

Council Chambers
City Hall
May 15, 2007
7:30 P.M.

Council met in regular session with Mayor Sharon Brown presiding and roll call showing Councilmembers: Steve Fox, Justin Begnoche, Daton Hess, Butch Hess, Charles Smith, Connie Jordan and Jack Wallace present.

City Clerk, Calvin Wohler, presented the oath of office to Rhys Baker, the new councilmember from the Third Ward. Councilmember Baker was then seated at the council table.

Copies of the minutes of the two previous meetings were presented and approved by the Council. Copies of the minutes of the previous Public Utilities Commission meeting were presented.

Municipal Judge's receipts for the month of April 2007 were \$4,546.00.

Appropriation Ordinance Nos. 3177 and 3178, allowing claims, which had been checked by the Council, were presented. Moved by Councilmember Wallace, seconded by Councilmember Smith, that these ordinances be approved for payment. Upon being put to a vote by roll call this motion carried by a unanimous vote of all Councilmembers present.

City Attorney, Michael Ryan, presented a Resolution for action.

Resolution No. 1418, entitled "A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF AN INTERLOCAL COOPERATION AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF CLAY CENTER, KANSAS, AND THE CITY OF WICHITA, KANSAS, IN CONNECTION WITH THE ISSUANCE OF BONDS FOR CERTAIN HEALTH CARE FACILITIES (PRESBYTERIAN MANOR, INC.)", was read and considered by sections. Moved by Councilmember Wallace, seconded by Councilmember Smith, to adopt Resolution No. 1418 as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Ryan informed the Council that the condemned house at 1003 2nd Street has not been kept up as stated in Resolution No. 1415 passed on February 6, 2007. Mr. Ryan wrote a letter to the homeowner's Attorney to remind him what needs to be done at the house.

Mr. Wohler presented two licenses for approval.

Moved by Councilmember Smith, seconded by Councilmember B. Hess, to approve a 2007-2008 Retail Liquor License for Delores Ouellette d/b/a Donley's Retail Liquor store at 627 W. Crawford Street. The motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Councilmember Begnoche, seconded by Councilmember D. Hess, to approve a 2007 Plumbing License for Dale's Plumbing of Hutchinson, Kansas. The motion carried unanimously.

Gloria Gerardy, representing the Rex Theatre, appeared before the Council to ask for a donation. Ms. Gerardy would like to raise enough money to present a free movie on June 13, 2007 for the Bike Across Kansas participants. There will be an estimated 1,000 people staying in Clay Center the night of June 13th. A free movie would help promote Clay Center and give the participants something to do during the afternoon and evening hours. If enough money is raised the Theatre would also provide free popcorn and drinks. Moved by Councilmember Begnoche, seconded by Councilmember Smith, to donate \$200.00 to the Rex Theatre for the Bike Across Kansas event. The motion carried unanimously.

C. L. Snodgrass, representing Clay Center City Band, appeared before the Council to request an increase in their budget for the year 2008. Mr. Snodgrass presented an information sheet explaining where the money goes and how many people participate in City Band. City band plays concerts in the Band Shell at Dexter Park during the months of June and July on Wednesday evenings. All members are paid a small amount of money for their services. The City Band has received \$3,600.00 per year since 1999 and would like to receive \$3,900.00 beginning in 2008. Moved by Councilmember Wallace, seconded by Councilmember Begnoche, to increase the City Band budget to \$3,900.00 in 2008. The motion carried unanimously.

George McCune, Executive Director of Clay County Economic Development Group, appeared before the Council. Mr. McCune discussed with the Council the Enterprise Zone for Clay County. The explanation is quite lengthy but has tax advantages for companies that add ten or more employees to their workforce. These enterprise zones are eligible to nonmetropolitan areas that make application with the Kansas Secretary of Commerce. The County Commissioners adopted the entire county as an enterprise zone and the City must adopt a Resolution to remain so designated.

Resolution No. 1419, confirming support for the qualifying regional strategic plan and requesting that the Secretary of Commerce approve the County of Clay as a Kansas Enterprise Zone designated nonmetropolitan business region. Moved by Councilmember Smith, seconded by Councilmember B. Hess, to adopt Resolution No. 1419 as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Committee reports were as follows:

Laws and Ordinances-A request has been made to install stop signs going north and south at the Eighth and Court Street intersection. The councilmembers are encouraged to review and make recommendations.

