

Smith Center City Council Meeting Minutes

July 22, 2024

I. Call to Order

Mayor Bryce Wiehl opened the meeting at 6 p.m. on Monday, July 22, 2024, at the Srader Building.

II. Attendance

Council members: Brady Peterson, Tracy Kingsbury, and Don Wick. Absent: Chris Cole.
Others: Kim Phelps, Kim Maudlin, Aurielle Hughes, Jamie Marshall, Nick Rhodes, Rick Hileman, and Jill Conaway.

III. Consent Agenda

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

IV. Previous/Ongoing Business

- a) Council Position-Mayor Wiehl shared his recommendation to fill the open council position with the council members via card. Each member voted in favor of the mayor's recommendation. A motion was made by Kingsbury, seconded by Peterson, to approve Mayor Wiehl's appointment of Everett Mansholt to fill the vacancy. Motion carried.

V. New Business

- a) Standard Traffic Ordinance-Conaway presented an ordinance to incorporate the Standard Traffic Ordinance for Kansas Cities, 51st Edition. A motion was made by Peterson, seconded by Wick, to adopt ordinance 1048, repealing ordinance 1044, as presented. Motion carried.
- b) Boards and Commissions-A spreadsheet of all boards and commissions was shared with the council, listing each member and their terms. Motion by Kingsbury, seconded by Wick, to approve the listing as presented. Motion carried.
- c) Treasurer/Utility Billing Position-This item was moved to follow Governing Body Reports.

VI. Governing Body Reports

- a) Economic Development-Nick Rhodes presented items from the July advisory board meeting. Rhodes explained that Galen Lambert is spearheading the YEC program with the school. Lambert recently attended the annual meeting. A motion was made by Peterson, seconded by Kingsbury, to reimburse Lambert his mileage, hotel expense, and meal at \$390.88. Motion carried.

Motion by Peterson, seconded by Wick, to approve a \$2,500 residential revitalization grant to Charles Crawford. Motion carried.

Rhodes reported on the board's discussion of at-home businesses, with no action taken to change the application/program at this time. The board will review applications on a case-by-case basis.

Advisory board candidates are needed, as the board is down to five members. The board has decided to change the focus of hiring a director to look more towards an office manager to perform the daily administrative tasks of the department. Rhodes explained that the board and committees can be utilized for some of the face-to-face items.

Hileman asked about the Land Bank property located at Madison St. and Kansas Ave. Rhodes responded that the housing committee is focusing on this property, with possible demolition to clean up the lot. Rhodes also shared that the downtown building in the Land Bank is in dire condition and will need to have someone patch it up. Hileman asked Rhodes about a house on Madison St. that the housing committee had inquired on water service replacement lines for. Rhodes replied to hold off until there is someone ready to do the work to renovate the property.

- b) Police Department- Chief Marshall has talked with Judge Kirchhoff and will be increasing the fines and court costs, based on area communities. Chief Marshall expressed his gratitude to the fire department, city crew members, and the power company for their response to the severe damage caused by the recent storm.
- c) Hileman-Reported on a request to replace the water lines at the ballfields (Higley and Joy Fields). The county commissioners agreed to cover the cost to replace the lines.

Hileman purchased a grapple for the skid steer, which has and will be used to clean up the downed trees and tree limbs. The crew hauled 21 truck loads of debris today and will continue cleanup throughout the week.

Wick asked about the greens at the golf course. Hileman reported that a new chemical representative has addressed the situation that started several years ago; and the greens should be fixed up within a year.

- d) Clerk-Conaway shared the annual KMIT workers' compensation and safety audit report. The city earned the maximum discount and will see a 5% discount on next year's premium.

Conaway reported that due to the additional restrictions Microsoft has implemented, the office copier cannot function as a scanner to email. To rectify the issue, Nex-Tech could set up a stand-alone IP address, with a monthly service charge; or research desktop scanners. Conaway will research desktop scanner options.

With the recent storm and power outage, Conaway asked the council for permission to price a generator for the Srader Building, and permission to write a grant application to assist in the cost of obtaining a generator. The council members all agreed to move forward.

VII. Governing Body Reports

- a) Peterson-Met with Lochner Engineers, along with Maudlin, Hughes, and Befort on the taxiway project/grant at the airport.
- b) Wick-Reported that the swimming pool is down two guards. The pool will close on August 16th for the season. Lifeguard McKenzie has covered at the pool therefore Wick would like to add a bonus to his last paycheck, the council members agreed.

Wick shared some of the storm damage at the ballfields.

- c) Kingsbury-Reported that several people reported to the golf course at 4:30 a.m.- 5:00 a.m. Saturday morning following the storm to assist with clean up prior to the scheduled tournament. Hileman also reported on the loss of the tennis and pickleball courts.

VIII. Executive Session

A motion was made by Peterson, seconded by Kingsbury, to enter into executive session for ten minutes, personnel exception, matters of non-elected personnel, with Conaway in attendance. Motion carried. In session at 6:45 p.m.-out of session at 6:55 p.m.

A motion was made by Peterson, seconded by Kingsbury, to offer applicant 1 the treasurer/utility billing position at step 6, moving to step 7 following the 6-month probationary period. Motion carried. Mayor Wiehl asked Conaway to contact the applicant.

IX. Adjournment

Motion by Peterson, seconded by Wick, to adjourn. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.