

Smith Center City Council Meeting Minutes

August 14, 2023

I. Call to Order

Council President Chris Cole opened the meeting at 6pm on Monday, August 14th, 2023, at the Srader Building.

II. Attendance

Council members: Don Wick, Tracy Kingsbury, and Brady Peterson. Absent: Dave Mace.
Others: Billy Thayer, Steven Melnick, Aurielle Hughes, Tabitha Owen, Dana Peterson, Nancy Shaffer, Jamie Marshall, Rick Hileman, Lori Bortz, Kim Phelps, James Johnson, Kim Maudlin, Jill Conaway, Brad and Amy Howland (6:05pm).

III. Consent Agenda

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

IV. Guests

- a) Steven Melnick, Colonial Life Insurance, provided informational handouts to the governing body, and provided an overview of the optional benefits and costs Colonial Life Insurance Company could provide qualified city employees. In addition to the term life policy, the company has a new account bonus that provides an additional \$10,000 of AD&D coverage at no cost; and the option for employees to utilize other types of coverage offered by the company. The council thanked Melnick for his presentation and asked the clerk to add this to the open enrollment discussion this fall.
- b) Representing Heart Choices Pregnancy and Parenting Resource Center, Brad and Amy Howland asked the council for permission to block off Kansas Avenue from Washington Street east to the alley for a grand opening block party open to the community on October 22nd from 4pm to 7:30pm. The council agreed to the temporary closure. James Johnson, Street Superintendent, will have cones available to use.
- c) Bright Beginnings Childcare Center board member Dana Peterson updated the governing body on the status of the center, explaining some of the staff changes, challenges, and the financial situation. The board is asking for donations to sustain as well as meet the needs of some facility improvements indoor and outdoor. Discussion was held in detail on employee turnover, costs, changes in enrollment and fees, comparative challenges in neighboring communities and the need for continued daycare to assist the areas' working families. Peterson explained that the center will need to rely on continued area support and grant support for about a third of their budget each year to keep enrollment costs down. Following discussion, Conaway will check on requirements for expenditures out

of the Industrial Development fund; a motion was made by Cole, seconded by Wick, to donate \$5,000 to Bright Beginnings Child Development Center. Motion carried.

V. Previous/Ongoing Business

- a) Sidewalk Incentive Program-Discussion was held on various ways to set up the incentive program. The governing body agreed to split the financial allotment with 50% of the funding available to residential properties and 50% available to commercial properties. Peterson was asked if the applicant's cost portion would qualify to apply for the economic development clean-up and revitalization grant program. Peterson will check if the sidewalk replacements would raise the owner's property value as that is a requirement of the program; and will put it on the advisory board's agenda. Following additional discussion, the governing body agreed to set a cap of \$1,200 for each approved residential project. A survey will be conducted to obtain interest from area property owners. This information will be brought to the next council meeting.
- b) K204-92 KA-5988-Conaway presented supplemental agreement 01 for the CCLIP Pavement Restoration project on K204/New York Street. Supplement 01 addresses the change in funding to KDOT direct responsibility not to exceed \$3,600,000 without the need for city payment followed by reimbursement requests to KDOT throughout the project, saving the city time and funds in obtaining temporary notes. The city is responsible for 0% of the total actual costs of PE, construction, CE, right of way, and utility adjustments until the State's funding limit is reached; and any non-participating costs. KDOT will transfer ownership of these portions of roadway following the completion of the project. A motion was made by Cole, seconded by Kingsbury, to approve the supplemental agreement 01. Motion carried.
- c) K204-92 KA-5988-Conaway presented supplemental agreement 03 for the CCLIP Pavement Restoration project on K204/New York Street. Supplement 03 addresses the lesser estimated compensation to Wilson & Company, Inc., Engineers & Architects, not to exceed \$362,952.42; with the project's change of scope. A motion was made by Cole, seconded by Kingsbury, to approve the supplemental agreement 03. Motion carried.

VI. New Business

- a) STO Ordinance-Motion by Peterson, seconded by Kingsbury, to adopt the Standard Traffic Ordinance for Kansas Cities, ordinance number 1044. Motion carried.

VII. Department Reports/Committee & Board Reports

- a) Recreation Commission-Motion by Wick, seconded by Peterson, to accept the resignation of Daniel Bennett as field director effective July 24th. Motion carried. Billy Thayer talked to the council about the commission's mower. It was the consensus of the council to have

Thayer work with Rick Hileman to list the mower on Gavel Roads for auction, with a reserve of \$9,000. Following the sale, the recreation commission will receive quotes on a zero-turn mower and possibly a utility vehicle to be brought to the council for approval.

- b) Police Department-Chief Marshall reported that the new radars have been delivered. Marshall also reported that a portion of the alley behind the Jacobs building on Main Street has been blocked from traffic, as some of the outside brick facade is coming down. Jacobs has had a structural engineer look at the building, reporting the structure sound. The façade will take some time to be repaired as the owner is at the mercy of the contractor. Marshall also reported the theft of an entrance rug at the Srader building. The cost of the rug will be obtained from Unifirst, to be reimbursed by the individual, as identified by camera. A proposal was shared with the council for updates to the current CES system, that was tabled to the next meeting.
- c) Street Superintendent-James Johnson shared information on a dump truck that is offered through KDOT's surplus prior to listing for the public. To purchase the truck now, it is listed at \$57,500. Following discussion, it was decided to wait until the open auction.
- d) Supervisor/Manager-Hileman reported that he talked to Chris Rowe about the bricks coming off the back of the building he owns on Main Street, suggesting he have the building looked at and repaired, as there are gas meters in that area as well. Hileman also reported that the new siren system is all in place and in working order.
- e) Clerk-Conaway relayed information from Marc Reilley on the need to update/replace the link door from the Srader building to the library. Center Glass estimates the update to be approximately \$4,200; Reilley estimates the entire replacement to be over \$5,000 with the added structural additions and electrician services. Other options will be researched.
- f) Treasurer-Hughes has listed the lead service line inventory questionnaire on the customer portal and will work on the online form to have on the website. Calls from property owners needing assistance in identifying their lines will be scheduled with the water department. The swimming pool is now closed and drained for the season.

VIII. Governing Body Reports

- a) Cole-Fire/Police
Received an inquiry on propane tanks used for a permanent residence. Conaway shared that by ordinance, 40lb tanks are the largest that are allowed in city limits. The council discussed the location which likely has natural gas available as there are other homes in that area.
- b) Wick-Pool/Rec Commission/Transit
The recreation commission is planning an appreciation cookout for everyone involved in the summer season activities. Wick also reported that a pool employee was let go towards

the end of the season; and one letter received from the pool break-in. Marshall will contact the other two individuals.

IX. Adjournment

Motion by Wick, seconded by Kingsbury, to adjourn. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:24pm.