

# Smith Center City Council Meeting Minutes

May 22, 2023

## **I. Call to Order**

Mayor Bryce Wiehl called the meeting to order at 6pm on Monday, May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2023, at the Srader Building. Mayor Wiehl announced that without a quorum, the meeting will continue once a third council member is present.

## **II. Attendance**

Council members: Don Wick, Brady Peterson, and Tracy Kingsbury (6:01pm). Absent: Chris Cole and Dave Mace.

Others: Dana Peterson, Aurielle Hughes, Jerald Ratliff, Jamie Marshall, Richard and Victoria Cobb, Lynne Wagner, Kim Maudlin, Billy Thayer, Brian Baetz, Rick Hileman, Kim Phelps, Sherry Weatherholt, Kristi Jones, Tabitha Owen (6:19pm) and Jill Conaway.

## **III. Consent Agenda**

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

## **IV. Previous/Ongoing Business**

- a) Swimming Pool & Pool House-Samples of the pool house block were delivered today. Wiehl asked Hughes to share the samples with the pool committee to decide on the mason tile. Hughes will look up the color used on the chemical structure on Tuesday. Mayor Wiehl shared a target timeframe of early August for the pool house construction to begin.
- b) CCLIP South Main/US-281-Conaway updated the council on the commencement of the surface preservation project on South Main Street/US-281 from the railroad tracks south to city limits. Venture Corp. is in the process of milling. Information was posted on the website and social media as well as door hangers to the residents along the roadway affected. It was asked if the city will keep the millings or sell them. Hileman discussed the lack of longevity when used on the roadways.

## **V. New Business**

- a) Resignation-A resignation was shared with the council. Motion by Kingsbury, seconded by Wick, to accept the resignation of Brett Decker, effective June 1. Motion carried.

## **VI. Department Reports/Committee & Board Reports**

- a) Recreation Commission-The governing body reviewed the by-laws drafted by Owen. Discussion was held on the by-laws, including the number of members; which boards/commissions would be considered a conflict for commission members; volunteers/advisory committee; amendments; and statutory authority and regulations. A motion was made by Peterson, seconded by Kingsbury, to approve the by-laws as

presented. Motion carried. A motion was made by Kingsbury, seconded by Peterson, to appoint Kevin Laumann, Tiffany Mansholt, and Shawn Stansbury to the Recreation Commission with staggering terms. Motion carried.

- b) Fire Department-Conaway read Chief McNary's report on the fire department.
- c) Economic Development-D. Peterson presented action items from the board's meeting. Motion by Wick, seconded by Peterson, to approve a Residential Revitalization Grant for up to \$3,000 in matching funds for siding, soffits, and fascia at 411 N. Brandon. Motion carried. Motion by Wick, seconded by Kingsbury, to approve a Residential Clean Up Grant to Lynne Wagner for demolition and removal of the house, and dirt work, at 505 S. Washington; contingent upon the house inspection. Motion carried. Motion by Peterson, seconded by Wick, to approve a BE&D revolving loan to Brian Baetz for \$50,000 to purchase Dale's Service Center, 417 E Highway 36, contingent on bank approval and clarification of the lots included. Motion carried. Motion by Kingsbury, seconded by Wick, to approve a \$5,000 lump sum Jump Start Grant to Brian Baetz towards utility change fees, marketing and advertising, legal fees, and other startup expenses. Motion carried. Peterson shared that the Housing Team drafted a vacant property ordinance as a tool to encourage property owners to use the land bank. The council discussed the drafted document, tabling to the next meeting as two members are absent. A motion was made by Kingsbury, seconded by Peterson, to appoint Jaime Isom to the Housing Team, per recommendation. Motion carried. D. Peterson shared that in review of the economic development plan, the board added a goal to develop sites to identify and attract new industry and secondary sector businesses, in response to the survey results.
- d) Police Department-Chief Marshall announced a \$3,350 grant was awarded from the Smith County Community Foundation to assist in the cost to purchase radar. Marshall has communicated with the undersheriff on the upcoming changes to the patrol schedule.
- e) Supervisor/Manager-Hileman reported that to repair the shop generator's micro switches in the transfer switch, and purchase a new membrane, is approximately \$4,000. Hileman talked with the council about starting the waterline replacement at Gaylord the beginning of June.
- f) Clerk-Conaway announced a \$12,175 grant was awarded from the Smith County Community Foundation and a \$10,000 grant awarded from the Dane G. Hansen Foundation towards the cost for the emergency outdoor warning system addition and upgrades.

## **VII. Governing Body Reports**

- a) Peterson-Parks/Airport  
Inquired on the status of the demolition of the commercial buildings on East Kansas Avenue. D. Peterson (economic development) explained that the property owner's contractor backed out of the project due to the cost to dispose of the materials at the dump. Owen stated that she believes that the county has discussed this.

- b) Mayor Wiehl had an inquiry on if the city would assist in the cost to have a fireworks display for Independence Day.

**VIII. Adjournment**

Motion by Peterson, seconded by Wick, to adjourn. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 6:59pm.