

Smith Center City Council Meeting Minutes

March 13th, 2023

I. Call to Order

Mayor Bryce Wiehl called the meeting to order at 6pm on Monday, March 13th, 2023, at the Srader Building.

II. Attendance

Council members: Don Wick, Dave Mace, Chris Cole, Tracy Kingsbury, and Brady Peterson. Others: Jamie Marshall, Kim Phelps, Aurielle Hughes, Kim Maudlin, Rick Hileman, Shane McCall, and Jill Conaway.

III. Consent Agenda

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

IV. Guest

Shane McCall spoke to the council regarding East Kansas Avenue. With the addition of the hospital and SunPorch to the east, the traffic flow has increased significantly on Kansas Avenue. McCall shared his concerns of excessive speeds traveled in this area. Discussion commenced. Chief Marshall responded that with a fully staffed department, they will be able to radar the area more frequently.

V. Previous/Ongoing Business

a) Sirens/Emergency Outdoor Warning System

The council reviewed quotes and information received from two companies to update the current siren system. Hileman explained the situation with the siren just south of the railroad tracks off of Main Street, as previous repairs by Platte Valley have not remedied the issue, rendering the siren out of commission. Hileman attended the County Commissioners' meeting to obtain their approval to utilize the generator at the lift station by the hospital for power. The remaining two sirens of the current system need new radios. Discussion commenced on the options. It was the consensus of the council to move forward. Clerk Conaway will research grant options and report back to the council.

b) Golf Carts-Conaway presented an option to purchase Club Car golf carts through one of the city's purchasing programs, with a savings of approximately 50% at \$5,800 for a 2024 Tempo-gas powered cart; as well as lease/purchase options. Discussion was held on the purchase and lease options. Wick inquired on how the city owned carts are stored. A motion was made by Mace, seconded by Cole, to approve the lease option with Copper's Carts that was tabled from the previous meeting. Motion carried. The council will have the golf course advisory board review the purchase options.

- c) Pool-Wiehl reported that bidding will be opened up for construction of the new pool house, with bids due April 10th. Hileman asked that the contractors work with him and LaDow as there are some plumbing changes that are needed.

VI. New Business

- a) Red Cross Proclamation-Mayor Wiehl proclaimed this as American Red Cross Month, encouraging all citizens of Smith Center to reach out and support its humanitarian mission.
- b) Fire Department Insurance Policy-Following review, a motion was made by Cole, seconded by Kingsbury, to approve the insurance renewal with VFIS for \$6,643, beginning April 1st. Motion carried.

VII. Department Reports/Committee & Board Reports

- a) Library-A resignation was presented to the council. Motion by Wick, seconded by Peterson, to accept the resignation of Katherine Seemann from the Smith Center Public Library effective April 1, 2023. Motion carried.
- b) Golf Course Board-A resignation was presented to the council. Motion by Mace, seconded by Wick, to accept the resignation of Rick Hileman from the Golf Course Advisory Board effective immediately. Motion carried.
- c) Police Department-Chief Marshall reported the installation of two signs near the high school. Officer Bailey is applying for funding to assist in the purchase of three radars.
- d) Hileman-Bids were received to inspect and clean the water tower. Motion by Kingsbury, seconded by Wick, to accept the bid of \$2,950 from Inland Potable Services. Motion carried.
- e) Conaway-The Source Water Protection Plan recently completed was presented to the council. Motion by Kingsbury, seconded by Cole, to adopt the plan as presented. Motion carried.
- f) Hughes-Reported that she is working with Nex-Tech to install fiber optic lines at the airport for the AWOS.

VIII. Governing Body Reports

- a) Wick-Pool/Rec/Transit
Shared an inquiry on the possibility of transit services for church services.
- b) Cole-Fire/Police
Thanks to the skills and work of Steve McNary, the fire department was able to save thousands of dollars in repairing a fire truck that had mechanical issues.

IX. Executive Session

Motion by Mace, seconded by Cole, to enter into executive session for ten minutes, personnel exception, personnel matters of non-elected personnel, with Conaway in attendance. Motion carried. In session at 6:53pm-out of session at 7:03pm.

Motion by Cole, seconded by Mace, to offer applicant 1 a full-time position at pay grade 5, with an evaluation at six months and increase to pay grade 6. Motion carried.

Hileman discussed the possibility of changing the policy on seasonal crew help, due to the DOL requirements.

X. Adjournment

Motion by Wick, seconded by Cole to adjourn. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:07pm.