall beginning at 8:30am

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

ADJOURN -

The meeting adjourned at 7:49 PM.

Kristi Carrithers, City Clerk/HR Director