

Smith Center City Council Special Meeting Minutes

February 2, 2021

I. Call to Order

Mayor Bryce Wiehl called to order the special meeting of the city council at 12pm on February 2, 2021.

II. Attendance

Council members Adam Rentschler, Don Wick, Tracy Kingsbury, and Shawn Phelps.
Absent: Chris Cole. Others: Nick Rhodes, Eric and Hope Padilla, David and Nancy Dewester, Anastasia Willitts, Deb Wagenblast, Jamie Isom, Burke and Kim Phelps, Garoleen Wilson, Steven and Melissa Clark, Jodi Boyle, Elizabeth McDonald, Kyle Allen, Lori Bortz, Julie Kuhlmann, Brad Howland, Pat Kramer, Travis Ray, Gayle Ballhorst, Adam Ifland, Marci Overmiller, Julie Troy, Dairiane Cobb, Aurielle Hughes, Jennie Franklin, Daniel Jupina, Linda Edell, Deb Janzen, Darin Janzen, Merry Vandergeisen, Chief Marshall, Officer Kenworthy, Terri Jones, Rick Hileman, Tabitha Owen, and Jill Conaway.

III. Address Special Meeting

Mayor Wiehl welcomed everyone to the meeting, stating his appreciation of the attendees' attention to economic development matters. Following special meeting protocols, Mayor Wiehl announced that agenda items cannot be added or changed, nor would there be any public comment. The mayor announced and read the agenda purpose of the meeting to the public and asked Rhodes to read the letter to the council. Economic Development Advisory Board Chair Rhodes reiterated the reason for the meeting and explained the consensus of the advisory board members. Hope Padilla addressed the letter items and the reasons for writing it. Padilla stated that she wanted to make it clear that the items were not negotiable. Discussion was held on the items requested.

- a) Request Councilman Phelps be removed from the council; until then, Padilla requests the city council reprimand him to a point that when economic development brings something to the council, he is not allowed to ask questions or discuss economic development items.

Following discussion, as well as legal options, it was explained that a reprimand was made during a public meeting in 2020 and the council does not have the legal right to deny Phelps the opportunity to ask questions or discuss economic development items if there is not a direct conflict, as he is an elected public official.

- b) Request salary to be raised \$10,000 in addition to the recent raise of \$2,500; total salary request of \$52,500.

No action was taken after detailed discussion.

- c) Dinner or meeting where city council, county commissioners, and advisory board meet and share goals and how to achieve them.

Mayor Wiehl addressed this request, explaining that he has met with a county commissioner regularly as well and with the board for this purpose throughout his time as a governing body member. He also explained how KOMA and KORA affects a meeting that includes a majority of a board and/or commission when city business is being discussed. Mayor Wiehl stated that he believes the relationship with the county is the best it has ever been since he was on the city council in 1983. Discussion was held on the council's views of the relationships.

No action was taken after discussion.

After revisiting each of the requests, Attorney Owen confirmed with Padilla that the items she requested were non-negotiable. Owen stated the first item itself halts any action from being taken as it cannot be achieved therefore moving on to the other requests for vote would not be necessary.

IV. Adjournment

Motion by Rentschler, seconded by Wick, to adjourn. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 12:47pm.