

REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
CITY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES
511 N. COMMERCIAL

March 16, 2015
7:30 P.M.

PRESIDING: Mayor Rodney Eggleston

GOVERNING BODY MEMBERS PRESENT: Larry Emmel, Lynne Vigil, Thom Noone, Rick Jacob

ABSENT: Jon Jenson

ATTENDING: Jaci Reimer, City Administrator; Janise Enterkin, City Clerk; Brad Jantz, City Attorney; Pilar Martin, Harvey County Independent; John & Barb Sage; Eric Purk, City Superintendent; Mark Sauerwein, Director of Emergency Services; Ray Huff, Police Chief

ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA

MOVED BY NOONE AND SECONDED BY JACOB TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS AMENDED: 6D – BERKSHIRE HATHAWAY INSURANCE. MOTION CARRIED.

CONSENT AGENDA

MOVED BY JACOB AND SECONDED BY EMMEL TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA INCLUDING:

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING OF MARCH 2, 2015

PAYROLL CHECKS DD1513-DD1538 TOTAL: \$14,292.83

GENERAL DISBURSEMENT CHECKS 61318-61371

TOTAL: \$56,171.71

MOTION CARRIED.

MOVED BY EMMEL AND SECONDED BY VIGIL TO APPROVE HALES SALES AND SERVICE CHECK # 61350 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$19.64. MOTION CARRIED.

COUNCIL MEMBER JACOB ABSTAINED DUE TO CONFLICT OF INTEREST.

PUBLIC FORUM

Barb Sage, 125 Jefferson, came before Council on behalf of Sedgwick High School Alumni Association requesting a donation for the alumni banquet.

MOVED BY VIGIL AND SECONDED BY JACOB TO APPROVE A DONATION OF \$250 TO THE SEDGWICK HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION SCHOLARSHIP FUND.

MOTION CARRIED.

STAFF REPORTS

Eric Purk, City Superintendent – presented the maintenance 1st Quarter report for 2015:

- a) A map was given to Council with elevations of alley between Commercial and Franklin. Currently waiting on the utility companies to mark lines and move utility lines as necessary. Mayor Eggleston suggested asking the utility companies how the lines would have moved. After grading is complete the alley will be level with one yard and below all the others. 2" of gravel will be put in, may not have to add much.
- b) Sewer plant one clarifier out, drained and cleaned.
- c) Street Sweeping.
- d) Electronic meters are being put in as time allows.

Ray Huff, Police Chief – reported on 1st Quarter.

- a) Truck turn lane update. The turn lane has been monitored by a camera. Administrator Reimer reported that after reviewing the photos, 10% of autos turn at corner instead of taking the truck lane. No trucks were turning at the corner, but were using the truck turn lane as designed. A KDOT representative was in town last Thursday and said a stop sign or yield sign is fine. Chief Ray is fine with either signage, due to safety he prefers the stop sign. Council and Mayor were okay with the stop sign.

Mark Sauerwein, Director of Emergency Services – reported on 1st Quarter and gave an update on the truck received from the National Forest Service.

- a) Sauerwein had talked to the National Forest Service and they will not put anything in writing regarding the 180 day deadline stated in the contract. Forest Service told Sauerwein to “do what you can do”.

Sauerwein presented Council with paper work on why the existing tanker truck was taken out of service last year and the Firefighters Relief Fund and how it can be used. He also gave examples of trucks and cost of trucks.

Mayor Eggleston and Council member Jacob voiced that they want the truck sent back. Mayor Eggleston said the CIP plan should be used as it was meant to be used and doesn't like the idea of borrowing from the Firefighters Relief Fund.