Ways and Means-Requests for the 2008 budget should be turned into the Committee soon. Ways to build up reserves was discussed.

Fire Department-A grant has been applied to purchase a new thermal imaging camera for fire rescue purposes. The camera currently in use is getting old and obsolete. Department is seeking funds for the \$11,400.00 camera and \$1,400.00 for a water tank. The grant, if accepted, would cover 95% of the cost and the City being responsible for 5%.

Streets and Alleys-The crack sealing for 63 city blocks is nearly complete. City has approximately \$80,000.00 available for milling and overlaying of streets for 2007.

City Parks and Pool-Committee would like to purchase a vacuum system for cleaning the pool. Pool vacuums cost \$1,500.00 to \$2,000.00. Moved by Councilmember Fox, seconded by Councilmember Begnoche, to allow the Pool Committee to oversee the purchase of a pool vacuum not to exceed \$2,000.00. The motion carried unanimously.

Lights, Water and Sewer-Bill L. Callaway, Superintendent of Public Utilities, appeared before the Council to explain why the cost of electricity will be increasing. The City's long term contract with Westar ended on April 30, 2007. The City is subject to buying energy on the open market at a higher rate than purchased from a long term contract. Westar has not agreed to a new contract. Thirty-eight cities have joined together to form a Power Pool to negotiate a new power contract. Mr. Callaway estimates electricity costs will go up 50% which will be passed onto the consumer. Our City can produce its own power when the purchase price gets higher than the cost of us producing power.

Building Permits-Moved by Councilmember Jordan, seconded by Councilmember Smith, to approve the following building permits:

R & B Investment LLC for a 20' x 120' storage building at 905 W. Crawford.

Cary & Joyce Laffin for a 30' x 40' pole shed at 311 9th Street.

James Desmarais for an 18' x 21' carport at 123 5th Street.

Dwight & Roxie Baer for a 40' x 40' addition at 319 5th Street.

Frank Tippin for a 12' x 16' addition at 1000 Sherman Street.

The motion carried unanimously.

Emergency Preparedness-Fire Chief, Jon Siemers, has been getting quotes on new tornado sirens. The City should decide if they want battery operated sirens or electric operated sirens. To replace the City's four sirens would cost \$44,000.00 for electric and \$48,000.00 for battery operated ones. Hooking up the sirens would cost approximately \$5,096.00. The Public Utilities Department would install the new sirens. Councilmember D. Hess has been to a County Commissioners meeting to discuss their help with financing. Other sources of financing will be attempted.

Insurance-Every councilmember should encourage home owners to have sewer back-up insurance. The City's insurance will not pay for any losses from sewer water damages. City needs to come up with a new Resolution on how the City

will handle sewer back-up problems.

Public Recreation Advisory-The Committee will meet to write a new agreement with USD#379 in regard to the ball diamonds. The current agreement has expired.

Police Advisory-Committee to meet and set some guidelines for the Animal Shelter. The Police Department will be getting more aggressive on writing tickets for tall grass and trashy yards.

Old Business-The Development Agreement with the developer of Center Heights addition was discussed again. The City has not heard from them in regard to accepting the proposal the City has offered to them. Mr. Ryan has had some correspondence with the developer and Joe Norton, attorney with Gilmore & Bell, but not anything to report at this time. A discussion was held about the City withdrawing the offer to the developer. Moved by Councilmember Smith, seconded by Councilmember B. Hess, to withdraw the City's proposed offer from the Center Heights developer. Motion carried 7-1. Councilmember Begnoche voted "nay".

Mayor Brown informed the Council that she has received a resignation from William Logan, board member of the Local Housing Board. Mr. Logan will serve until a replacement is appointed. Mayor Brown presented the name of Mike Spielman to the two year unexpired position on the Local Housing board. Moved by Councilmember Wallace, seconded by Councilmember Smith, to approve the appointment of Mike Spielman as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Brown stated she will have a department head meeting on the fourth Thursday of every month at 8:30 A.M.

Moved by Councilmember Smith, seconded by Councilmember B. Hess, to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned.