

WASHINGTON CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
Regular Meeting – City Hall
September 5, 2023

1. Call to order by Mayor Ryan Kern.

2. Roll Call.

Present: Ryan Kern, Mayor
Jerry Fuhrken, Council Member
Terry Morse, Council Member
Carolyn Pinnick, Council Member
Roxanne Schottel, Council Member

Absent:

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

Others: Cynthia Scheer, Washington County News
Mary Ann Crome, Washington
Taylor Miller & Andrea Alldredge, Park Committee Members

3. Citizens Comments.

None.

4. Minutes.

Motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held August 7, 2023, by Schottel and seconded by Pinnick.

Vote: Ayes: Jerry Fuhrken
Terry Morse
Carolyn Pinnick
Roxanne Schottel

5. Appropriations Ordinance 2023-09.

Motion to approve appropriations ordinance 2023-09 by Schottel and seconded by Pinnick.

Vote: Ayes: Jerry Fuhrken
Terry Morse
Carolyn Pinnick
Roxanne Schottel

6. Mayoral Appointment.

Motion to approve Mayor Ryan Kern's appointment of Mary Ann Crome to the Council to fill the unexpired term of Theresa Herrs from September 5, 2023, until the second Monday in January 2024 by Schottel and seconded by Pinnick.

Vote: Ayes: Jerry Fuhrken
Terry Morse
Carolyn Pinnick
Roxanne Schottel

Newly appointed Council Member Mary Ann Crome took her oath of office.

Motion to approve Mayoral Appointments as presented by Mayor Ryan Kern by Pinnick and seconded by Schottel.

Vote: Ayes: Mary Ann Crome
Jerry Fuhrken
Terry Morse
Carolyn Pinnick
Roxanne Schottel

7. 2024 Revenue Neutral Rate and Budget.

Motion to open public hearing at 7 p.m. for the purpose of hearing and answering objections of taxpayers relating to revenue neutral rate and proposed tax rate by Pinnick and seconded by Fuhrken.

Vote: Ayes: Mary Ann Crome
Jerry Fuhrken
Terry Morse
Carolyn Pinnick
Roxanne Schottel

Motion to close the public hearing at 7:05 p.m. by Schottel and seconded by Pinnick.

Vote: Ayes: Mary Ann Crome
Jerry Fuhrken
Terry Morse
Carolyn Pinnick
Roxanne Schottel

Motion to adopt RESOLUTION 2023-02 OF THE CITY OF WASHINGTON, KANSAS TO LEVY A PROPERTY TAX RATE EXCEEDING THE REVENUE NEUTRAL RATE by Pinnick and seconded by Morse.

Vote: Ayes: Mary Ann Crome
Jerry Fuhrken
Terry Morse
Carolyn Pinnick
Roxanne Schottel

Motion to open public hearing for the purpose of hearing and answering objections of taxpayers relating to the proposed use of all funds and the amount of ad valorem tax detailed in the proposed 2024 budget by Schottel and seconded by Pinnick.

Vote: Ayes: Mary Ann Crome
Jerry Fuhrken
Terry Morse
Carolyn Pinnick
Roxanne Schottel

Motion to close the public hearing by Pinnick and seconded by Fuhrken.

Vote: Ayes: Mary Ann Crome
Jerry Fuhrken
Terry Morse
Carolyn Pinnick
Roxanne Schottel

Motion to adopt the 2024 Budget as published by Schottel and seconded by Fuhrken.

Vote: Ayes: Mary Ann Crome
Jerry Fuhrken
Terry Morse
Carolyn Pinnick
Roxanne Schottel

8. Employee Resignation.

Motion to accept the resignation of Jeffrey Stigge, street/water/wastewater operator, effective August 18, 2023, by Schottel seconded by Pinnick.

Vote: Ayes: Mary Ann Crome
Jerry Fuhrken
Terry Morse
Carolyn Pinnick
Roxanne Schottel

Motion to accept the resignation of Kylee Nikkel, street/water/wastewater operator, effective August 24, 2023, by Pinnick seconded by Morse.

Vote: Ayes: Mary Ann Crome
Jerry Fuhrken
Terry Morse
Carolyn Pinnick
Roxanne Schottel

9. Washington Ball Association.

Mayor Ryan Kern, a member of the Washington Ball Association, presented a list of projects and upgrades that the Ball Association would like the Council to consider at the ballfield. Improvements included to remove/replace the concession stand and restrooms; and add a storage closet, crow's nest, water system and batting cage on the west side of the ball field.