Council member Jacob stated, “I want to go back and point something out that when we first discussed this brush rescue truck that we just purchased. When you brought that up, we can go back and look at the minutes, and I said, the previous man before you, said the tanker truck is the most important piece of equipment we have in line of needing replacement, and you stated that you had respect for Mr. Uhlman but you had much more credentials and blah, blah, blah and you disagreed that the tank truck would do, this rescue truck is number one, priority one, gotta get er done. We found a way to get it done. And got it done and its on a 5 year note, everything's great. And now you are back, oh, this thing fell apart and we need a new tank truck. I don't doubt that but, that being said, the CIP we have juggled when we could and needed to. We already juggled this department to the point of, I personally have done juggling for a period of time and this truck will be the next large acquisition, be it 2 years, 3 years, I don't know yet. I don't believe we are going to buy a \$200,000 new one or 250, whatever it may take to buy that piece brand new, their plenty of options used, that's just the way it is going to be. We are a small town with a small budget. We have a brand new ambulance, nice piece of equipment, brand new brush rescue truck; nice piece of equipment. This piece will be nice when we get it, it's just going to be when we get it.” Mayor Eggleston said, “It's not to say that this option is not going to be available, a few years down the road.”

Sauerwein replied, “This option won't be, a guarantee you.”

Council member Jacob continued to explain that he did not like that the truck was from the federal government and that we had to keep their forestry signs on the truck for 5 years.

Sauerwein said he did not know how the registration would be written.

Council member Jacob did not like the “I don't knows and ifs” from Sauerwein. Council member Jacob said, “Had you told me back in December, that we got to get it done in 180 days, I would have said, leave it in Manhattan. I don't want it.”

Sauerwein spoke about the purchase of the brush rescue truck. He said that he based the need for a rescue truck on call volume. The tanker truck does not go out that much, the brush truck goes out all the time, so that is the main criteria to try and get it, the time of use and amount of use. Sauerwein said, “That is why the problems you have of not having programs in place to replace is your fall behind, we are at that point.”

Council member Jacob explained that Council is voted in to take financial responsibility of this town and we are limited on what we can do. He stated that. "He had to do what he felt was best for the community's dollars in this particular instance and it is not purchasing a truck at this time, whether the money is borrowed or not, it is still money that is spent."

Council member Jacob and Council member Noone stated they did not want to start working on the truck in fear that the forest service will show up and take the truck back when we have put money into it.

Sauerwein suggested holding the truck and making them come get it.

Mayor Eggleston questioned the ethics of holding onto the truck, leaves a bad taste.

Council member Emmel asked, "I am going to ask why we did not know about the 180 days in advance of getting the truck?" He went on to say that the agency should have checks and balances along the way to pass title onto another agency. He doesn't know why they did not bring it to Mark's attention and as far as his concern was, the responsibility falls on the National Forest Agency to inform you. Council member Emmel said "The truck goes back. And the reason the truck goes back in my opinion, is because we are dealing with an agency that has not been forthright in the beginning, to inform us of rules and regulations to deal with this vehicle. To say, here is the vehicle and you have this impression that there are no strings attached, and everything is great and you have all the time in the world to do whatever you want to do with it, and then all of the sudden to uh, to find out weeks, months later, oh by the way there's a clause now that you didn't seem to ask us about, um so now this is the way it is going to be, oh and we are not going to come down there and pick it up, and we're not going to do this and we're not going to do that, but the guy that said that may get hit by a bus tomorrow. So you really don't have a thing to go on. You have nothing in writing, city has nothing in writing, we don't have any authority to keep this vehicle and we are dealing with an agency that in my opinion has not been forthright for that reason I say they can take the truck back."

Council member Vigil said, "I like that it was available to us. It doesn't bother me that it would have Forest Service on it, that doesn't bother me at all. And if we were in a better position, I would think it was a good idea, a good investment but, all things considered, I think it needs to go back as well. I was in a meeting just this week about the radios that we are supposed to get. Those are going to be super expensive. I had no idea until they showed us the price list. That made me realize I don't want to spend the money on anything because that starts in October and that's what made me have reservations about spending money."

