

City of Smith Center
Council Meeting Minutes
August 27th, 2015
7:00 pm

The City Council met in adjourned session with Bryce Wiehl presiding. Council members present: Dave Mace, Chris Cole and Jason Baetz. Others present: Tabitha Owen, Bill Phillips, Jamie Marshall, Chris Miner, Shannon Rothchild, Deb Wagenblast, Garoleen Wilson and Jill Conaway.

Motion by Baetz, seconded by Cole to approve the August 13th, 2015 meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried.

Shannon Rothchild, representing Nex-Tech and Nex-Tech Wireless, presented plans on a cell phone contract and an office phone contract.

Garoleen Wilson presented the minutes from the last Economic Development Advisory Board meeting. Wilson also reported attending a meeting on providing local food. Wilson asked the council to revisit her previous requests for a private office.

Motion by Mace, seconded by Baetz to approve a Jump Start Grant to Shawn Phelps in the amount of \$200/month for 12 months. Motion carried.

Motion by Baetz, seconded by Cole to approve a Clean-up and Revitalization Grant to Arlwin Manufacturing in the amount of \$1,500. Motion carried.

Motion by Cole, seconded by Baetz to approve a Job Creation Grant for expansion to A to Z Learning Preschool in the amount of \$2,500. Motion carried.

Several representatives of Smith Center attended a meeting with LaCrosse Furniture to present programs and incentives, should the company wish to expand in Smith Center.

Deb Wagenblast approached the council about some possible interest in saving/restoring the old gas station scheduled for demolition with the old water plant. Ownership of the building and land, along with structure uncertainties were shared with Wagenblast. Mayor Wiehl asked her to make a detailed plan to present to the council and owner.

Old Business: The sidewalk project was discussed in detail. Due to the type of project, it is suggested to ask local contractors to bid on the replacement of sidewalks on individual blocks. As costs are a concern, the entire project may not be able to be completed at once. Phillips discussed the city employees being able to assist in old sidewalk tear out.

Condemnations: The four properties discussed previously for possible condemnation were discussed: 415 North Washington Street, 619 South Lincoln Street, 304 East Third Street and 618 North Jefferson Street. Motion by Baetz, seconded by Mace to adopt Resolution 2015-2, scheduling an administrative hearing at which the owner, the owner's agent, any lien holders of record and any occupant of premises may appear and show cause why the structures should not be condemned and ordered repaired or demolished, be set for October 22, 2015, 8:00pm at the city office.

The Peoples Bank foreclosure on Peterson Industries, Inc. was discussed, including the City of Smith Center's position.

New Business: Motion by Cole, seconded by Mace to donate \$1,000 to Help Pets. Motion carried.

Motion by Baetz, seconded by Cole to approve a cereal malt beverage license to Pester Marketing, as ownership has changed. Motion carried.

Winter propane contracts were discussed. As usage is minimal, the council chose not to enter into contract.

Motion by Mace, seconded by Baetz to appoint Mayor Wiehl as the LKM voting delegate. Motion carried.

Discussion was held on the Governor's arrival at the Smith Center Municipal Airport for the Home on the Range highway dedication on September 3rd. Members of the city will be present to welcome the Governor.

Superintendent reports: Phillips discussed repair issues/possible replacement of the 9 tire. Marshall shared the status of the application process to hire a police officer.

Motion by Cole, seconded by Baetz to adjourn meeting at 8:32pm. Motion carried.

Attest:

Jill Conaway, City Clerk

