

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

June 18, 2025

CITY HALL

121 S. MERIDIAN

Mayor Truman called the postponed regular council meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. with the following members present: Matt Stamm, Gina Gregory, Amy Reid and Ronald Colbert.

Members Absent: Ben Anderson, Robert Wilson, Dale Kerstetter and Chris Evans

Staff Present: Lloyd Newman, Public Safety Director
Kyle Fiedler, Community Development Director
Barry Arbuckle, City Attorney
Clint Miller, Finance Director
Kristi Carithers, City Clerk/HR Director

Press present: The Ark Valley News

*****As four council members do not constitute a quorum, all action taken during meeting was not official or binding. Minutes reflect only presentation and discussion of agenda items.**

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor Truman requested the agenda be amended to remove the Mini-MPA presentation.

ADMINISTRATION AGENDA –

PRESENTATIONS/PROCLAMATIONS –

PUBLIC FORUM –

Michael Miller, 701 Dover Drive, addressed Council regarding Special Assessments and Rebates. He questioned how the specials assessed to new construction/residents are paid, due to rebate of special tax assessments.

APPOINTMENTS –

OLD BUSINESS –

A. PBS KANSAS – CITY SPONSORSHIP

Victor Hogstrom, President of PBS Kansas, requested continued support for the public television station. He explained the station is not biased as they produce numerous local Kansas programming that promote local communities and local governments. He is concerned about loss of Federal funding. Council members discussed the proposals. Reid asked whether the city took advantage of all the offerings and benefits last year, she also had questioned whether the age demographics really served to promote Valley Center. Gregory stated that as she meets with other SCAC every other month, the Cities that have a sponsorship feel it does have a benefit.

B. ACCEPTANCE OF PUBLIC DEDICATIONS FROM HIGH POINT ESTATES FINAL PLAT

Community Development Director Fiedler presented public dedications for acceptance as part of the Final Plat for High Point Estates. This subdivision is located northwest of the intersection of High Point Road and East Point Road. This 5-acre tract has been approved by the Planning and Zoning Board with public

hearings held. City Attorney Arbuckle advised Council that they have no authority or discretion to reject a planning commission approved plat.

Arbuckle stated that Council would need a reason for rejecting the dedication. Gregory stated that while it might meet all the codes and regulations the City requires, it does not meet the neighbors' needs.

Stamm felt that no decision be made tonight as several Councilmembers were absent.

NEW BUSINESS-

A. RESOLUTION 785-25; ARBOR VALLEY PHASE II DRAINAGE PETITION

Garth Herrmann, Gilmore and Bell, presented Resolutions to authorize improvements for Arbor Valley Phase II. He stated petitions for drainage, paving and water were received for the 29 lots in Phase II, Arbor Valley.

B. RESOLUTION 786-25; ARBOR VALLEY PHASE II PAVING PETITION

C. RESOLUTION 787-25; ARBOR VALLEY PHASE II WATER PETITION

D. PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT – SEH

City Clerk Carrithers requested approval of the Professional services agreement with SEH. She explained that Samantha Ghareeb was scheduled to present the agreement last night, but with the postponement of the meeting, she was not able to attend tonight's meeting. Carrithers stated that this type of agreement should be familiar to Council as new work is completed in new developments. The cost will be \$95,100.00.

E. ORDINANCE 1427-25; ANNEX 30.494 ACRES ALONG INTERURBAN (TRACT 1)

Community Development Director Fiedler presented Ordinance 1427-25 for 1st reading. A request from The4Front LLC to annex approximately 30.494 acres along Interurban has been received.

E. ORDINANCE 1428-25; ANNEX 30.453 ACRES ALONG INTERURBAN (TRACT 2)

Community Development Director Fiedler presented Ordinance 1428-25 for 1st reading. A request from The4Front LLC to annex approximately 30.453 acres along Interurban has been received.

G. VALLEY CENTER 2026 BUDGET-FIRST DRAFT

Finance Director Miller presented the first draft of the Valley Center 2026 budget. Miller was pleased to report that there has been a 15.172% increase in overall valuation. He explained the mil levy and how it affects the funding to the City. He compared the 2025 mill levy to the estimated 2026 mill levy. The 2026 Revenue Neutral Rate is 47.592. This lower rate was due to the large valuation increase, but it will likely return to the normal 50 mills over the next few years. A decrease of 1.2 mills is recommended for 2026 budget. Individual department budgets were presented. Miller stated that he did not have final estimates for employee benefits as claims from 2024 are still being paid through June 30th.

Councilmember Stamm thanked Miller and all the staff for the budget report. Mayor Truman verified that there isn't a separate tax on the Valley Center Cemetery. Miller stated that is correct, but a separate line item within the budget could be created to designate funds. Truman is interested in a master plan to get development within the cemetery.

CONSENT AGENDA

A. APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE – JUNE 17, 2025

STAFF REPORTS

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR FIEDLER

Announced that the Farmer's Market will be tomorrow 6/19/2025 with 15-16 vendors. It will be held on Ash Street as the grass lot is still waterlogged.

Fiedler reported that Owings wanted Council to be aware that the Valley Center sign has been installed at the roundabout.

PUBLIC SAFETY DIRECTOR NEWMAN

Kudos to all the Parks and Public Works staff as they are working hard to remove branches from the storm. The ribbon cutting for South Meridian will be held Tuesday, June 24th at 10:00.

GOVERNING BODY REPORTS –

MAYOR TRUMAN and ALL COUNCILMEMBERS

Thanked all the City crew that worked so hard on storm clean up.

ADJOURN -

The meeting adjourned at 8:22 PM.

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Kristi Carrithers, City Clerk