

Smith Center City Council Meeting Minutes

April 26, 2021

I. Call to Order

Mayor Bryce Wiehl called to order the meeting of the city council at 6pm on April 26, 2021.

II. Attendance

Council members: Don Wick, Tracy Kingsbury, Shawn Phelps, and Chris Cole. Absent: Adam Rentschler. Others: Tabitha Owen, Terri Jones, Jamie Marshall, Kim Phelps, Sherry Weatherholt, Sandra Wick, Jerald Ratliff, Steven Clark, Nickole Byers, Nick Rhodes, Sheldon Kenworthy, Brady Peterson, and Jill Conaway.

III. Consent Agenda

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

IV. Guest

- a) Nickole Byers, Smith County Pioneer-Byers handed out information to the council, explaining the contents and asking the members to complete an included questionnaire to help her learn about the members of the council. Byers also addressed the council on witnessing a very loaded down semi-truck and trailer run through the four-way stop at the intersection of Main and Court Street recently; an intersection many children cross every day. Discussion was held on the intersection and safety concerns seen. Byers shared that she is willing to help address the situation moving forward. Chief Marshall and Attorney Owen replied that citizens can call in a report and if it is possible to do so immediately, law enforcement may be able to stop the driver prior to them leaving the community/county. Additional conversation took place on the route semi-trailers use; whether drivers are aware of the stop at that intersection, marking the stop better, other means of alerting drivers of the upcoming intersection and more.

In summary, Byers shared information about herself, her work history and current position, and the methods of editorials in the Smith County Pioneer. Byers shared her passion, willingness to help the community grow, and asked the members to contact her at any time with any questions. Explaining her commitment to the newspaper she also asked that if any readers of paper have any questions or concerns, they are welcomed. As she is looking forward to working with the City, she told the members the questionnaires could be left at the office or emailed to her once completed. Mayor Wiehl thanked Byers for her time.

V. Previous/Ongoing Business

- a) Summer Positions-Following discussion, a motion was made by Wick, seconded by Phelps, to approve the additional applicants. Motion carried.
- b) Pool Manager-A motion as made by Wick, seconded by Phelps to set the manager's pay rate at \$12/hour; and the assistant manager's pay rate at \$10/hour. Motion carried.

- c) Certification and re-certification costs-In discussing the costs incurred for lifeguard certification and re-certification, a motion was made by Kingsbury, seconded by Cole, to approve payment of such costs for staff. Motion carried.
- d) Srader Access System-The clarifications were made on the quote reviewed at the last meeting from CES for an updated access system. Motion by Wick, seconded by Rentschler, to approve the quote from CES for \$9,651.15. Motion carried.
- e) Resolution 2021-4-A motion was made by Wick, seconded by Kingsbury, to approve resolution 2021-4 as presented; directing the call for redemption of temporary notes and providing notice of said redemption. Motion carried.
- f) CDBG Pool Project Change Order-Detailed discussion was held on the proposed cost of the change order submitted on the CDBG pool project for additional electrical work. Following details on the gap that was presented by the engineering firm in the design versus the work bid out from contractors, Kingsbury voiced concerns on the elevated costs shown in the change order. After the review and discussion, a motion was made by Phelps, seconded by Cole, to table the change order until Kingsbury can contact the engineer to obtain more information. Motion carried. A special meeting will be called to revisit the change order once Kingsbury has talked with the engineer.

VI. New Business

- a) Resignation-A motion was made by Wick, seconded by Cole, to approve the resignation of Officer Kenneth Jones Jr. Motion carried.
- b) Public Service Recognition Week-To encourage all citizens to recognize the accomplishments and contributions of government employees at all levels – federal, state, county and city; announcing May 2nd-May 8th as Public Service Recognition Week.
- c) Mayor Wiehl addressed the council on the need to move the meeting to another location due to the limited space in the city offices with the third position being added. Discussion was held on options, resulting in the consensus of the council to have Mayor Wiehl inquire with the Lions Club on changing their meeting days, as their meetings are currently scheduled the same night as the city council.

VII. Department Reports/Committee & Board Reports

- a) Economic Development-Nick Rhodes shared that the advisory board ultimately voted to grant clean-up and revitalization funds to Stan Herredsberg for the demolition of a house on West New York Street, east of his home. Rhodes and the governing body members discussed prior applications and the need to possibly address the guidelines to include a stipulation on time structures are without residency. All members agreed that there is a gray area. A motion was made by Phelps, seconded by Wick, to approve the grant to Herredsberg as presented. Motion carried.
- b) Chief Marshall-Advertisement has been placed on KPOA for a police officer. Marshall and Kenworthy will be working on possible solutions on the four-way stop to improve safety.