Kern stated the group is looking at grants to help pay for the project but they can't apply for grants because they don't have a design plan and cost estimates. Once they have a plan and estimate they'll bring it to the Council for approval and make a request to be considered for some funding from the Larry Davison bequest.

10. Playground Committee.

Playground committee members Taylor Miller and Andrea Alldredge were present to discuss the playground project. Copies of their latest meeting minutes were given to Council for review.

Miller said after visiting with City Attorney Elizabeth Baskerville-Hiltgen upon review of the contract with Leathers and Associates the committee has concerns. They were given an estimate without seeing a design concept of the playground and if they don't meet the financial obligation, they would have to pay \$100 per hour to redesign. The committee is worried that more money will be spent on design fees rather than the playground.

The committee encouraged Council members to go down and look at the condition of Munchkinland playground and are also waiting on quotes and playground designs from other companies. Miller said Leathers & Associates was gracious enough to extend their contract another month but wanted the Council to know if they don't sign the contract and decide to go with them eventually, the cost would probably go up. The committee will get back in touch once they have the designs and cost estimates.

11. Thrivent Request.

Motion to approve Thrivent's request for a Street Use Permit from 7 p.m.- Midnight and Loud Speaker/Sound Amplifier Permit from 7 p.m.-11 p.m. September 16, 2023 for a block party and live music as presented by Schottel and seconded by Fuhrken.

Vote: Ayes: Mary Ann Crome
Jerry Fuhrken
Terry Morse
Carolyn Pinnick
Roxanne Schottel

12. Oil Quotes.

Motion to authorize the City Administrator to review and approve the low bid(s) for 15-55-gallon barrels of S.A.E 40 diesel engine oil for a total of 825 gallons paid out of Electric Production; and 1-55-gallon barrel; 1-10W30 motor oil; 1-55-gallon barrel of 15W40 motor oil; and 1-55-gallon barrel of universal hydraulic oil paid out of Street, provided all specifications are met by Morse and seconded by Schottel.

Vote: Ayes: Mary Ann Crome
Jerry Fuhrken
Terry Morse
Carolyn Pinnick
Roxanne Schottel

13. Stephanie Kern Request.

Motion to approve Stephanie Kern's request, on behalf of 16U Washington Fireballs, to use the big ball diamond on Sunday afternoons from Sept. 17 through Oct. 22 for a slow pitch softball league by Pinnick and seconded by Fuhrken.

Vote: Ayes: Mary Ann Crome
Jerry Fuhrken
Terry Morse
Carolyn Pinnick
Roxanne Schottel

14. Water Project Pay Request.

Motion to approve and authorize Mayor Ryan Kern to sign Contractor's Application for Payment No. 1 from Ohlsen Right of Way & Maintenance, Inc. in the amount of \$93,274.28 and pay request by Schottel and seconded by Fuhrken.

Vote: Ayes: Mary Ann Crome
Jerry Fuhrken
Terry Morse
Carolyn Pinnick
Roxanne Schottel

Motion to approve Water Project pay request from BG Consultants, Inc., in the amount of \$11,832.00 by Fuhrken and seconded by Pinnick.

Vote: Ayes: Mary Ann Crome
Jerry Fuhrken
Terry Morse
Carolyn Pinnick
Roxanne Schottel

15. Power Plant Lease Purchase.

Motion to approve payment of bills to KMEA Mid-States in the amount of \$29,179.94 to be paid through the UB&T engine lease purchase by Pinnick and seconded by Morse.

Vote: Ayes: Mary Ann Crome
Jerry Fuhrken
Terry Morse
Carolyn Pinnick
Roxanne Schottel