Sauerwein said he will make some phone calls to come and get the truck, and see if anything changes. Asked Council if the timeframe changed, would Council be open to it. He said, "As a tax payer I would hate to see an opportunity go away that would save at least \$25,000 and maybe more." Council did not respond to his question.

Sauerwein gave his quarterly update:

- b) Checked a building located on Jackson Street for possible storage of rescue truck on East side of railroad tracks. Sauerwein and Reimer don't think it is a viable option to put a truck there.
- c) CPR training
- d) Grants for SCBA's and radios
- e) Fire prevention grants for smoke detectors
- f) Working with Halstead on regional grant to cover training costs
- g) EMS building pre-plans
- h) Paramedic students graduate on May 6th.
- i) Brad Conrady and Mary Conrady will be joining the departments.

Jaci Reimer, City Administrator

- a) Council packets and computer issues
- b) Radio updates – huge expense \$50,000 to \$90,000 to get started. Internally we will keep our narrow band going. Grant award will cover Fire/EMS radios. Grant announcements usually come in October.
- c) Rescue unit – if not used for fire, strip down and put it in use for maintenance.
- d) Alderson development on hold pursuing more information on drainage.
- e) Housing seminar material given to Council for reading.
- f) Year-end financial meeting will be at next meeting.

Brad Jantz, City Attorney

- a) Property valuation for 507 N Commercial in process.

MOVED BY JACOB AND SECONDED BY VIGIL TO APPROVE ADDENDUM TO THE ORIGINAL CONTRACT WITH NAI MARTENS AND TO AUTHORIZE MAYOR TO SIGN. MOTION CARRIED 3-1, COUNCIL MEMBER EMMEL OPPOSED.

City Administrator Reimer, went over a proposed map moving and correcting alley right-of-way between Jackson and Lincoln streets south of 4th Street. Owners are being contacted about changes. Reimer asked for Councils approval to straighten alley with city paying for filing fees. The City Attorney will draw up quit claim deeds.

Council member Jacob asked for this to be tabled and put on the agenda next meeting.

Council gave consensus to pursue talks with owners.

MOVED BY JACOB AND SECONDED BY EMMEL TO APPROVE ORDINANCE #836 DESIGNATING CERTAIN STREETS AS MAIN TRAFFICWAYS OR TRAFFICWAY CONNECTIONS AUTHORIZING THE CITY TO MAKE MAIN TRAFFICWAY IMPROVEMENTS AND ALLOWING FOR THE ISSUANCE OF PRIVATE PLACEMENT BONDS AT A COST NOT TO EXCEED \$275,000. MOTION CARRIED. COUNCIL MEMBER VIGIL ABSENT DURING VOTE.

Council member Emmel suggested letting the citizens know why the maintenance is being done on existing roads instead of paving dirt streets.

Reimer said that there will be an explanation in the Sedgwick Scanner newsletter that will be mailed with April 1st water bills explaining the street projects and CIP.

MOVED BY EMMEL AND SECONDED BY NOONE TO ACCEPT BIDS PRESENTED BY HARVEY COUNTY FOR SEDGWICK ROAD MAINTENANCE PROGRAM FOR HIPR & HMA FOR \$237,545.00. MOTION CARRIED.

MOVED BY JACOB AND SECONDED BY NOONE TO APPROVE BERKSHIRE HATHAWAY CITY INSURANCE COVERAGE AT \$45,002.00. MOTION CARRIED.

MEETING/DATE REMINDERS

- a. Severe Weather Safety Program – Sedgwick Senior Center – March 23, 6:30PM
- b. Legislative Coffee – Sedgwick Senior Center – April 11, 10:00AM
- c. Sedgwick County Association of Cities – April 11, Park City Library – 8:30AM
- d. Hrvy Co Council of Governments – April 15, Breadbasket in Newton, 7:00AM

MOVED BY EMMEL AND SECONDED BY NOONE TO ADJOURN. MOTION CARRIED.

Meeting adjourned at 9:34 PM

Janise P. Enterkin, CMC
City Clerk