

Smith Center City Council Meeting Minutes **May 11, 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, and Chris Cole.

Others present: Jamie Marshall, Terri Jones, Tabitha Owen, David Tharp, Barry Brooks, Lee Mahin, Brad Howland, and Jill Conaway.

Motion by Rentschler, seconded by Cole, to approve the minutes of the April 27, 2020 meeting. Motion carried.

Motion by Kingsbury, seconded by Rentschler, to approve payment of the monthly expenses. Motion carried.

The Pool project was tabled to the next meeting.

Guest

Lee Mahin reported to the governing body issues he has encountered with cattle trucks parking across from his residence in the parking lot. Due to the nature of the trucks' use, Mahin reports he is unable to have his home's windows or doors open as the odor is offensive. Mayor Wiehl asked Owen if we have jurisdiction, in response Owen explained the ordinances currently in place do not directly address this situation as the trucks come and go. It was decided that Mayor Wiehl will send a courtesy letter to the business.

Land Lease

Upon review, a motion was made by Rentschler, seconded by Cole, to accept the terms of the land lease agreement with Kansas Ag Care by Air, Inc. and authorize the mayor to sign the document. Motion carried.

Ordinance

A proposed ordinance relating to grass clippings in the streets, roadways, avenues, and highways within city limits was reviewed. Owen asked the council if the fines listed were sufficient once court costs are added. Wiehl stated his concern on the ability to enforce as well as his belief that grass clippings in the roadways to not be a major concern in our community. Phelps asked how the information would be shared with the community if the ordinance is put in place. Phelps stated the issue as a hazard for motorcycles, bicyclists, and pedestrians; as well as grass clippings adding to weed growth in the gutters. Cole and Kingsbury both stated that while they agree that the issue can be unsightly, it is not a major issue for the city. Kingsbury would like to see the governing body focus more on blighted buildings and houses. Rentschler made a motion to adopt the ordinance as presented, stating that each step such as this is a step in the right direction. Phelps seconded the motion. Mayor Wiehl asked for a roll call vote: Phelps-aye; Rentschler-aye; Kingsbury-aye; Cole-aye. Motion carried. Mayor Wiehl signed the ordinance however stated that he does not agree.

Recreation Commission Summer Activities

Barry Brooks and David Tharp discussed summer youth programs under the Recreation Commission. After detailed talk among the governing body and attendees, a motion was made by Phelps, seconded by Cole to regrettably cancel summer activities under the Recreation Commission. Motion carried. Members explained that while they would prefer to have all summer activities in place for our youth, the COVID-19 restrictions in place for the safety of our community must be followed. In order to comply, there is a lack of staffing available to assure all sanitation steps can be met; issues with sanitation of shared equipment; the possibility of issues that could occur should the social distancing requirements not be followed by attendees at games; liability and more.

There are three groups that previously have used the fields for practice/games, that are not under the Recreation Commission. The county owns the west ballfields used and previously the Recreation Commission was compensated for umpires and the marking of the fields. It was decided to remove our participation from the agreement, other than mowing of the fields. Utilities at these fields will be left off for the season.

Summer Employment

The swimming pool was discussed at great length. As our community's youth have and continue to experience loss of school attendance, organized sports and social activities, a statement was made by Cole that opening the swimming pool even for the shorter season may be one thing the city can provide without sacrificing the safety of our youth. Information shared from the State and local health officials show that with the chemicals used and the nature of, pools can be opened in the upcoming phases. No decision was made at this time.

A motion was made by Phelps, seconded by Rentschler, to approve summer employment to Shane Hrabe. Motion carried. No action to hire summer interns was taken, due to the uncertainty of upcoming budget funding versus the immediate need.

Reports

Chief Marshall reported on recent activities. Hileman reported on the progress of the well house; and regarding the ordinance prohibiting grass clipping to be deposited or blown into roadways, asked who is ticketed if there is a violation, the person performing the lawn care or the property owner. Owen replied that the person performing the lawn care would be the individual ticketed.

Cole expressed appreciation for the work Jack Yenne has done at Wagner Park, as the park is looking very nice. Phelps presented condolence cards to be sent to the family of RD Hubbard.

A motion was made by Rentschler, seconded by Kingsbury, to adjourn. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:22pm.

Attest:

Jill Conaway, City Clerk