

**Smith Center City Council Meeting Minutes**  
**December 28, 2020-6:00 pm**  
**(Held at the SC Firehouse)**

The City Council met in regular session with Mayor Bryce Wiehl presiding. Other council members present: Adam Rentschler, Chris Cole, Shawn Phelps, and Tracy Kingsbury. Absent: Don Wick.

Others present: Bill Sigmann, Jaci Charbonneau, Hope Padilla, Kim Phelps, Rick Hileman, Terri Jones, Tabitha Owen, Brad Howland, Brady Peterson, Jamie Marshall, Nick Rhodes, and Jill Conaway.

Motion by Rentschler, seconded by Phelps, to amend the minutes from the December 14<sup>th</sup> meeting under salary schedule, second paragraph, addition of Rentschler-Aye in the roll call vote; and approve minutes with this addition. Motion carried.

**Guest**

Bill Sigmann was present to discuss the nuisance ordinance 960. Following detailed discussion, it was the consensus of the council to allow Sigmann up to 90 days to abate a nuisance at 500 S. Grant Street due to various circumstances.

**Economic Development**

A motion was made by Rentschler, seconded by Cole, to approve covering 50% of the registration fees for the first twenty Smith County residents and the economic development director's registration fee (up to \$660 total) to attend a grant writing workshop provided by the K-State Extension Office in March 2021. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Rentschler, seconded by Kingsbury to approve the economic development board's recommendation to increase the rate paid to Brittany Niles from \$60 to \$65 a month for recording their meeting minutes. Motion carried.

Following some discussion and clarification, a motion was made by Cole, seconded by Rentschler, to approve the economic development board's recommendation to increase the director's salary from \$40,000 to \$42,500 for 2021. Motion carried 3-1 (Cole-Aye; Rentschler-Aye; Kingsbury-Aye; Phelps-Nay).

**Supervisor and Council Reports**

Hileman spoke about law enforcement options with Attorney Owen on recurring nuisance issues with certain property owners. Owen will research the possibilities and will report her findings to Chief Marshall.

It was reported that the agreement recently made with the City of Gaylord is working well.

To complete the city booklet designed by Charbonneau during her internship, councilmember pictures are needed. Conaway asked members to work with Charbonneau so that the booklets can be printed and distributed. Conaway and Hileman also reported on the listing of the retired street sweeper.

Phelps shared information he researched on changes over the last twenty years that included population, property taxes, mil levy, and inflation; and some effects from such as seen in businesses and budgets. Cole added that we are fortunate to be in an agricultural area and the delicate balancing process that is done due to the circumstances stated.

Rentschler reported that drivers for public transportation are covering shifts as the program has a driver absent for an extended amount of time.

Rentschler asked to clarify some COVID-19 limitations in place at the Srader building, in response to a citizen inquiry. The third-floor exercise equipment room is currently open to key holders 18 years of age and older, with a limitation of three users at a time practicing social distancing. The users also sanitize the equipment after use. The second floor is closed as access is currently a keypad. The individual keypad numbers provided to families that signed up for access have been shared and/or children are manipulating the keypad until a random sequence works to obtain entrance. This in turn

increased the number of individuals in the area at a time; not adhering to social distancing; and in many instances not using the areas as intended. Without an employee monitoring and able to sanitize the areas after each usage, the area was not considered safe during COVID-19. The clerk and treasurer have researched various security options over the last year as the current keypad system is dated and not working well. Nex-Tech is scheduled to inspect the facility for upgrade options such as key fobs.

Rentschler also was contacted by an individual that owns property in Smith Center however primarily resides out of state, regarding the USPS delivery of his utility bill and the time to mail a payment in. Utility bill payment options were shared and are also listed on the website ([www.smithcenterks.com](http://www.smithcenterks.com)). Options include receiving the bill via email at the time the bills are printed; enroll for ACH where payments are automatically processed on the due date for the resident; online payments via debit/credit cards and bank accounts via the website "Pay Now" option; financial institution bill pay; calling the office to pay via debit/credit card over the phone; drop box locations inside the entrance of the Srader building and along the alley behind the library; and USPS. For part-time residents, another option is to shut off water service during a longer absence and re-establishing service once returning.

Mayor Wiehl announced that this is Brad Howland's last meeting as his term on the economic development advisory board is coming to an end. Wiehl thanked Howland for his time and dedication over the last 9 years and as a small token of appreciation, presented him with a gift and card.

A motion was made by Phelps, seconded by Cole, to adjourn at 7:00pm. Motion carried.