16. City Administrator Report.

- a) **Employment Openings.** Staff advertised help wanted ads for street/water/wastewater operator and power plant operator/superintendent in the Washington, Clay Center, Belleville and Marysville newspapers, as well as KRWA, KMEA, LKM, and KMU websites, and through KCLY radio station, in addition to the City's website and Facebook page.
- b) **PFAS Testing.** In order to continue with the PFAS settlements as previously approved by the Council, baseline testing will be required by December 14, 2023. Staff will work on a cost estimate, and will attend a webinar in September to learn more about the requirements. Forever chemical possible carcinogenic (fire fighting foam, plastic) which takes forever to breakdown and become non-hazardous. Chalfant stated the City should have a minimal risk due to where the water wells are located.
- c) **Industrial Park Utility Extension.** Everything is installed for the Industrial Park utility extensions. Staff is working with the contractor to get the water main disinfected, three different flushing and rounds of test samples sent in, but 1 of the 2 required tests within 24 hours has come back positive for coliform bacteria. Contractor will hyper chlorinate the entire main and flush again this coming week.
- d) **Substation Transformer Repair.** Repairs to the D Street substation have been put on hold until October.
- e) **Sewer Lining.** Sewer lining project for this year has been completed. There was one section in the 300 Block of West College Street that could not be lined as it changes from 8" to 6" pipe in the middle of the block.
- f) **US 36 & Grove Street.** Smoky Hill Construction poured the invert for the storm sewer inlet on Monday at the intersection of Grove Street and US-36 Highway just behind the KDOT right-of-way.

17. City Clerk's Report.

- a) **Reports.** The Washington County Senior Citizens Meal Site July 2023 financials and Fire minutes for August were given to the Council for review.
- b) **KMEA/KMGA Annual Conference.** The KMEA/KMGA Annual Conference is Oct. 19-20 in Wichita. Full conference registration is \$130. Power Plant Operator David L'Ecuyer has expressed interest in attending. Elected official registration is free and if interested in attending please contact the City Clerk so conference and motel registration can be made.
- c) **Electric Utility Rates.** City Clerk Denise Powell reminded the Council that electric utility rates will increase from .1255 to .1275 per kilowatt as of August 1, 2023, usage and the base rate will increase from \$5.20 to \$7.50 for residential customers and \$7.28 to \$10.00 for commercial customers effective August 1, 2024, per Ord. 817 which was passed July 5, 2022.

18. Reports.

Carolyn Pinnick.

- a) **Cell Tower.** Pinnick inquired and expressed concerns about the proposed cell tower location. Also inquired if City would receive income from the tower. City Administrator Chalfant stated the City would receive rent. Once the company determines if they wish to pursue placing a tower on the site, there would be a negotiation process.

Terry Morse.

- a) **Storm drains/Streets.** Morse inquired about cleaning storm drains, spraying weeds and cleaning the streets.

Mary Ann Crome.

- a) **Code Violations.** Inquired about the code violation process. Consensus of the Council was that it is time to get serious about violations. Council members will create a list of violations they would like the Staff to pursue and bring to next Council meeting.

Jerry Fuhrken.

- a) **Patching Streets.** City Administrator Carl Chalfant is pursuing assistance from contractors to assist with patching and sealing streets. All streets east of C Street are scheduled to be sealed in 2023.

Roxanne Schottel.

- a) **Work Force.** Visited about the shortage of work force and unfortunately everyone is shorthanded and this is the new norm.

19. Executive Session.

Motion to enter into executive session to discuss employee matters for non-elected personnel to include the Mayor, Council, and City Administrator to resume in the Council chambers at 8:16 p.m. by Pinnick and seconded by Schottel.

Vote: Ayes: Mary Ann Crome
 Jerry Fuhrken
 Terry Morse
 Carolyn Pinnick
 Roxanne Schottel

Motion to enter into executive session to discuss employee matters for non-elected personnel to include the Mayor, Council, and City Administrator to resume in the Council chambers at 8:26 p.m. by Morse and seconded by Pinnick.

Vote: Ayes: Mary Ann Crome
 Jerry Fuhrken
 Terry Morse
 Carolyn Pinnick
 Roxanne Schottel

Motion to enter into executive session to discuss employee matters for non-elected personnel to include the Mayor, Council, and City Administrator to resume in the Council chambers at 8:33 p.m. by Pinnick and seconded by Crome.

Vote: Ayes: Mary Ann Crome
 Jerry Fuhrken
 Terry Morse
 Carolyn Pinnick
 Roxanne Schottel

Motion to give lineman 2 a merit rate increase of \$2.00 per hour as of September 2, 2023, by Pinnick and seconded by Crome.

Vote: Ayes: Mary Ann Crome
Jerry Fuhrken
Terry Morse
Carolyn Pinnick
Roxanne Schottel

Motion to adjourn by Schottel and seconded by Pinnick.

Vote: Ayes: Mary Ann Crome
Jerry Fuhrken
Terry Morse
Carolyn Pinnick
Roxanne Schottel

Adjourned at 8:37 p.m.

Denise M. Powell, City Clerk