

**Smith Center City Council Meeting Minutes**  
**June 22, 2020-6:00 pm**

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

Others present: Tabitha Owen, Terri Jones, Nancy Shaffer, Jamie Marshall, David and Linda Edell, Kim Phelps, Rick and Shareece Hileman, Libby McDonald, Steven Clark, Brad and Amy Howland, Hope Padilla, Christy James, Mickey Drake, Deb Wagenblast, James Tharp, and Jill Conaway.

Mayor Wiehl announced that a Land Bank meeting is scheduled at 7:00pm. If the council meeting is still in session at that time, a recess will be needed.

The minutes from the June 8, 2020 were presented for approval. A motion was made by Rentschler, seconded by Wick, to approve the minutes. Motion carried.

**Old Business**

**Response Statement**-Phelps told the Governing Body that his response statement will be handled by the KBI, Attorney General's office, and his lawyer. Phelps also stated that he will be 100% vindicated from what was said (at the last meeting) and that Sheriff Lehmann and his lawyer advised him not to make a statement.

**Title VI**-Conaway presented the Title VI program in place under the General Public Transportation Program. Upon review, a motion was made by Cole, seconded by Kingsbury, to approve the Title VI program documents. Motion carried.

**Housing Study**-The housing study was completed that will allow further financial opportunities. Padilla reviewed some of the highlights of the study. Family rental homes are a critical need at the moment. Information is being shared on the programs that the City can assist with via Economic Development, to renovate/rehabilitate vacant homes in Smith Center.

**Reports**

**Police Department**-Chief Marshall presented a resignation letter from Officer Mickey Drake, effective July 15, 2020. A motion was made by Cole, seconded by Rentschler, to regrettably accept the resignation. Cole thanked Drake for his services in which Drake responded with thanks to the Governing Body for the opportunity to serve the city. Motion carried. Chief Marshall and the Governing Body discussed the schedule, department vehicles, and the difficulty seen across the state in obtaining officers. Wick asked Marshall about the children at play sign, Marshall is getting the sign and will have it placed. All of the council once again thanked Officer Drake for his service and wished him well.

Hileman reported that well #5 is complete and work on well #6 is in the process. The items at the swimming pool that are not part of the demolition have been removed. As stated at the last meeting, Hileman installed temporary screens at the lift station that serves SunPorch and Smith County Memorial Hospital. As a result, it was found that the issues experienced are coming from the hospital. In talking with Archer, he told Hileman he will do what he can to put a stop to the disposal of items that should not be put into the sewer system.

Jones completed an extension for the replacement of the wellhouses, allowing work to be completed by August 31, 2020. Patrick Eastes is needing a location to park an ambulance during severe weather. A t-hangar at the airport is available at this time, that can be used as needed.

Jon from Kirkham Michael reported to Conaway that a pre-construction meeting will be scheduled late July on the CCLIP Resurfacing Project for Highway 281/Main Street, with sidewalk ramp work projected to being mid August.

Conaway reported a swimming pool pre-construction meeting has been scheduled by Carrother's Construction for 8am on Wednesday, July 1<sup>st</sup> at the City Offices.

Guests-Mayor Wiehl asked if any of the guests present at the meeting had anything for the council.

Deb Wagenblast asked if there was an ordinance that addressed two houses on her block in regards to an excess number of cats, hoarding, and items stored outside a home. Wagenblast was asked to submit a written complaint on the issues noted. Once the complaint is received, the properties will be inspected for ordinance violations.

Kim Phelps was present to talk about Wagner Park and the work previously done to clean it up. Phelps shared concerns with the bathrooms, vandalism, and the picnic areas. Also noted were issues with the sprinkler set-up near the Old Mill. Wick and Cole discussed the possibility of changing the landscape set-up around the mill. Administration will work up options to enhance visibility, deter vandalism and continue upgrades.

Nancy Shaffer inquired on the previously approved handicap parking stall to be placed on the northeast 100 block of Kansas Avenue. Hileman will talk to the Street Supervisor.

James Tharp presented a letter to the Governing Body, noted as a complaint against Councilman Phelps. Tharp explained the issues and wanted the council to know the actions that took place. Phelps began addressing Tharp, in which Mayor Wiehl stated that Mr. Tharp still had the floor to speak. Tharp told the council that should he continue to have issues with Phelps, he will file charges; then thanked Mayor Wiehl for the opportunity to speak. Phelps asked to respond, Linda Edell interjected, in which Mayor Wiehl reminded her that she was out of order. Owen directed that Phelps could respond in a professional manner. Phelps explained that he had concerns about a business plan in regards to the property Tharp referenced in his complaint. As both parties spoke on the matter, Mayor Wiehl asked that the discussion go no farther and thanked Tharp for attending.

### **Council Reports**

Rentschler reported that the city crew set the canopy pole at the airport. The curb, gutter, and street work is complete on Francis Street, with work next to be done on Court St/Athletic St.

Kingsbury reported that some street work will be completed near the Courthouse, as they are experiencing personal sewer line issues in which some areas will be dug out.

Phelps reported on the 2 day 2 man golf tournament scheduled for July 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>; a large tournament for the golf course.

Wick reported on working with Hileman on the items removed from the swimming pool prior to demolition.

### **Executive Session**

Motion by Wick, seconded by Kingsbury, to enter into executive session for 10 minutes under the attorney-client privilege exception. Motion carried. In session at 6:45pm-out of session at 6:55pm. Motion by Rentschler, seconded by Wick, to enter into executive session for 5 minutes under the attorney-client privilege exception. Motion carried. In session at 6:55pm-out of session at 7:00pm.

### **Recess**

A motion was made by Rentschler, seconded by Wick, to recess as a Land Bank meeting is scheduled at 7:00pm. Motion carried. Council meeting recessed until after the Land Bank meeting is concluded.

The meeting resumed at 7:26pm.

The council discussed vault bathrooms, surveillance cameras and motion lights.

Motion by Cole, seconded by Phelps, to adjourn. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:35pm.