

Smith Center City Council Meeting Minutes **April 13, 2020-6:00 pm**

This meeting was held in a combination of Zoom and in person at City Hall meeting room

The City Council met in regular session with Mayor Wiehl presiding. Council members present: Adam Rentschler, Tracy Kingsbury, Shawn Phelps, Don Wick, and Chris Cole.
Others present: Rick Hileman, Jamie Marshall, Mickey Drake, Brad Howland, Hope Padilla, Tabitha Owen, and Jill Conaway.

Motion by Rentschler, seconded by Kingsbury, to approve the minutes of the April 6, 2020 meeting. Motion carried. The minutes of the March 9, 2020 meeting were tabled; Phelps reported a section to be amended-will submit to the Clerk.

Motion by Cole, seconded by Phelps, to approve payment of the monthly expenses. Motion carried.

The Pool project was tabled to the next meeting.

Resolution

Upon review, a motion was made by Rentschler, seconded by Cole, to adopt the Resolution for Temporary Waiver of Fees for Late Payment of Utility Bills; in response to COVID-19. Motion carried.

Ordinance

In response to COVID-19, a motion was made by Kingsbury, seconded by Cole, to adopt Ordinance 1028-Providing for the Payment of all Claims in each Fund in the Budget for the Remainder of the Calendar Year 2020. Motion carried. The mayor signed the ordinance.

Summer Employees

The governing body discussed in detail the uncertainty that continues regarding hiring summer employment, due to the effects, restraints, and response of/to COVID-19. A former summer employee has been assisting at the golf course during a time of need and reported as completing community service requirements. Once these requirements have been met, the city crew can assist the Golf Course Superintendent unless changes in the response to COVID-19 occur prior to. Offering employment for summer positions was tabled due to uncertainty of employees' schedules in the upcoming weeks.

Mower Quotes

Quotes were received and shared with the governing body to replace the 2009 John Deere Z445 mower used primarily by the water department. Nine quotes were received from Lang Diesel and Landmark Implement. After reviewing the information, a motion was made by Phelps, seconded by Rentschler, to accept Quote D submitted by Lang Diesel to purchase a 2020 Husqvarna Z560, trading in the 2009 JD, for a balance of \$7,569.19. Motion carried.

Economic Development

Upon review, a motion was made by Cole, seconded by Rentschler, to approve COVID-19 Response loans as follows: Traditions-\$2000; Lyon Saloon-\$2,500; Kingsbury Service-\$5,000. Motion carried. Discussion was held on the State of Kansas loan options for businesses.

Information was shared with the governing body on an application from Anna Willitts/Flawless Fawn for a revolving loan for a total of \$40,000 (\$25,000/building; \$15,000/equipment/remodel). The governing body discussed at great length the various options that could be available as well as the timing of the application review during the current COVID-19 pandemic, and the guidelines of the loan structure. After detailed discussion and the review of various options, the council directed Padilla to contact the applicant to offer a possible \$12,000 loan option towards a down payment for a loan at a local bank. A motion was then made by Phelps, seconded by Wick, to table the original loan until the applicant has applied at the financial institution as discussed. Motion carried.

Internship for Economic Development was discussed. After discussion, a motion was made by Rentschler, seconded by Kingsbury, to table the item at this time due to COVID-19; and should circumstances change, re-visit the option, at an hourly rate as set by the City's PayScale.

Reports

Hileman reported on progress at the wellhouse. In review of some complaints/items that were reported as needing attention, Hileman reported that many items were on the regular schedule. Items such as pothole repairs however are scheduled for later in the season, as the temperature is not ideal for this type of work and the City does not yet have the required supplies. For any items that are on personal property, the City is required to notify the property owner in writing prior to entry, allowing the property owner to abate the issue and therefore not be billed for the City completing the item(s) listed. Jack Yenne has been working in Wagner Park. Many years, the City has been fortunate to have high schoolers assist in annual park cleanup during Do Good Friday. Parking and handicap lines downtown are on hold currently, awaiting a timetable for the resurfacing project.

Cart paths were poured at the Golf Course. Phelps reported that the course is looking good for the beginning of the season.

Conaway reported that Public Transit has been closed in response to COVID-19, other than closing the gap in assisting the delivery of groceries to those that call in their order.

Phelps asked about property owners/renters discharging grass into city streets. Currently, the city does not have an ordinance against this. Owen will look at ordinances in place at other municipalities; to present an ordinance to the governing body for review.

Wick shared a request from some residents for a Children at Play sign to be placed in the area of Athletic St and Court St. Hileman will relay the information to Johnson to coordinate with Chief Marshall.

The governing body congratulates Addison Green-Russell on her accomplishments during the Youth Entrepreneurship Challenge.

A motion was made by Rentschler, seconded by Wick, to adjourn. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:06pm.

Attest:

Jill Conaway, City Clerk