- c) Conaway-Proposed general public transit fare changes for trips outside of Smith County greater than 30 miles such as Kearney, Hastings, Hays, Grand Island. A motion was made by Kingsbury, seconded by Wick, to approve the rate for this service at \$8/round trip; discounted to \$7/round trip if a ticket is purchased in increments of 10, 20, 30 or 40 rides. Motion carried. The approval will be forwarded to KDOT/FTA.
The report on the annual KMIT audit was shared with the council. The city received a gold score resulting in a 5% discount on our workers compensation premium for the year.
- d) Jones-Shared grant offers from KDOT to rehabilitate runway 14-32 at the airport. The city would be responsible for \$3,000 for the design portion to take place this calendar year. The construction portion would take place in 2022, with the city's share of the cost at \$46,000. A motion was made by Wick, seconded by Cole, to approve and accept the grant offers as presented. Jones explained the urgent need for our airport to house an additional plane to meet the requirement of FAA for non-entitlement funds. Without the required ten planes housed at the airport, the city will not qualify for these funds.

VIII. Governing Body Reports

- a) Cole-Police/Fire
Cole announced that the council is thankful to Officer Jones for his time serving the city and wished him well. He would like to have the city send the committee for Home on the Range a thank you for the coordination in holding the annual event this past weekend, bringing many visitors to Smith Center. The jets and planes at our airport were impressive as well. Cole also addressed the situation at the four-way stop that Byers discussed earlier in the meeting. As CDL drivers of semi-trucks and trailers risk losing insurance coverage if a major violation occurs on their license, Cole believes the majority of trucks that go through the intersection without stopping likely do not realize the stop sign and light are there. In the middle of the night it seems more likely that they would be purposely going through. Regardless, he does agree with the safety issue and discussion was held on ways to attract attention to the stop required. The option of adding a flashing light or lights to the stop signs was previously denied at the state level. Options of adding brighter paint, painting STOP on the roadway and other signage was discussed.
- b) Kingsbury-Water/Sewer
Asked if LaDow had inquired and/or purchased a pump to pump out meter pits. Jones responded that he had looked at them but had not purchased on yet. Kingsbury stated the pump is a lifesaver and more efficient than using the large vac machine for pumping out meter pits.
- c) Phelps-Golf/Recreation Commission
Reported that Boden has completed the irrigation projects at the golf course and is currently working on a drainage issue on hole three. Also discussed the parking blocks, the board is open to suggestions on replacements. The state agreed to fix the potholes at the entrance of the course. With the funds brought in by selling items on auction, the course will be purchasing a used golf cart for an additional rental and the board is researching possible grant options to buy

another cart. Men's league is scheduled to begin May 12th, ending July 28th. Also announced, Alex Hobelman will be providing free clinics such a junior golf camp, a ladies clinic, and a couples clinic. Phelps reported the Recreation Commission busy with ball teams, netting is on the way to be put up and a new scoreboard to be placed.

d) Wick-Pool/Parks

The swimming pool project was discussed at great length. As the project is partially funded by a CDBG grant of one million dollars, there are inspections that are required to be completed by the state prior to the pool opening. Communications from the state and Corina at NW Planning and Development state that the inspections cannot be scheduled until the pool is completed and the final CDBG funds drawdown request is approved and sent. With the unknown timeline of the inspections, it is unlikely the pool will be able to open on Memorial weekend. However, it is hopeful it will not be much longer than that. With the change in opening, it was the consensus of the council to pay all swimming pool staff as they would have been scheduled, from the original planned opening until the pool is officially opened. Wick and the swimming pool committee would like the dedication to be scheduled for Friday, May 28th at 5:30pm. The committee has worked diligently putting together items for the dedication. Lamp Rynearson will assist in covering the cost of food. Wick inquired with Jones on checking alumni addresses. Jones responded that the committee obtained the addresses from Kim Phelps. Kim said that she no longer has them, they are now with Allan Dunavan. The dedication will be published in the Smith County Pioneer the two weeks prior to the dedication.

IX. Adjournment

Motion by Wick, seconded by Cole, to adjourn. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:27pm.