

Smith Center City Council Meeting Minutes
June 8, 2020-6:00 pm

The City Council met in regular session with Mayor Wiehl presiding. Council members present: Adam Rentschler, Don Wick, Tracy Kingsbury, Shawn Phelps, and Chris Cole.

Others present: Tabitha Owen, Terri Jones, Hope Padilla, Brad Howland, Denyse Kattenburg, Nancy Shaffer, David Tharp, Rick Hileman, David and Linda Edell, Jamie Marshall, Nick Rhodes, Brady Peterson, Allen Van Driel, Steve Wingerson, and Jill Conaway.

Motion by Rentschler, seconded by Phelps, to approve the minutes of the May 11, 2020 meeting. Motion carried. Motion by Rentschler, seconded by Kingsbury, to approve the minutes of the May 28, 2020 meeting. Motion carried.

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

Recreation Commission

The Recreation Commission reported on a previous meeting with some community members that addressed summer ball. Parents and volunteers are organizing teams and play. David Tharp, Director, was present to ask the council about the use of Rec Commission equipment. Liability was addressed as well as the payment of umpires, that will be covered by grant funding. The electricity and water are on and the volunteers have talked with the school and county on the use of the fields as they are owned by these entities. A motion was made by Kingsbury, seconded by Wick to allow the Recreation Commission to donate the use of their equipment for the parents and volunteers to use as needed. Motion carried.

Online Payments and E-Billing

A motion was made by Wick, seconded by Rentschler, to approve the purchase of the software module from gWorks and work with Forte to implement online bill payments and e-billing. Motion carried. Once the installation is complete, customers will have the ability to pay their utility bill through the website as well as the option to receive the monthly bill via email.

Engineering Contract

Hileman reviewed the information previously shared with the governing body regarding the need to add another cell to the wastewater treatment system. In order to move forward, a motion was made by Wick, seconded by Rentschler, to approve the contract with Wilson and Co. Motion carried.

License

A motion was made by Cole, seconded by Rentschler, to approve a Drinking Establishment License to Brady Peterson for Pete's. Motion carried.

Donation

Upon review of the information received, a motion was made by Rentschler, seconded by Wick, to approve the annual donation of \$600 to Options Domestic & Sexual Violence Services for the support provided to members of the community. Motion carried.

Interns

With COVID-19 restriction changes, Wick made a motion to proceed with the previously approved intern positions for the City Clerk and Economic Development, with a second from Rentschler. Both positions to be paid at grade one on the salary schedule. Phelps asked what projects the intern for Economic Development would be working on. Padilla stated that the intern would focus on the flag project and downtown beautification project. Motion carried.

Economic Development

A motion was made by Rentschler, seconded by Kingsbury, to approve the board's recommendation of a \$5,000 Jumpstart Grant to Pete's, owned by Brady Peterson. The grant will cover an upfront payment of \$2,500, with the other \$2,500 to be paid out over 12 months. Motion carried.

A meeting of the Land Bank Board of Trustees is tentatively scheduled for June 22, 2020 at 7pm.

Council

Padilla asked to address the council and be allowed to speak without interruption. In summary, she proceeded to outline in detail the activities of Economic Development since August. Padilla shared her belief that over the last few months, there has been criticism present. After handing out a sheet of words with their definitions to the governing body members, she explained that this handout assists in the explanation of behavior noted from councilperson Phelps. Padilla shared information on phone calls, conversations, and text messages that took place after a community member filed a complaint on Phelps. Padilla believed the communications to be considered retaliation, bullying, and harassment. Padilla reported that Phelps accused her of forcing the community member to make the formal complaint and threatened her, stating that he had the power to do so. Since that situation, Padilla reported that another business owner was harassed about the Downtown Looking Up program, after being approved as a recipient. Padilla explained that this information was not shared to embarrass the councilperson, as she believes that he does have some positive ideas and she wants to be able to work together in a positive manner.

Mayor Wiehl asked if anyone had any questions for Hope. Linda Edell spoke about the need for individuals to speak out and have a voice; sharing a recent experience at the meeting between the Recreation Commission and community members.

Phelps stated that he will have a follow-up at the next meeting.

Computer

Upon review, a motion was made by Rentschler, seconded by Cole, to approve the quote from Nex-Tech for the purchase of an updated laptop, second monitor, backup, and monthly service. Motion carried.

Reports

Marshall reported on continuing education hours.

Hileman reported the completion of one of the well houses. As Hileman is having issues with the lift station that serves the hospital and SunPorch, he explained that the pumps are being plugged by materials being put into the sewer lines at least once a week. In an attempt to locate where the articles are coming from, Hileman will be making and inserting temporary screens into the lines that serve each location. These will be checked daily in order to address the issue.

Phelps shared that everything at the Golf Course is going well.

Cole asked to add information on the NRP to the city's building permit application. Jones will add the verbiage.

Rentschler reported on the curb, gutter and street work being completed at the 100 block of West Francis Street. Wick commended Jack Yenne for his work at Wagner Park.

Mayor Wiehl shared information on a pre-engineering study available under a Rural USDA Grant to address the possibility of providing water to Rural Water for areas they may have difficulty currently serving. The study is not a commitment to move forward, only an agreement to perform the study for viability.

As Carrother's Constuction will soon be bringing equipment and supplies to begin the demolition and reconstruction of the swimming pool, Wick and Hileman will work together to remove items that will not be included in the property clean-up/demolition.

Executive Session

Motion by Rentschler, seconded by Wick, to enter into executive session for 15 minutes under the attorney-client privilege exception. Motion carried. In session at 7:01pm-out of session at 7:16pm. Motion by Rentschler, seconded by Wick to enter into executive session for 10 minutes under the attorney-client privilege exception. Motion carried. In session at 7:17pm-out of session at 7:27pm. Motion by Rentschler, seconded by Wick to enter into executive session for 10 minutes under the attorney-client privilege exception. Motion carried. In session at 7:28pm-out of executive session at 7:38pm.

Mayor Wiehl thanked everyone for a good meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for June 22, 2020. A motion was made by Rentschler, seconded by Wick, to adjourn. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:40pm.

Attest:

Jill Conaway, City Clerk