

# Smith Center City Council Meeting Minutes

March 11, 2024

## I. Call to Order

Mayor Bryce Wiehl opened the meeting at 6pm on Monday, March 11, 2024, at the Srader Building.

## II. Attendance

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

Absent: Don Wick.

Others: Aurielle Hughes, Jim Tharp, Melissa Westbrook, David Luke, Jamie Marshall, Kim Maudlin, Rick Hileman, Shaine Shellito, and Jill Conaway.

## III. Consent Agenda

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

## IV. New Business

- a) Property and Liability Insurance-David Luke/KCamp and Melissa Westbrook/Insurance Smart presented detailed insurance proposals to the council and answered questions on the coverage options and various scenarios. Following the presentations and discussion, a special meeting was scheduled to be held at 6pm on Monday, March 18<sup>th</sup> to revisit the property and liability insurance options.
- b) Policy Update-Conaway presented an updated Code of Conduct policy to the governing body. Following review, a motion was made by Cole, seconded by Kingsbury to adopt the updated Code of Conduct policy as presented. Motion carried.
- c) CVR Grant-The governing body reviewed a CDBG form under Section 106. A motion was made by Kingsbury, seconded by Mace, to approve Mayor Wiehl signing the form stating that none of the options listed are relevant to the pre-application projects whereas property of religious and cultural significance to federally recognized Indian tribes would not be affected. Motion carried.  
Conaway presented a CDBG-CVR plan for the #23-CVR-012 grant program. Following review, a motion was made by Cole, seconded by Kingsbury, to approve the plan as presented. Motion carried.
- d) Red Cross Proclamation-As the American Red Cross fulfills a vital role in our community, Mayor Wiehl proclaimed March 2024 as American Red Cross Month, encouraging all Americans to support this organization and its noble humanitarian mission.

## **V. American Legion**

James Tharp, representing American Legion 220, announced that a 6-district convention will be held on April 27<sup>th</sup> at the V.F.W. in Smith Center. Tharp invited Mayor Wiehl to the event, to greet guests and to speak to the group; also inviting council members to attend. The convention will be from 8am to 3pm. Mayor Wiehl stated that he will be in attendance.

## **VI. Department Reports/Committee & Board Reports**

- a) Police Department-Chief Marshall reported on his attendance at a recent convention where he completed twenty four of forty continuing education hours.
  
- b) Hileman-Explained to the council that he would like to extend the drainage tube at Wagner Park. Once the cost proposal is received, Hileman will bring it to the council. Discussion was held on the road repairs needed on the east three blocks of South City Limit Road. It is desired that 6" concrete be used as there is not a sufficient base for asphalt, as can be seen with the current disrepair. It is estimated that each block would cost about \$30,000 for materials. Hileman is uncertain if the city has enough manpower to complete the task, with the current limited number of public works staff therefore may need to be put out for bid.

Employee Shaine Shellito addressed the council and reported on his medical status.

- c) Hughes-Updated the council on a recent conference call regarding the decommission of 1836.

## **VII. Governing Body Reports**

Cole-The fire department has experienced an uptick of calls with the current weather situation. The area is under a red flag warning, and with area fires in the neighboring Nebraska counties, this could potentially lead to a burn ban from the county commissioners. Cole reported all equipment is in good condition.

Kingsbury-Reported that the floors were poured at the new pool house, except for the areas of the showers.

## **VIII. Pay Scale**

Wiehl shared a blank pay scale set up, stating that the council could determine the rules, insert the beginning figures and set the scale. Detailed discussion commenced on the options of a set dollar amount per step versus percentages; recognizing longevity; salary caps; and how employees are awarded increases on the scale. Following discussion, a few scenarios will be built and given to the council for review.

**IX. Adjournment**

Motion by Cole, seconded by Peterson, to adjourn. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:05pm.