

INFORMATION

City Office – (785) 876-2550
Located at 524 Kiowa

Office Hours

Mon: 9am – 6pm

Tuesday-Friday: 8am – 2pm

City Engineer – Kyle (785) 608-3547
Ron (785) 640-8750

Next Meeting – October 9th, 2006

Regular Council Meeting September 11th, 2006

I. CALL TO ORDER:

Mayor Gibson called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. Members present: Mayor Scott Gibson. Commissioners Terry Marsh, Kirk Vernon and Elke Lassiter. Members absent: Commissioner Jason Klenklen.

Citizens in attendance were Grace Jolly, Sandi Goetz, Marilyn Blevins, Phil Duguid, Wayne McNary, Bob Schuenight, Jim Cox, Don Lassiter, Lucia McKeithan, and Bob Holliday.

SWEARING IN OF NEW OFFICER:

Mayor Gibson informed the Council that Marlin Youngquist has shown interest in the vacant council position. Mr. Youngquist ran for a council position in the 2005 City elections, but was not elected. Mr. Youngquist submitted a resume to the Mayor and Councilmember's. Motion by Marsh to appoint Marlin Youngquist to the City Council, second by Vernon. The motion passed 3-0. Clerk Zimmerman administered the Oath to Marlin Youngquist. Oath of Office were signed and returned to Clerk Zimmerman to be sealed.

Mayor Gibson informed the Council that he would like to appoint Councilman Marsh to be Governmental Affairs Commissioner. Motion by Vernon to appoint Marsh to be Governmental Affairs Commissioner, second by Lassiter. The motion passed 4-0 with Marsh abstaining.

Mayor Gibson informed the Council that he would like to appoint Councilman Youngquist to be Street Commissioner. Motion by Vernon to appoint Youngquist to be Street Commissioner, second by Lassiter. The motion passed 4-0 with Youngquist abstaining.

OPENING COMMENTS:

In opening comments, Mayor Gibson read aloud a citizen complaint submitted to the City Clerk via email:

“I spoke with Gary Morris who drives the [school] bus and I guess there are vehicles parked where he needs to turn the bus around on Vista View Ct. and for a couple days, he has had to try and maneuver the bus because he hasn’t been able to go around the court due to vehicles. He told me he may have to not come up Vista View because of this. Is there anything we can do before he makes us start taking the kids down to Delaware every morning? ...I know it will start getting darker the closer winter gets here, I can’t stand the thought of the kids having to walk down the hill in the dark to get on the bus...”

The Council discussed several complaints that have been brought up recently regarding citizen’s leaving their trash cans out by the streets permanently, which is an eyesore, and could possibly take away from the beautification of the City. The issue will be discussed at the Codified Ordinance Review Workshop on September 27th.

The large bushes at 305 Delaware were discussed, and are believed to obstruct the view for anyone driving by that area along Delaware. There is a City Ordinance that states that no bushes or shrubs over 3’ tall are allowed on any City easement, therefore Mayor Gibson will work with Councilman Vernon to check all City easements at the location.

II. COUNCIL COMMENTS/QUESTIONS/CONCERNS

Councilwoman Lassiter recommended that the City put up “No Parking” signs in the cul-de-sac, and designate the hours for the no parking. Mayor Gibson requested that Clerk Zimmerman send out letters to all of the residents who live on Vista View informing them that if the situation persists, the City will be forced to put up “No Parking” signs in the Vista View cul-de-sac, stating times of no parking.

Commissioner Marsh informed all in attendance that he still objects to the City cutting the Street Budget.

Councilwoman Lassiter reported that the house at 115 Vista View is in violation of the City Ordinances because of the litter outside of the house. Mayor Gibson requested that she file a written complaint, and then a letter will be sent to the house.

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Motion by Marsh to approve the agenda, second by Vernon. The motion passed 4-0.

