

**City of Smith Center
Council Meeting Minutes
September 24, 2015
7:00 pm**

The City Council met in adjourned session with Bryce Wiehl presiding. Council members present: Adam Rentschler, Lynn Zierlein and Chris Cole. Absent: Jason Baetz and Dave Mace. Others present: Tabitha Owen, Jamie Marshall, Denis Miller, Brad Howland, Dave Proctor, Vexa Emery, Terri Jones, Rick Hileman, Garoleen Wilson and Jill Conaway.

Motion by Rentschler, seconded by Zierlein to approve the minutes from the September 10, 2015 meeting. Motion carried.

Denis Miller of Mapes & Miller LLC, reviewed the 2014 Audit Report with the council. Motion by Zierlein, seconded by Rentschler to approve the 2014 Audit as presented. Motion carried.

Garoleen Wilson was present to review the minutes of the September Economic Development Advisory Board meeting. Heritage Townhomes has one apartment available for rent. Storefront Grants were discussed with the following action:

Motion by Cole, seconded by Rentschler to grant Curtis Peterson-Excel Service Center \$3,000. Motion carried.

Motion by Rentschler, seconded by Zierlein to grant Shawn Phelps-State Line Properties \$3,000. Motion carried.

Garoleen received a phone call from LaCrosse Furniture. At this time, the business does not have the increase in sales needed to expand to Smith Center.

Wilson shared information on a possible expansion of Arlwin Manufacturing. The business has the ability to manufacture an additional product. In doing so, the company will need to purchase the forms and have been offered to do so at a discounted cost. Wilson had suggested the Smith Center Revolving Loan Fund to be an option for funding, as offering this product will add 2-7 new employees. As the application process and maintenance procedures have changed for this loan, the clerk will contact the NWKPDC regarding this option.

The Highway 36 Treasure Hunt held the weekend of September 18-20 brought a large number of guests to our city, with many staying in our local motels.

The Rural Opportunity Zone program was discussed, with applicants that were previously on the waiting list now eligible to receive the ROZ payments.

Wilson and Joan Nech currently share duties involved with renting and maintaining Heritage Townhomes. Wilson is lacking the time needed to devote to this position, therefore asked if it was possible to contact the Housing Authority to see if they would be interested in these duties at the same rate of compensation currently received by Wilson and Nech. Conaway will contact the Housing Authority members and report back to the council.

Councilman Cole asked Wilson if all Economic Development Revolving Loan recipients are current. Wilson reported that one business is a month behind.

As suggested by the Economic Development Advisory Board, the council agrees that pictures of grant recipients be printed in the local newspaper, and window decals should be put in the window of the business receiving the grant.

Zierlein asked Wilson about the progress on the sidewalk project. Mayor Wiehl reported that Street Supervisor Bill Phillips has walked the entire area, noting which sidewalks would need to be replaced. Bids will need to be asked for from all area contractors.

The First Impressions program has completed the community visits with Belleville. The preliminary report has been received, with a presentation to be done, open to the public, on Tuesday, September 29th at 7:00pm in the Srader Center Community Room.

Brad Howland questioned the “washed out” leftover concrete that has been dumped by companies in the area of the railroad. A letter was previously sent to the railroad regarding this situation. The legal department had contacted Conaway reporting they were working with the concrete company to abate the problem. As the problem still remains, Conaway will contact the railroad concerning the remaining nuisance.

Dave Proctor and Vexa Emery greeted the council with interest in some of the houses currently on the condemnation list. Discussion was held on the process of condemnation and the upcoming hearing. Attorney Owen and the council directed Proctor and Emery to attend the October 22nd hearing scheduled for these properties. Owen received a call from the owner of one of the properties in question, that owner will also be attending the scheduled hearing.

Motion by Cole, seconded by Zierlein to go into executive session (non-elect personnel) at 8:10pm for five minutes. Motion carried. Council back into regular session at 8:15pm.

Motion by Cole, seconded by Rentschler to proclaim September 26, 2015 as the annual distribution day of Buddy Poppies by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States. Motion carried.

Motion by Rentschler, seconded by Cole to adopt Charter Ordinance No. 11-Elections. Motion carried.

Motion by Cole, seconded by Rentschler to purchase the commercial refrigerator for the Srader Center, quoted by Central Restaurant at a cost of \$1,999. Motion carried. The old refrigerator will be used by the Recreation Commission for storage.

Motion by Zierlein, seconded by Rentschler to approve the repair work needed on the Srader Center elevator by KONE in the amount of \$3,065. Motion carried.

Rick Hileman reported information on additional quarterly reporting to the State of Kansas on the sewer system. Hileman shared his concern of owners of run down property stating their

intention of demolition, and instead selling the property as is. Hileman also reported that the water standpipe has been taken down.

There has been significant work done at Wagner Park by Jack Yenne and also the Girl Scouts. The council would like to thank Mr. Yenne for the landscape work done and the Girl Scouts for planting flowers.

Terri Jones reported on the need to form a group to review consultants for the FAA partially funded project at the airport. The council has chosen the following individuals: Art Befort, Lynn Zierlein, Rick Hileman and Terri Jones.

Planning has begun on an open house for the new water plant. When specifics are in place, the information will be shared with all.

Jill Conaway received a request from Kent Stones to put three fluorescent lights in the hangar he leases at the airport, at his cost. The council granted permission.

The lack of bids on the Old Mill in Wagner Park was discussed. Wiehl will check into bringing a telehandler in to re-inspect.

Mayor Wiehl reminded everyone of the Free BBQ for Old Settlers Day.

Motion by Rentschler, seconded by Cole to adjourn meeting at 8:41pm. Motion carried.

Attest:

Jill Conaway, City Clerk