

Smith Center City Council Meeting Minutes

February 26, 2024

I. Call to Order

Mayor Bryce Wiehl opened the meeting at 6pm on Wednesday, February 26, 2024, at the Srader Building.

II. Attendance

Council members: Chris Cole, Don Wick, Brady Peterson, Tracy Kingsbury, and via phone-Dave Mace.

Others: Tabitha Owen, Jamie Marshall, John and Amy Timmons, Rick Hileman, Billy Thayer, Aurielle Hughes, Nick Rhodes, Joe Stansbury, Jacob Cobb, Shawn Stansbury, and Jill Conaway.

III. Consent Agenda

Motion by Mace, seconded by Cole, to approve the previous meeting minutes, vouchers, and receipts. Motion carried.

Mayor Wiehl announced the scheduled hearing will be held at 6:15pm.

IV. Department Reports/Committee & Board Reports

- a) Golf Course-Hileman received a quote from Downey Drilling to refurbish the three fresh water wells at the golf course that supply water to all of the hydrants and the clubhouse. Following discussion, it was the consensus of the council to move forward with Downey Drilling.

Conaway presented a quote from M&M Golf Cars through the purchasing program to purchase three 2024 Club Car Tempo Gas carts at \$5,800 per cart. Following discussion, a motion was made by Wick, seconded by Mace, to complete the purchase as presented. Motion carried. The council members discussed that with this purchase and the acquirement of three carts last year, the city may not need to lease any carts for the season. The advisory board will monitor the need.

Thayer stated that the board had learned that the former greenskeeper had borrowed a greens mower from Red Cloud that had not been returned. Red Cloud is interested in trading for the retired fairway mower. It was the consensus of the council to move forward with the trade.

- b) Recreation Commission-Joe Stansbury shared an opportunity the recreation commission has to receive a building by donation, specified by the owner to benefit the youth. Stansbury reviewed some of the information and potential steps as outlined from the meeting with a strategic planner. The commission's intent would be to create a youth sports training facility. The general goal is to set up areas of the facility for seasonal

sports and special events that would be available to coaches and athletes to schedule for use, with adult supervision required.

At 6:15pm, Mayor Wiehl announced the scheduled hearing on the petition to vacate a section of Court Street.

V. Hearing

Wiehl read the notice stating the petition was filed with the city clerk seeking the vacation and closure of a portion of Court Street in the Womer Place Addition Township from the east side of Womer Street to the east city limit. Wiehl asked if anyone had any objections or comments. A motion was made by Wick, seconded by Kingsbury, to adopt ordinance 1046 vacating the section of the street as stated. Motion carried with the ordinance to go into effect once published. Mayor Wiehl closed the hearing.

VI. Resume of Department Reports/Committee & Board Reports

Recreation Commission-Stansbury resumed the discussion on the proposed sports training center. Owen also shared her conversation with the property owner. Conaway shared information on the property tax changes and potential costs in the current structural state. Discussion continued on the building, potential use, upgrades, grant opportunities and other items that the commission outlined. It was the consensus of the council to proceed, allowing the commission members to begin grant writing and other strategic planning tasks.

c) Economic Development-Jacob Cobb presented for the department. A motion was made by Cole, seconded by Wick, to approve \$7,000 per position to Schoen Fumigation, for two field technician positions through the SCWRIP grant. Motion carried.

d) Police Department-Chief Marshall shared a complaint received of students speeding in route to and from the school in the area of 3rd Street and Park Street. Wick shared a complaint received of vehicles parking on the wrong side of the roadway.

e) Clerk-Conaway received a letter from KDOT changing the K204 letting from November 2024 to January 2025. A damaged billboard was reported to the Department of Transportation. The beautification office administrator issued a letter to the owner requesting the sign structure to be repaired within one year of the report, 02/16/2025. Conaway reported on certified letters sent on nuisances recently.

VII. Governing Body Reports

Kingsbury-It is hopeful that concrete will be poured this week at the swimming pool bathhouse. Kingsbury also reported that the contractor will be sub-contracting the electrical work.

VIII. Executive Session

A motion was made by Kingsbury, seconded by Peterson, to enter into executive session for five minutes, personnel exception, matters of non-elected personnel. Motion carried. In session at 6:54pm-out of session at 6:59pm. Motion by Kingsbury, seconded by Peterson, to re-enter executive session for fifteen minutes, personnel exception, matters of non-elected personnel. Motion carried. In session at 6:59pm-out of session at 7:14pm.

Motion by Mace, seconded by Kingsbury, to draft a letter to an employee regarding leave, with a 90 day period for premium return; and to allow compensatory time of on-call coverage, payroll deduction, and use of vacation time once awarded, as options to cover time used, to be completed by the end of the fiscal year. Motion carried.

IX. Pay Scale

Wiehl shared some options for a new pay scale. Detailed discussion was held on the configuration of the steps in each column, dollar amounts and percentages of increases, assuring changes would allow everyone a raise, maximum/top out pay, and how an employee would receive raises once they are at the maximum step. Longevity pay and an index salary schedule were discussed. Conaway will work up options based on the governing body's discussion.

X. Adjournment

Motion by Wick, seconded by Peterson, to adjourn. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:37pm.