

Smith Center City Council Meeting Minutes

September 25th, 2023

I. Call to Order

Mayor Bryce Wiehl opened the meeting at 6pm on Monday, September 25th, 2023, at the Srader Building.

II. Attendance

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

Others: Libby McDonald, Kim Phelps, Rick Hileman, Art Befort, Aurielle Hughes, Kim Maudlin, Bert Reinking, Kristie Jones, Doug Armknecht, Judy Burgess, Curtis Peterson, Sherry Weatherholt (6:01pm), Jamie Marshall (6:33pm), and Jill Conaway.

III. Consent Agenda

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

IV. Guests

- a) Swimming Pool Committee-Libby McDonald thanked the governing body, city employees, committee members, and community members and other donors for their work towards raising the funds for the pool and pool house. The contractor broke ground for the new pool house recently. McDonald shared that 325 donations were received ranging in amount from \$5 on up; and from all ages including young children; totaling \$1,073,452.16 in combination with grant awards. The committee suggested the name SC Community Pool to be used. McDonald highlighted the countless hours Arloa Barnes committed to her dream and vision of this project writing grants, making phone calls, attending meetings, and so much more. Arloa was a true asset and is very much missed. The committee proposed that the block of the park be named Arloa Barnes Memorial Park. McDonald shared that signage would be put into place inside the building and a memorial to Arloa would also be placed in the landscaping, with a dragonfly theme as suggested by her family.

Renderings and plans for the donor wall were shared and discussed. The plates are designed out of acrylic and would be stud mounted at various levels with the sign flush to the wall. There were 119 individuals that donated \$500 or more. Mayor Wiehl asked the council for comments. Each of the members had positive comments, and support honoring Arloa Barnes. A motion was made by Wick, seconded by Peterson, to approve \$11,336.31 to Center Monuments as quoted for the donor wall. Motion carried.

- b) Airport Board-Art Befort handed out booklets and cards; and thanked the council for adding them to the agenda. Befort explained how the appreciation event transpired and how everyone worked to pull everything together for the open house. Befort highlighted sections of the

booklets. Images provided by Armknecht helped to show some of the progress made at the airport since 2008, such as the runway and added taxiway. Updates since 2010 total \$5.36 million, a combination of federal, state and local funds. Other updates included the terminal building, which was largely furnished by locals. The terminal is stocked with drinks, snacks and an area for pilots to rest; and a courtesy car is available for use as well.

Befort explained that the board is a group of local volunteers that meets every Wednesday morning. Pilots from other communities attend periodically as well. The security system was donated and installed by a pilot from Downs. Befort also shared that Kent and Cindy Stones have landed at every airport in Kansas and have now included 91 airports in Nebraska. Their overview from these trips have helped the board tremendously. The airport board encourages local education and attends career day annually at the high school. The 1st grade class makes an annual trip to the airport; and the board presents to the 6th grade class. Curtis Peterson shared that over the last few years, three students have been interested in pursuing aviation: Casey Heron, Garrett Wanner, and his grandson Mason Enochs.

Doug Armknecht shared that while he was living in Montana 13 years ago, he and a friend flew into our airport. Noticing the quality of the airport, the golf course, and more, he saw that the community investment, which encouraged him to move back to the area as he was originally from Cawker City. Befort shared that Armknecht has his pilot's license and drone license. The council thanked the members. Wiehl shared that the airport is named in honor of Gary Gardner and thanked the members for carrying on and pushing forward with improvements at the airport.

V. Previous/Ongoing Business

- a) Smith County Former Hospital Building-A motion was made by Peterson, seconded by Kingsbury, to table discussion to the next meeting due to councilmember attendance. Motion carried.
- b) K204 Project-Conaway presented documentation from KDOT on the K204 project. Motion by Peterson, seconded by Wick, to approve the cancellation of agreement 3. Motion carried. Motion by Peterson, seconded by Kingsbury, to approve supplemental agreement 2. Motion carried.
- c) Lagoon Improvement Agreement-Conaway presented an agreement for professional engineering services between the City and Wilson and Company for the final design services, bidding services, construction related services, and operation and maintenance manual services for the lagoon addition. A motion was made by Kingsbury, seconded by Mace, to approve the agreement as presented. Motion carried.

VI. New Business

- a) Health Insurance-Conaway presented and reviewed the health insurance renewal options provided by Strother Insurance Service. Following review, a motion was made by Wick, seconded by Kingsbury, to approve the UHC renewal effective December 1st. Motion carried.

- b) Employee 6-Month Review-Motion by Peterson, seconded by Wick, to move David Hileman to pay grade 6-full time employee. Motion carried.

VII. Department Reports/Committee & Board Reports

- a) Recreation Commission-Wick shared information from the recreation commission's meeting. Motion by Wick, seconded by Peterson, to raise the field director position wage to \$4,000 per year. Motion carried. Motion by Kingsbury, seconded by Wick, to accept the resignation of Matt Haack from the commission. Motion carried. Motion by Mace, seconded by Wick, to appoint Kevin Laumann to fulfill Haack's term. Motion carried.
- b) Police Department-Chief Marshall shared that he would like to allocate \$300 to the firemen that assisted him at a recent house fire, staying on scene until the fire marshal arrived.
- c) Hileman-Shared that Bob Caspers will be retiring from his work at the water treatment plant. Hileman is unsure of the timeframe but will be looking for a replacement. Caspers completes water samples and cleans the plant daily, approximately an hour per day.
- d) Clerk-Conaway shared an employee benefit booklet created for full-time employees. A proposal was shared from CES to update the recorder at the Srader building. Hughes shared her conversation with CES. Peterson asked Hughes to inquire on the amount of storage shown on the replacement, as 10TB may be more than is needed. A motion was made by Peterson, seconded by Wick, to approve the replacement contingent on the conversation with CES.

VIII. Governing Body Reports

- a) Wiehl reported that Old Settlers Day went very well. The free bbq served approximately 1,200 meals.

IX. Adjournment

Motion by Wick, seconded by Kingsbury, to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 6:58pm.