

Smith Center City Council Meeting Minutes

September 11th, 2023

I. Call to Order

Mayor Bryce Wiehl opened the meeting at 6pm on Monday, September 11th, 2023, at the Srader Building.

II. Attendance

Council members: Chris Cole, Tracy Kingsbury, and Brady Peterson. Absent: Don Wick and Dave Mace.

Others: Jamie Marshall, Tabitha Owen, Doug Goetz, Drew Hoops, James Tharp, Kim Maudlin, Kim Phelps, Sherry Weatherholt and Jill Conaway.

Mayor Wiehl announced a scheduled hearing at 6:15pm.

III. Consent Agenda

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

IV. New Business

- a) Proclamation-Mayor Wiehl signed a proclamation for the annual distribution of Buddy Poppies by the Veterans of Foreign Wars, to be distributed on Old Settlers' Day.
- b) Mayor Wiehl shared that he is now on a committee that has been put together to find solutions for the old hospital building on South Main Street. Wiehl asked the council to share their thoughts and to consider financially supporting up to \$5,000 in expenses to hire engineers to look at the building to assist the board in options, with the cost shared by the county. Comments and questions from the council members: would the county be contributing an apportionable dollar amount; why would the city be funding a portion of the cost of a building not owned by the city; was the plumbing not removed following the construction and utilization of the new hospital; was the electrical removed; is there asbestos present; can the county afford to repurpose the building if they cannot afford to tear down the building; when was the HVAC replaced; other options to repurpose such as moving the jail. At 6:15pm, Mayor Wiehl announced a recess from the council meeting in order to begin the hearing.

V. Public Hearing

Mayor Wiehl opened the hearing at 6:15pm, regarding a proposed loan in an amount not to exceed \$3,800,000 from the Kansas Public Health Water Supply Loan Fund administered by KDHE. Doug Goetz, Wilson and Company, presented information on the preliminary application to KDHE, to finance modifications and improvements to the

city's water supply and distribution system. Goetz reviewed the proposed project to replace the water transmission lines from the wells near Gaylord to the water treatment plant, detailing the water conservation plan, environmental impact, proposed loan documents, and the need to complete the project. The project qualifies for a \$3,000,000 loan forgiveness, with the city's remaining financial responsibility at approximately \$800,000. Goetz, Cox from NW Regional Planning and Commission, and Conaway have researched and compiled the information from the original construction and updates from the late 1960's, build up of iron and manganese in the lines, recent water transmission line breaks, and the costs in repairs and water loss. Discussion was opened to the council and the public. After all present were given an opportunity to speak and ask questions, Mayor Wiehl closed the public hearing at 6:47pm.

The matter of proceeding with the application process was opened for consideration. A motion was made by Kingsbury, seconded by Peterson, to adopt Resolution 2023-7, authorizing the completion of an application to the Kansas Department of Health and Environment regarding a loan from the Kansas Public Water Supply Loan Fund. Motion carried.

VI. Adjournment

Mayor Wiehl asked for the discussion on the old hospital building to be placed on the next meeting agenda. There were no reports from the department heads or governing body members. A motion was made by Cole, seconded by Kingsbury, to adjourn. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 6:49pm.