

City of Smith Center
City Council Meeting Minutes
January 28, 2019
6:00pm

The City Council met in adjourned session with Mayor Bryce Wiehl presiding. Council members present: Don Wick, Tracy Kingsbury, and Chris Cole. Absent: Adam Rentschler and Dave Mace.

Others present: Mickey Drake, Rick Hileman, Jerry Blank, Brady Peterson, Brad Howland, Corina Cox, Kristi Jones, Barry Brooks, Gerald Ratliff, John Franklin, Jennie Franklin, Luke Franklin, Judy Tucker, Jamie Marshall, Terri Jones, and Jill Conaway.

Mayor Wiehl called the meeting to order at 6:00pm.

Motion by Cole, seconded by Wick to approve the minutes of the January 14, 2019 meeting. Motion carried.

Mayor Wiehl welcomed Luke Franklin and family to the meeting. Every year, the League of Kansas Municipalities hosts a statewide competition, "If I Were Mayor" for 7th grade students. Under the direction of Ms. Miranda Christner, the 7th grade students at Smith Center Junior/Senior High School each submitted a proposal in memo format stating what change they would want to make in their community, if given the chance to be mayor. Mr. Franklin proposed the building of a new pool; defining the need, barriers, and resources to complete the project. Mayor Wiehl announced that Mr. Franklin's proposal was chosen as the North Central Regional winner; and the first student in Smith Center to achieve this honor. Mr. Franklin was also recognized at the LKM's annual Local Government Day in Topeka on January 23rd.

Chamber of Commerce

Brady Peterson, Chamber of Commerce board member, addressed the council on activities completed in 2018 and events scheduled in 2019. Motion by Kingsbury, seconded by Wick, to allot \$8,000 to the Chamber of Commerce for 2019. Motion carried.

CDBG

Corina Cox, NWKS Planning and Development, was present to define opportunities available through the Kansas CDBG (Community Development Block Grant). Currently, there is a unique grant opportunity open throughout Kansas, accepting applications for swimming pools. The Swimming Pool Board is interested in pursuing this grant opportunity. Cox explained the process of completing individual surveys in the community, a requirement for all CDBG applications. The current opportunity was defined. In order to qualify for any CDB

grants, the surveys must show a minimum of 51% as low to moderate income. In addition, an asbestos inspection (\$485.28), preliminary engineering report (\$4,050) and project funding of 40% matching funds are required to be in place at the time of application. With an estimated \$1.6 million, local funding of \$640,000 is required to be in place. The City of Smith Center has recently created a fund to accept donations and grant proceeds. Without the local funding amount in place, the application cannot be submitted. The Swimming Pool Board does have the option to continue with the community survey for use on any CDBG applications submitted through 2022.

Public Meeting

At 6:15pm, Mayor Wiehl announced the beginning of the Public Meeting regarding the proposed project on US-281/Main Street. The City of Smith Center has filed a pre-application with the U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development for financial assistance for the street resurfacing and sidewalk improvements of US-281/Main Street from the railroad tracks north to US-36. Community members present at the meeting had no comments on the proposed project.

Motion by Wick, seconded by Cole, to adopt Resolution 2019-3-authorizing the Mayor and City Clerk to sign all documents related to the funding application for the proposed improvements in relation to the USDA Rural Development application to move forward with the project. Motion carried.

CDBG

Discussion continued with Corina Cox and the Swimming Pool Board on the CDBG opportunity. The council thanked Cox and the Swimming Pool Board and will discuss the program option later in the meeting.

Economic Development

Brad Howland reviewed the minutes from the last Economic Development meeting with the council. Motion by Kingsbury, seconded by Wick to approve payment of \$75 per meeting to Gayle Ballhorst for her duties as secretary. Motion carried.

Motion by Cole, seconded by Wick to approve the appointment of Steve Wingerson to the Economic Development Advisory Board. Wingerson will fill the expired position previously held by Kaden Roush. Motion carried.

The governing body resumed discussion on the CDBG option including the survey, timeline, and funding. Without funding in place for the CDBG application, the council is unable to move forward on the application. As options are pursued and the Swimming Pool Board continues to work on various projects towards a new swimming pool, a motion was made by Wick, seconded by Cole, to approve payment of up to \$1,275 for the costs of postage, paper, and envelopes, as approved by the Economic Development Advisory Board, for the

Swimming Pool Board members to complete the CDBG LMI survey in the community. Motion carried.

Superintendent and Council Reports

Due to the cost and frequency of equipment tire repairs, the council approved Hileman's request to purchase the tools, equipment, and safety cage to fix tires at the city shop.

Hileman reported on the delivery of a pump for one of the lift stations, the second pump is expected to be delivered on February 13th. The retro-fit for the new pumps will be done on Thursday. The second pump will not be put into use until the original quits, as the change-out takes minimal time.

Jones shared information from Mark McClain on the possibility of pickle ball courts on the second floor of the Srader, with portable nets. The council was in favor.

Cole informed the council that 2-3 men will be added soon to the Fire Department. The Fire Department and City Council are both thankful to those willing to serve, as well as the department members' employers for their willingness and understanding of members responding to calls during work hours.

Motion by Wick, seconded by Cole to adjourn at 7:04pm. Motion carried.

Attest:

Jill Conaway, City Clerk