

Smith Center City Council Meeting Minutes
July 13th, 2020-6:00 pm

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

Others present: Tabitha Owen, Jaci Charbonneau, Jamie Marshall, Terri Jones, Christy James, Hope Padilla, Jack Yenne, Rick Hileman, Brad Howland, Shareece Hileman, Kim Phelps, David Edell, Linda Edell, Brady Peterson, and Jill Conaway.

Councilperson Phelps presented multiple changes to the minutes of the June 22, 2020 meeting. As Phelps reported a recording of that meeting, Clerk Conaway requested it to be submitted. Phelps agreed to send the recording.

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

CDBG

Motion by Wick, seconded by Kingsbury, to approve the Request for Payment of CDBG Funds as submitted. Motion carried.

Intern

Jaci Charbonneau presented her progress to date on the Parks Project for both Wagner Park and Roadside Park, as well as work and research on other various municipal programs. Once the Parks Project is at the phase to place orders for the updated equipment and other items, any trash receptacles currently in the downtown business district will be replaced if needed.

Reports

Chief Marshall reported on the maintenance and repair status of police vehicles, his duty schedule, and open officer application status.

Hileman reported on the status of and answered questions on the sewer lift issues with the hospital, status of the building at well #2, sewer liner placement at the swimming pool, new mulch at Wagner Park, painting progress of the park bathrooms, and status of the annual sewer line maintenance.

Mayor Wiehl asked the council to consider placing Hileman in the position of City Manager to coordinate and monitor the city crew activities, to be added to the next meeting agenda.

Jones reported the implementation of online utility billing and e-billing. In addition, two airplanes will arrive Saturday and will be housed at the airport. Occupancy of the hangars was discussed.

Conaway reported on the County Task Force meetings attended by Jones and Conaway, as well as a brief explanation of how the Covid-19 relief funding may be used in Smith County to provide reimbursement and direct aid.

Covid-19 In response to Covid-19 needs and preparations, Conaway presented a quote from Nex-Tech to purchase two laptops for the treasurer and clerk offices; two estimates from TEC Mobile Electronics Center to install a security system at Wagner Park; and a quote from Nex-Tech to install internet and wifi at Wagner Park. Added use of a laptop was suggested to broadcast council meetings. After discussion, a motion was made by Rentschler, seconded by Wick, to approve the estimates and quotes presented to set up internet and install the proposed security system at Wagner Park, as well as the purchase of two laptops with the use of one to broadcast council meetings. Motion carried.

Budget Hearing

Motion by Rentschler, seconded by Kingsbury, to schedule the 2021 Budget Hearing for Monday, August 10, 2020 at 6:15pm. Motion carried.

Traffic Sign

Phelps received a request from a resident to place a stop sign on North Colfax where it meets Boulevard. After discussion, it was the consensus of the council and Chief Marshall to have a sign placed at this location.

Tree Limbs

Low hanging limbs were noted on North Jefferson, block approaching highway 36. Hileman reported that the crew will be trimming throughout town soon.

Phelps inquired on the Tree Board; this board was previously dissolved.

Wick reported a good turn out at the Swimming Pool Committee's groundbreaking of the new swimming pool. After some remodeling previously done on the exterior of The Peoples Bank, the one-way alley sign is no longer at the south entrance of the alley. Street Supervisor Johnson will get a new sign in place.

Kingsbury reported the recent testing of the fire hydrants. Phelps inquired about some hydrants and missing barriers.

Rentschler reported on recent street, curb, and gutter work. Rentschler asked Johnson to check on the possibility of shaving down a section of pavement on Athletic similar to what was done on K Street. Johnson explained the drainage issue rectified by replacing the section on K Street and installing curb and guttering. Johnson reported on the street work completed earlier in the season on West Francis Street, as well as the need to complete additional work when time allows. Drainage issues due to tree roots at New York and Athletic were discussed. Work on two of the areas where the road surface has either worn down or chipped away exposing wire have been completed, with one left on the summer project list.

Cole inquired on the previous concern of the impact Covid-19 would have on local sales tax. Conaway reported the recent distributions are consistent with the 2020 estimated figures prior to the pandemic.

The US-36/Main Street resurfacing project pre-construction meeting will be scheduled the end of this month. Johnson was recently contacted by a representative from Kyle Railroad about upcoming work they will be performing at Main Street to replace the pad. Phelps inquired on the replacement of some of the curb and gutter along Main Street. Johnson reported on some of the areas that have been completed and the condition of the remaining areas north of the RR tracks that are at a consistent level. Phelps inquired on street bricks and reported some loose bricks at the intersection of Kansas Ave. and Madison St.

A motion was made by Phelps, seconded by Rentschler, to adjourn. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:04pm.