IV. APPROVAL OF CONSENT ITEMS

a) MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 14TH, 2005 MEETING

Motion by Marsh to approve the Minutes of the August 14th meeting, second by Vernon. The motion passed 4-0.

b) AUGUST TREASURER’S REPORT

Treasurer Bieker furnished the Mayor and Council with a monthly financial report for August. The report reflected credits/debits of \$821.65/\$8,656.47 for General, \$2,762.21/\$5,428.45 for Water, \$980.23/\$1,677.83 for Sewer, \$0/\$22.58 for Parks, and \$1,296.23/\$0 for Trash. The total receipts/expenditures for August were \$5,860.32/\$15,785.33.

Motion by Marsh to approve the August Treasurer’s Report, second by Vernon. The motion passed 4-0.

c) AUGUST WARRANT REGISTER

The August Warrant Register reflected an expenditure amount of \$7,850.48 for General, \$3,915.79 for Water, \$1,287.66 for Sewer, \$4,195.20 for Trash \$124.50 for Special Highway and \$21.98 for Park. Total expenditures for August were \$17,395.61.

Councilwoman Lassiter questioned as to why the City is paying so much for the landlines, and then paying a separate bill for the long distance. Clerk Zimmerman explained that the City is paying for 3 landlines, because whenever an alarm goes off at one of the lift stations, it is supposed to send a phone call to the Maintenance Department to let them know of the alarm. Questions arose as to whether the system is even set up for that anymore. The Council requested that Clerk Zimmerman look into the bills, and figure out if the City is still able to have the alarm calls forward to the maintenance department, and possibly getting a better price on the long distance.

Motion by Marsh to approve the Warrant Register, second by Vernon. The motion passed 4-0.

V. REPORTS:

Planning & Zoning:

Committee Chairperson, Sandi Goetz informed the Council that the Planning & Zoning Committee met on September 6th at 7:00pm. Members present were Grace Jolly, Mark Hothan, Arnold Leek, Sandi Goetz and Deb Gaskill. There were three building plans to review:

Building Plan #1 – Plans submitted by Lucia McKeithan for a new house at 111 Timberlane Dr., on block B lots 21 & 22. The new home meets all planning & zoning requirements. Motion by Marsh to approve the plans, second by Vernon. The motion passed 4-0.

Building Plan #2 – Plans submitted by Jason Klenklen to remove the existing front porch and replace it with a 6' x 15' roof extension, and replace the concrete. No building permit is required, but the Planning & Zoning still request that any changes to a house be submitted and reviewed by the committee.

Building Plan #3 – Plans submitted by Mark Hothan to build a 30' x 40' steel garage at 444 Delaware, on Block H lot 8. The garage meets all planning and zoning requirements, but questions arose as to whether it would have a concrete floor, since it was not specified. Grace Jolly, a member of the Planning & Zoning committee, called Mr. Hothan's house and was informed that the garage will have a 4" – 4 ½" thick concrete floor poured once the garage is completed. Motion by Marsh to approve the plans, taking note of the verbal commitment to lay the concrete floor, second by Youngquist. The motion passed 4-0.

Streets:

Councilmember Marsh reported that A&W Asphalt has yet to give a date on when the approved road work will commence.

Utilities:

Mayor Gibson read aloud a report submitted by Utility Commissioner Klenklen which stated that the leak at Meadowlark and Sioux is an ongoing problem, and will be addressed soon, before the weather turns cold. Councilman Klenklen thanked the Planning and Zoning Committee for handing out the packets of building plan information.

Clerk Zimmerman informed the Council of a letter sent to the City Office from the Kansas Department of Health & Environment reporting on the recent inspection that KDHE did on the City's wastewater lagoon. KDHE reported that the lagoon looked generally well maintained, except for a few issues that could very well be caused by the heat of summer, as well as weed control around the lagoon's. KDHE did recommend that the duckweed in the second cell needs to be removed, by either physical or chemical means.

