



MINUTES
CITY COMMISSION MEETING
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2021
7:00 P.M.

The Regular Meeting of the City Commission was held at 7:00 p.m. in the City Commission Room. Mayor Wynn Butler and Commissioners Linda Morse, Mark J. Hatesohl, Aaron Estabrook, and Usha Reddi were present. Also present were City Manager Ron R. Fehr, Deputy City Manager Jason Hilgers, Assistant to the City Manager Jared Wasinger, City Attorney Katharine Jackson, City Clerk Brenda K. Wolf, 3 staff, and approximately 9 interested citizens.

Attending virtually was Emily Sheldon, Audit Manager, BT & Co.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Butler led the Commission in the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mayor Butler opened the public comments and highlighted the process.

Richard Smith, 2617 Kimball Avenue, mentioned recent encounters with Risk Reduction regarding some renovations he had made. He asked why parking on lawns was not being enforced throughout the city. He stated that he voluntarily would be ensuring that Risk Reduction was following all policies set by the Commission.

Justin Yeary, 701 N. 9th Street, Unit 7, aired some grievances about the proposed extension of the sales tax that was on the November 2, 2021, ballot and proposed some alternative revenue sources. He suggested the City Commission look into reallocating \$200,000.00 expenditure on firearms and ammunition and \$300,000.00 expenditure for vehicles that were in the Riley County Police Department budget. He stated that sales tax was unfair to lower income people. He recommended those owning homes valued at \$500,000.00 or more should pay more in property taxes, and anyone making more than a six-figure income should pay more in City income tax. He said these would be fairer to the more vulnerable, needy, and least able to afford paying taxes

PUBLIC COMMENTS (CONTINUED)

Hearing no other comments, Mayor Butler closed the public comments.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner Reddi mentioned there would be no Work Session on Tuesday, November 9, 2021. She stated that that on Thursday, November 11, 2021, there would be a Veterans Day parade and as well as other activities planned by the Flint Hills Veterans Coalition. She highlighted that Manhattan has one of the largest parades in the state and encouraged the public to participate.

Commissioner Estabrook mentioned that additional Allies have arrived as part of the Afghanistan Resettlement.

Commissioner Morse mentioned that City crews had started getting ready for the holiday season at the Blue Earth Plaza and Downtown areas. She stated that the City had received Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) money for income-limited people to repair or fix their homes and encouraged the public to complete an application.

Mayor Butler mentioned the Veterans Day parade would start at 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, November 11, 2021, and that this year they would be honoring the Desert Storm veterans. He also mentioned there would be VetFest events in City Park from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

CONSENT AGENDA

(* denotes those items discussed)

MINUTES

The Commission approved the minutes of the Regular City Commission Meeting held Tuesday, October 19, 2021.

CLAIMS REGISTER NO. 2985

The Commission approved Claims Register No. 2985 authorizing and approving the payment of claims from October 13, 2021 – October 26, 2021, in the amount of \$3,048,432.92.

LICENSE – TREE MAINTENANCE LICENSE

The Commission approved a Tree Maintenance License for the calendar year 2022 for Parsons Tree Care, 500 Tabor Valley Road.

CONSENT AGENDA (CONTINUED)

* **ORDINANCE NO. 7555 – 2022 SERVICE FEES – AGGIEVILLE BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT**

The Commission approved Ordinance No. 7555 levying business improvement service fees for 2022 on businesses located within the Aggieville Business Improvement District.

* **ORDINANCE NO. 7556 – 2022 SERVICE FEES – DOWNTOWN BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT**

The Commission approved Ordinance No. 7556 levying business improvement service fees for 2022 on businesses located within the Downtown Business Improvement District.

* **AWARD CONTRACT - BUTTERFIELD NEIGHBORHOOD (WA2022) AND BROWNING AVENUE(WA2108) WATERLINE IMPROVEMENTS**

The Commission accepted the Engineer's Opinion of Probable Cost for the total base bid in the amount of \$908,341.00; and awarded and authorized the Mayor and City Clerk to execute a construction contract, in the total amount of \$654,996.00, with J&K Contracting, LC, of Junction City, Kansas, for the Butterfield Neighborhood and Browning Avenue Waterline Improvements Project (WA2022, WA2108).

RESOLUTION NO. 110221-A - AUTHORIZE FINANCING - BROWNING AVENUE WATERLINE RELOCATION PROJECT (WA2108)

The Commission approved Resolution No. 110221-A authorizing the improvements and temporary financing for the Browning Avenue Waterline Relocation Project (WA2108).

RESOLUTION NO. 110221-B – AUTHORIZE FINANCING – BUTTERFIELD NEIGHBORHOOD WATERLINE IMPROVEMENTS (WA2022)

The Commission approved Resolution No. 110221-B authorizing the improvements and temporary financing for the Butterfield Neighborhood Waterline Improvements (WA2022).

* **BOARD APPOINTMENTS**

Commissioner Estabrook stated that he would recuse himself from the Housing Authority Board of Commissioners appointment due to a conflict of interest.

The Commission approved the following appointments by Mayor Butler to various boards and committees of the city.

CONSENT AGENDA (CONTINUED)

* **BOARD APPOINTMENTS (CONTINUED)**

Aggieville Business Improvement District Advisory Board

Re-appointment of Jennifer Kuntz, 709 Bluemont Ave. Unit C, to a three-year term, which will begin January 1, 2022, and will expire December 31, 2024.

Frederick Douglass Recreation Complex Advisory Board

Appointment of Kevin Bryant, 7850 Lookout Dr., to a three-year At-Large term, which begins immediately, and will expire October 2, 2023.

Appointment of Debbie Nuss, 2404 Sumac Dr., to fill the unexpired term of RoShanna Robinson, which begins immediately, and will expire October 2, 2023.

Historic Resources Board

Appointment of Karen Cole, 212 Pine Dr., to a three-year Geography term, which begins immediately, and will expire April 30, 2024.

* **Housing Authority Board of Commissioners**

Appointment of Ace Hall, 919 Mission Ave., to fill the unexpired term of Thomas Kerrigan, which begins immediately, and will expire March 3, 2024.

Mayor Butler opened the public comments.

Hearing no comments, Mayor Butler closed the public comments.

Commissioner Morse moved to approve the consent agenda as distributed. Commissioner Hatesohl seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, motion carried 5-0, with the exception of Item F1d, Housing Authority Board of Commissioners appointment, which carried 4-0-1 with Commissioner Estabrook abstaining.

GENERAL AGENDA

PRESENTATION - 2020 CITY AUDIT

Rina Neal, Director of Finance, presented the 2020 audit results. She then answered questions from the Commission.

Dr. Eric Higgins, Chair, Municipal Audit Committee, provided an update from the Municipal Audit Committee.

GENERAL AGENDA (CONTINUED)

PRESENTATION - 2020 CITY AUDIT (CONTINUED)

Mayor Butler opened the public comments.

Justin Yeary, 701 N. 9th Street, Unit 7, asked about the deficiency in payroll mentioned in prior audit and how it was resolved.

Rina Neal, Director of Finance, answered the question from Mr. Yeary.

Ron Fehr, City Manager, answered questions from the Commission.

Hearing no other comments, Mayor Butler closed the public comments.

Commissioner Hatesohl moved to receive the Municipal Audit Committee's reports for the 2020 City Audit. Commissioner Morse seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, motion carried 5-0.

ADJOURNMENT

At 7:38 p.m. the Commission adjourned.


Brenda K. Wolf, CMC, City Clerk