

WASHINGTON CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
Regular Meeting – City Hall
July 1, 2024

1. Call to order by Mayor Garrett Edgar.

2. Roll Call.

Present: Garrett Edgar, Mayor
 Mary Ann Crome, Council Member
 Jerry Fuhrken, Council Member
 Terry Morse, Council Member
 Carolyn Pinnick, Council Member
 Amy Anderson, Council Member

Absent:

Staff Present: Carl Chalfant, City Administrator
 Denise Powell, City Clerk

Others: Justin Dragastin, The Dragastin Agency
 Taylor Powell, Playground Committee
 Marcia Funke & Bill Pannbacker, Washington Lions Club
 Cynthia Scheer, Washington County News

3. Approval of Agenda.

Motion to approve the agenda by Pinnick and seconded by Morse.

Vote: Ayes: Amy Anderson
 Mary Ann Crome
 Jerry Fuhrken
 Terry Morse
 Carolyn Pinnick

4. Citizens Comments.

None.

5. Minutes.

Motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held June 3, 2024, by Anderson and seconded by Morse.

Vote: Ayes: Amy Anderson
 Mary Ann Crome
 Jerry Fuhrken
 Terry Morse
 Carolyn Pinnick

6. Appropriations Ordinance 2024-07.

Motion to approve appropriations ordinance 2024-07 by Pinnick and seconded by Fuhrken.

Vote: Ayes: Amy Anderson
 Mary Ann Crome
 Jerry Fuhrken
 Terry Morse
 Carolyn Pinnick

7. Justin Dragastin, The Dragastin Agency.

Justin Dragastin, The Dragastin Agency, was present to notify the Council they received a Kansas Municipal Utilities Safety Group dividend check in the amount of \$13,455.17.

8. Playground Committee.

Taylor Miller, playground committee member, brought cookies for the council in celebration of meeting the requirements of the low to moderate income survey. The playground committee worked diligently and the Census population drop to help meet the requirements and hopefully the LMI can be used in multiple ways to help the city. Miller stated just because the requirements were met doesn't mean the city will get the grant. The next step is to submit a grant application.

At the request of the council Miller brought information back on the Seneca playground which is similar to one the playground committee is considering. The total cost of their ADA compliant Play and Park playground was \$297,000 which included the pour and play surface and perimeter fencing.

Miller also discussed street use for the Pickleball Club to close the street between the pickleball court and the playground from 6:30-8:30 p.m. on Mondays in August for the safety of the kids who utilize daycare. She stated money raised this year will be donated to playground. It is a great opportunity to have the community come together, she said.

9. Lions Club Request.

Marcia Funke and Bill Pannbacker on behalf of the Lions Club, met to discuss the city's recommendation to the shelter houses at the south end of the city park. They had come to the May council meeting with a recommendation and the council asked for time to review the proposal.

The consensus of the council was to utilize the existing concrete of the east shelter house and to construct a shelter house that matches those on the north end of the park adding a counter, electrical outlets and enclosed lighting. City staff will tear down the east shelter house and preserve the concrete; demolish the west shelter house and remove the concrete; and cap the sewer service to both shelter houses.

Funke stated the council agreed with what they were thinking. They visited with Kyle Wolfgang who had submitted a bid to construct the shelter house and he stated it wouldn't be a problem to put in a counter and add the electrical. Funke said the Lions Club has been fundraising for four or five years and has \$9,400 for the project and are around \$2,600 short of the total project cost of \$12,000, which did not include counter or electrical. Pannbacker stated they will seek a complete package proposal and bring to the August council meeting.

10. Washington County Fairboard Request.

Motion to approve the Loudspeaker/Sound Amplifier Permit and Street Use Permit from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. July 20, 2024, for Washington County Fair Parade by Pinnick and seconded by Crome.

Vote: Ayes: Amy Anderson
Mary Ann Crome
Jerry Fuhrken
Terry Morse
Carolyn Pinnick

11. 2025 Budget/RNR Resolution

Tabled until July 9, 2024 meeting following budget review.

12. Street Repair.

Mayor Garrett Edgar discussed street repair on C Street. Consensus of the council was to continue milling from 6th street to brick at 4th street on C Street and overlaying with cold mix.

13. Street Sweeper Repair.

Motion to ratify repairs to the Johnston Street Sweeper brake system at a cost not to exceed \$8,207.66 from Berry Tractor by Crome and seconded by Pinnick.

Vote: Ayes: Amy Anderson
Mary Ann Crome
Jerry Fuhrken
Terry Morse
Carolyn Pinnick

14. Employee Resignation.

Motion to accept the resignation of Auston Donovan, electric lineman 2, effective July 12th, 2024, by Crome and seconded by Pinnick.

Vote: Ayes: Amy Anderson
Mary Ann Crome
Jerry Fuhrken
Terry Morse
Carolyn Pinnick

15. Executive Session.

Motion to recess into executive session to discuss employee performance for nonelected personnel to include the Mayor and Council and City Administrator to resume in the Council chambers at 8:30 p.m. by Anderson and seconded by Crome.

Vote: Ayes: Amy Anderson
Mary Ann Crome
Jerry Fuhrken
Terry Morse
Carolyn Pinnick

Motion to give a 5% raise to public works superintendent effective the next full pay period by Pinnick and seconded by Crome.