Parks:

Park Commissioner Lassiter reported that the drinking fountain has been started, and hopefully it will be completed by the end of the year. Councilwoman Lassiter thanked Don Lassiter for volunteering his time to help build the drinking fountain.

Councilwoman Lassiter requested that the swing set be taken down. The Council agreed to use the swing set for scrap pieces for City projects.

Law Enforcement:

Councilwoman Lassiter suggested that the City host some sort of bike safety program. Citizen, Grace Jolly, suggested that the Council contact the area schools to try to get the school districts involved.

Mayor Gibson reported that he will be going to the local schools to inform all of the students of a "If I were Mayor..." contest. The objective is for the kids to write what they would do if they were Mayor, and all of the submissions will be sent to the League of Kansas Municipalities. The winner will get a \$250 savings bond.

Governmental Affairs:

Governmental Affairs Commissioner Marsh reported that he will soon be contacting all of the schools in Jefferson County to try to get them involved in designing a City Seal. The City currently uses a generic seal. Councilman Marsh will keep the Council informed on this event.

The next Meriden/Ozawkie Area Chamber of Commerce meeting will be held at the Meriden United Methodist Church on September 21st at noon.

Tree Board:

Councilwoman Lassiter reported that she needs more volunteers to sit on the Ozawkie Tree Board. Anyone who is interested is asked to contact Elke Lassiter at 876-2513.

City Maintenance:

Public Works Supervisor Thomas provided the City Council with an Engineer's Report for August which showed supplies and parts that have been purchased, as well as three bids for boring Meadowlark and pulling back the water service. Mayor Gibson does not recommend approving a bid until the homeowner on Meadowlark fixes his service leak.

Animal Control Officer:

Animal Control Officer, Kyle Truhe, furnished the Council with a report for August. The report reflected, 1 tagged dog and 1 opossum picked up. Truhe noted that he took the tagged dog back to the owner, and gave the owner a warning.

City Clerk:

Clerk Zimmerman reported that her third year of Institute to become a Certified Municipal Clerk is November 6-10, and that once she completed this third year of schooling, she will become certified. Motion by Marsh to approve her attendance at the school, second by Lassiter. Motion passed 4-0.

Clerk Zimmerman informed the Council that there have been several high water/sewer/trash bills due to high meter readings, and that the City has received several complaints regarding the high usages. The Council requested that Clerk Zimmerman make a list of all the houses with high usage, so that the maintenance department can do a "water audit" on the houses, to try to figure out the reason for the high usages.

NEW BUSINESS

VI. Dee Deppe – Water Run-Off Issues

Mayor Gibson informed the Council of a complaint submitted by Dee Deppe, referring to a water run-off issue caused by storage shed being placed on a neighboring lot. Mrs. Deppe informed the Council that the homeowner did not obtain a building permit before erecting the storage shed, but was later granted a variance by the City Council to have the storage shed. Mrs. Deppe reported that she has made several attempts to stop the run-off, but to no prevail, and now she is requesting that the City Council help to resolve the issue. Mayor Gibson noted that there is nothing that the City can do as of right now, but he will have Councilman Klenklen look into the situation. Discussion tabled until the October meeting.

VII. Corps of Engineers Lease Property

Councilman Marsh reported that there will be a meeting with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) on Wednesday at 9:00 am.

VIII. City Attorney Discussion

Clerk Zimmerman reported that she has contacted surrounding cities to find out who each City uses as their attorney:

Oskaloosa: Mike and Janice Hayes

Meriden: Using Steve Montgomery, but they are currently in the process of hiring a new City Attorney

Valley Falls: Rick Johnson

Winchester: Price Banks

The Mayor and Council requested that Clerk Zimmerman look into retainer fees, as well as the price per hour for Mike and Janice Hayes, Dennis Hawver, Rick Johnson and John Kerth. Clerk Zimmerman will have that information at the October Council Meeting.

V. ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by Vernon to adjourn at 9:30pm, second by Marsh. The motion passed 4-0.

Melissa A. Zimmerman
City Clerk