

Smith Center City Council Meeting Minutes

October 9, 2023

I. Call to Order

Mayor Bryce Wiehl opened the meeting at 6pm on Monday, October 9th, 2023, at the Srader Building.

II. Attendance

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

Others: Tabitha Owen, Jamie Marshall, Debby Ponton, Dana J. Peterson, Kim Phelps, Rick Hileman, Dana S. Peterson, Kim Maudlin, and Jill Conaway.

III. Consent Agenda

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

IV. Previous/Ongoing Business

- a) Smith County Former Hospital Building-Mayor Wiehl addressed the council on the previous discussion regarding the former hospital building. Wiehl asked that the council approve supporting up to \$5,000 in expenses to hire engineers to look at the building, with the cost shared by the county. Wick asked why the city would pay for part of the fee as the building is not owned by the city. Wiehl agreed that the building is not the city's, and that a group has been put together to see what can be done with the building, stating it was structurally well built. Wick asked if the commissioners were the same ones that refused to assist in payment to train the lifeguards; and how much money did the commissioners give to SunPorch. Wiehl stated that without traction, the meeting would move on to the next item.

V. New Business

- a) Employee 6-month Review-Trace Haven has completed 6-months of employment as of the 10th. Hileman reported that Haven is doing a fine job, especially coming in to the position without having much guidance. Cole echoed Hileman's statement, adding that multiple equipment issues have added to the workload. Hileman proposed that Haven work on equipment needs at the city shop during the winter months, as there is no heat in the shop at the course, while preparing for the spring season. Cole asked that there be a fair balance of hours with the extra hours worked during the golf season. Motion by Mace, seconded by Cole, to move Haven to pay grade 5. Motion carried.

VI. Department Report/Committee & Board Reports

- a) Recreation Commission-Two mower bids were reviewed. Following discussion, a motion was made by Peterson, seconded by Wick, to approve the purchase of the Z930R 60" side discharge John Deere mower from Landmark Implement for \$12,750. Motion carried.
- b) Housing Authority-Motion by Cole, seconded by Wick, to approve Kylin Moore as the Housing Director, working 25 hours/week. Motion carried.
- c) Economic Development-Peterson presented information from the special meeting held on the 27th. Motion by Cole, seconded by Mace, to approve a residential revitalization grant up to \$2,500 to Raquel Boxum for 113 W. Parliament. Motion carried. Motion by Wick, seconded by Cole, to approve a residential revitalization grant up to \$3,000 to Fay Brewer for 616 S. Madison. Motion carried. Motion by Peterson, seconded by Wick, to approve a commercial property revitalization grant up to \$2,500 to Kecia Shellito for 113 E. Kansas Avenue. Motion carried. Motion by Wick, seconded by Cole, to approve a commercial property revitalization grant up to \$1,079 to Shawn Phelps for 205 S. Main Street. Motion carried. Motion by Wick, seconded by Mace, to approve a BE&D loan for \$50,000 to Matt Seemann for 215 E. Highway 36, contingent upon seeking other funding through Prairie Capital Development. Motion carried. Motion by Mace, seconded by Cole, to accept the resignation of Dana J. Peterson effective October 11th. Motion carried.
- d) Water Department-Conaway shared information from Hydro Optimization and Automation Solutions to upgrade the hardware and software at the water treatment plant. Following discussion and review, a motion was made by Cole, seconded by Wick, to approve the upgrade at \$57,806. Motion carried.
- e) Street Department-Superintendent Johnson has been looking at replacement dump trucks on auction. Following discussion, it was the consensus of the council to allow Johnson to bid up to \$40,000 if the truck is equipped with the needed accessories.
- f) Hileman-At well #7, Mr. Schamp is removing debris that has accumulated. Hileman stated that the road needs to be rocked. The county is willing to rock the road with a shared cost to the city of \$175. Hileman stated that the city does not need the older single axle dump truck that was at the golf course, asking if it could be listed on auction. The council agreed. Hileman discussed the water line break on 3rd Street. Pricing will be obtained to replace the line in that block, possibly with the 8" material already in inventory.

VII. Governing Body Reports

- a) Cole-Fire/Police
Cole shared a biannual report from Fire Chief Steve McNary.

VIII. Executive Session

Motion by Wick, seconded by Cole, to enter into executive session for five minutes, personnel exception, personnel matters of non-elected personnel, with Conaway and Owen in attendance. Motion carried. In session at 6:45pm-out of session at 6:50pm.

IX. Adjournment

Motion by Wick, seconded by Mace, to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 6:50pm.