Vote: Ayes: Amy Anderson
Mary Ann Crome
Jerry Fuhrken
Terry Morse
Carolyn Pinnick

16. City Administrator Report.

a) **Engine Testing.** Power Plant Compliance will test engines 9 & 10 on July 31 and engine 3 on August 1, and have proposed testing units 1 & 6 at the same time. Engines 1 & 6 are due in September 2025. Engines require testing every 5 years, and by moving up testing of the two additional engines to the same time frame there would be a significant cost savings to the city and they would all be on the same rotation. City administrator, after discussion with the mayor, approved the testing of all engines at the same time beginning this year, and moving forward.

Mayor Edgar asked what is left on the two engines at the power plant to get completed. City Administrator Chalfant said wiring, oil leaks, and emission testing. Testing will be July 31st through Aug. 2nd. Edgar asked about test runs. Chalfant stated they have only run on diesel and haven't run on natural gas and they need to make sure they run on natural gas. There is a little concern as the boiler plates on the engines say they require 50 psi and Kansas Gas only runs 40 psi. Chalfant said if they don't perform, it will fall back on \$2 million dollar performance bond. Morse said they will make money but the city just hasn't seen it. "Are they making us money for what they are costing us," asked Edgar? Anderson asked if the city will ever recoup the money and how long it would take. Chalfant said it would be around 30 years.

- b) **Park Siren.** The parts to repair the park siren are on order and Haug Communications will fix once they come in.
- c) **Code Violations.** Staff updated the code violation list and has been working on a second round. Some have been resolved, some are still working on them, and some have been sent to City Attorney Elizabeth Hiltgen for assistance. A copy of the violation spreadsheet was given to the Council.
- d) **Training.** On June 25, Full-time EMT Caroline Scoville held a joint training exercise at the pool with pool, EMS, dispatch, law enforcement, emergency management, and hospital staff. It was a successful event.
- e) **Storm Sewer.** Ohlsen Right of Way & Maintenance, Inc. is running behind schedule on their present projects due to all of the rain events. Hopefully, we get this project started in early July.
- f) **2003 Chevrolet Pickup.** Staff reported transmission issues on this pickup. The transmission was replaced three years ago. Estimates to replace the transmission was \$4,976.00 from Eric's Automotive and \$4,962.58 Meenen Transmission & Auto Service Inc., Linn. Staff recommends the pickup be placed on Purplewave as is and allow the City Administrator to watch Surplus Properties for a one-ton truck, as this pickup is a $\frac{3}{4}$ ton unit used to pull the mini excavator trailer and it may be too light to handle the trailer and excavator. Council recommended staff look up the warranty on the transmission.
- g) **RFP Old City Hall Debris Relocation.** City staff sent out RFPs (request for proposals) for relocating the debris from old city hall. This is required by KDHE and can be handled only by Kansas Asbestos Licensed Contractors. RFPs were only sent to the closet contractors on KDHE's list of licensed contractors and will be opened at 1:00 p.m. on July 8, 2024, at city hall. Staff asked the council to adjourn and meet July 9, 2024, to approve the contractor.

Mayor Edgar asked about contacting KDHE to do testing to see if there is friable asbestos prior to having to relocate the debris to a licensed facility. Chalfant said he is working with KDHE. Crome asked if Jueneman holds any responsibility. Chalfant stated it is the city's material.

- h) **Playground Committee.** Consensus of the Council was to send letters to the playground committee members. The project is at a crucial state and committee positions are vital. The letter states obligations change and it shouldn't be a burden. If members can't participate, they should open the door for someone who does, said Councilman Morse. Members were asked to let City Representative Caroline Scoville know if they wish to stay on the committee.

17. City Clerk's Report.

- a) **Accounts Payable Check.** Staff mailed a check to Quill April 1, 2024, in the amount of \$47.46 which is lost in the mail. A stop payment on the check will be done and credit card payment will be made.
- b) **Grants.** Staff is working with Washington County Economic Development Director Ryan Kern on obtaining information on grant opportunities that would benefit the city.
- c) **Annual League Conference.** The League of Kansas Municipalities will host The Annual League Conference Oct. 7-9 in Wichita. Councilman Morse and City Administrator Chalfant will be registered to attend.
- b) **Reports.**
The Library and Fire June minutes and Washington County Senior Citizens Meal Site May financials are enclosed for review.

18. Reports.

Terry Morse.

- a) **Power Outage Report.** Morse stated the report in council packets doesn't state why power was lost on the feeder line June 13th. Morse asked staff to find out the reason.

Crome.

- a) **Dog Incident.** Crome reported a city patron was walking in the 100 block of W 1st Street at 5:45 a.m. and was nipped in the fanny by a dog belonging to Jerry Hoover. Chalfant stated the patron should have contacted the Sheriff and filed a report.

Fuhrken

- a) **Gutter.** Fuhrken stated the gutters need cleaned along 6th & Pierce. He also asked about dirt on the highway at Pierce and Hwy. 36 and Chalfant stated that is KDOT's jurisdiction.

Motion to adjourn to 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, July 9, 2024, by Pinnick and seconded by Crome.

Vote: Ayes: Amy Anderson
Mary Ann Crome
Jerry Fuhrken
Terry Morse
Carolyn Pinnick

Adjourned at 8:59 p.m.

Denise M. Powell, City Clerk