

# Smith Center City Council Meeting Minutes

February 13, 2023

## I. Call to Order

Mayor Bryce Wiehl called the meeting to order at 6pm on Monday, February 13<sup>th</sup>, 2023, at the Srader Building.

## II. Attendance

Council members: Chris Cole, Don Wick, Tracy Kingsbury, Dave Mace, and Brady Peterson. Others: Chris and Sena Bailey, Jerald Ratliff, Ashley Smith, Kurt Breshears, Jamie Marshall, Tabitha Owen, Brett Decker, Stephanie Henry, Rick Hileman, Kim Phelps, Dana Peterson, Aurielle Hughes, Kim Maudlin, Jill Conaway, Katie Christner and Teagan Maxwell (6:01pm), and Sherry Weatherholt (6:10pm).

## III. Consent Agenda

Motion by Kingsbury, seconded by Wick, to approve the previous meeting minutes, vouchers, and receipts. Motion carried.

## IV. Guests

- a) Ashley Smith and Kurt Breshears, Spirit Sculpture, shared the activities they are planning to offer during the Big Kansas Road Trip. As they will need an outdoor area, preferably dirt due to the nature of the activities, the couple inquired on the use of the fairgrounds. The council explained that the county actually owns the fairgrounds however, suggestions were made on a couple of other locations that are privately owned.
- b) Katie Christner and Teagan Maxwell representing FCCLA, address the council on the proposed proclamation and week-long activities in support of FCCLA, a student organization that extends learning through projects that develop leadership and skills. Mayor Wiehl proclaimed the week beginning February 13<sup>th</sup> as national FCCLA week and urges all citizens to acquaint themselves with FCCLA, and provide support and encouragement to the students.
- c) Chris Bailey-Bailey explained that he was tasked by the county commissioners to secure and purchase new radios with ARPA funding, which is intended to be used on items that are needed but may be feasible to purchase with the county's regular budget. At the beginning of 2024, the radio system will be encrypted, which the current radios do not support. The new radios will utilize the KHP towers, virtually eliminating the areas that do not have coverage. The purchase will cover all of the radios in Smith County, as the radios in current use will be transferred to the fire department. Installation will be provided at no cost as well. The complete project is approximately \$93,000. The council expressed their gratitude. The county approved the purchase last week.

## **V. Previous/Ongoing Business**

- a) Interlocal Agreement-Motion by Cole, second by Mace, to approve and sign the Interlocal Agreement to continue the NRP (Neighborhood Revitalization Program) with the County as previously approved. Motion carried.
- b) Resolution 2023-4 was presented to the council. Motion by Wick, seconded by Peterson, to adopt the resolution as presented, supporting the MIH application. Motion carried.
- c) ACH Option-Conaway shared the information from The Guaranty Bank on the ach option for golf course memberships. As the city's software does not have a module to create the type of report needed, members can use bank pay through their financial institution; pay by credit card monthly; or submit checks/cash to the office.

## **VI. New Business**

- a) Administration Offices-A bid was reviewed from Billy Davis Construction for some updates in the offices of the Srader Building. A motion was made by Wick, seconded by Kingsbury, to approve the bid as presented.
- b) Siren System-Hileman reported on the siren system, with repeated issues occurring with one of the sirens. The company that has maintained and repaired the system has had some ownership/staffing changes that has impacted the ability to complete the repairs. Discussion was held on the system, the proposal Hileman received previously, and the option to look into some other companies. Hileman and Conaway will reach out to obtain information from other companies and will report back to the council once received.

## **VII. Department Reports/Committee & Board Report**

- a) Police Department-Chief Jamie Marshall reviewed information received to purchase new tasers on a lease/purchase program that includes a 5-year warranty plan, secures the current pricing for upgrades; replacement batteries and cartridges. The plan proposed is designed to save the city money over the course of the program. Following discussion and review, a motion was made by Cole, seconded by Mace, to approve the lease/purchase at \$2534.84 per year for five years. Motion carried.  
Chief Marshall also shared that Attorney Tabitha Owen has graciously used some of her funding to purchase the department new cameras and body cams, saving the city the expense of upgrading. Marshall and the council expressed their gratitude to Owen for covering these purchases.
- b) Hileman-Quotes for a new hydraulic pump were shared with the council. The 3" pump is quoted at \$2693.50 and the 4" pump at \$6,339.76. Hileman explained that the 3" pump is preferred. (Council member Wick exited the meeting at 6:40pm). Motion by Kingsbury, seconded by Cole, to approve the purchase of the 3" pump from Core & Main, as presented. Motion carried. (Council member Wick returned to the meeting at 6:42pm).

Hileman also shared the good news that the line the crew has been struggling to locate, even with the assistance of professionals from KRWA and other organizations, has been located by the city crew members. The employees used the vac with tracer wire. Cole asked Hileman to check the garage doors at the old firehouse to see if they may need to be replaced with insulated doors, as the gas bill for heat is currently more than the new firehouse that is kept warmer and utilized more by individuals. Discussion was held on the heat unit that is in place. Hileman will take a look at the doors and area and report back.

- c) Conaway-Representing the library, Conaway explained that a long-term part-time employee has announced that she will be submitting her resignation to retire. With the increase in personnel and daily costs, there are concerns that the library budget, which is determined and set by mill levy, may not cover their expenses. The library board will be accepting applications, however, the position may now need to be offered at 32.5 hours a week which qualifies as a full-time position with KPERS and insurance benefits. The other option is to hire two part-time employees. There is a concern on filling the position(s) as the area continues to struggle with a candidates for open positions. It was the consensus of the council to support the library financially should expenses exceed their set budgetary limits.

### **VIII. Governing Body Reports**

- a) Wick-Pool/Recreation Commission/Transit  
Inquired on the status of the bid process for the pool house. There were no bids received from the first round. Wick asked about the option to expand the bid inquiries to outside the immediate area, if there are not enough contractors bidding on all phases of the construction. There are concerns with the option to use companies that construct metal buildings, with type of use. Cole asked if the company Chief Buildings could be researched. The council expressed their preference to use local contractors but if bids aren't received to complete the construction, the city is running out of time to complete the pool house. Some of the funding has time restraints therefore it is pertinent that the construction process be completed.
- b) Cole-Police/Fire  
The fire department has lost two members recently, as the members moved out of the area. Cole explained that the department still has 20 volunteer members, so they are in good shape.

### **IX. Executive Session**

Motion by Cole, seconded by Mace, to enter into executive session for ten minutes, personnel exception, personnel matters of non-elected personnel, with Chief Marshall and Tabitha Owen in attendance. Motion carried. In session at 6:56pm-out of session at 7:06pm.

Cole shared that the council would like to offer a police officer position to Chris Bailey. A motion was made by Cole, seconded by Wick, to hire Bailey at pay grade 13; with a 6 month probationary period. Upon a positive review following the probationary period, Bailey would be moved up to pay grade 15. Motion carried.

**X. Adjournment**

Motion by Mace, seconded by Kingsbury to adjourn. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:10pm.