

CLAY CENTER CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
JULY 5, 2011

The Clay Center City Council met in regular session on July 5, 2011 in the Council Chambers. Mayor Thatcher called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. City Council members in attendance were Sterling Meals, Justin Begnoche, Jacob Young, Jim Brown, Daton Hess, Ryhs Baker, Dennis Ouellette and Butch Hess. Also present were Attorney Monte Green and City Clerk Kerry Rozman.

Mayor Thatcher reported that he attended a meeting with FEMA Representatives and Clay County Emergency Director, Pam Kemp. The FEMA representatives toured areas of the city/county that received damage from the flood. FEMA will contact city and county representatives after they have had a chance to evaluate the damage and determine what funding, if any, will be available.

Clerk Rozman read a thank you from Big Lakes for the memorial they received in honor of Warren Leipersberger.

Copies of the minutes from the June 20, 2011 Public Utilities Commission meeting and Public Utilities Commission Appropriations Nos. 2092 and 2093 were presented for review.

The Consent Agenda consisted of the meeting minutes of June 21, 2011 and Appropriation Ordinances No. 3384 and 3385. A motion was made by Councilor B. Hess, seconded by Councilor Brown to approve the Consent Agenda in its entirety. Roll call vote: Yeas: Meals, Begnoche, Young, D. Hess, Baker, Brown, Ouellette and B. Hess. Nays: None.

A motion was made by Councilor D. Hess seconded by Councilor Brown for a Closed Session for Preliminary Consideration of Specific Personnel Matter of Non-Elected Personnel consisting of the Governing Body, Attorney Green and City Clerk Rozman for 10 minutes. Roll call vote: Yeas: Meals, Begnoche, Brown, Young, D. Hess, Baker, Ouellette and B. Hess. Nays: None. Starting time began at 7:35 p.m. ended at 7:45 p.m. No motions or decisions were made.

A motion was made by Councilor Young seconded by Councilor Baker for a Closed Session for Preliminary Consideration of Specific Personnel Matter of Non-Elected Personnel consisting of the Governing Body, Attorney Green and City Clerk Rozman for 10 minutes. Roll call vote: Yeas: Begnoche, Young, D. Hess, Baker and Ouellette. Nays: B. Hess, Brown and Meals. Starting time began at 7:46 p.m. ended at 7:56 p.m. No motions or decisions were made.

A motion was made by Councilor D. Hess seconded by Councilor Brown to hire Ken Shivers as the new Street Superintendent at a rate of \$20.67 per hour. Roll call vote: Yeas: Begnoche, Young, D. Hess, Baker and Brown. Nays: B. Hess, Ouellette and Meals.

Clerk Rozman is requesting that the Petty Cash account be increased from \$500 to \$2,000 to increase efficiency in the day to day operations. A motion was made by Councilor Brown seconded by Councilor D. Hess to approve the increase in the Petty Cash account as requested. Roll call vote: Yeas: Begnoche, Young, D. Hess, Baker, Ouellette, Meals and Brown. Nays: B. Hess.

A motion was made by Councilor D. Hess seconded by Councilor B. Hess to table Ordinance No. 2271 Imposing Penalties for Failure to Obtain a Plumbers/Electricians License until further clarification and definition can be obtained. Roll call vote: Yeas: Meals, Begnoche, Young, D. Hess, Baker, Ouellette, Brown and B. Hess. Nays: None.

A motion was made by Councilor D. Hess seconded by Councilor Meals to approve Ordinance No. 2272 Eliminating the Street Superintendent Position from the Residency Requirement. The Chief of Police and Fire Chief are now the only positions that require residency within the Clay Center City limits. Roll call vote: Yeas: Meals, Young, D. Hess, Baker, Brown and Ouellette. Nays: B. Hess and Begnoche.

Committee Reports as follows:

**Administrative:** Jim Brown reported that the Administrative Committee will be setting up a schedule for budget meetings in July.

Joe Hurla from 360 Energy Solutions was present to review the public projects grant that the City of Clay Center was awarded for energy efficient upgrades to city facilities. This grant is a 60/40 split, with the city required to pay 40% of the costs of the energy efficient replacements. Some of the possible projects would be replacing the heating/cooling system at the fire station, installing automation controls, replacing the lighting at city hall and replacing the heaters at the city shop. The estimated cost for the city is up to \$35,000. A motion was made by Councilor Begnoche seconded by Councilor B. Hess to direct 360 Energy Solutions to prepare the bid specs for the suggested projects. This will not commit the city and they can choose which projects they want to proceed with. Roll call vote: Yeas: Meals, Begnoche, Young, D. Hess, Baker, Ouellette, Brown and B. Hess. Nays: None.

Councilor Brown will be contacting the Harris' regarding their building downtown that is considered a dangerous structure and asking them to come to the next meeting to discuss their plans for the building.

**Public Safety:** Justin Begnoche reported that one of the fire trucks recently had to replace the airbrakes. He also indicated that he will be scheduling a meeting to review the proposed Mitigation Plan. Mr. Begnoche reviewed building permits for the following: 1) Harlan Max Smith located at 1103 3<sup>rd</sup> Street for a shed; 2) James Eisenman located at 1125 3<sup>rd</sup> Street for a garage; 3) USD 379 located north of the track for a shed; and 4) John Lane located at 721 Hidden Valley Drive for a new house.

**Public Services:** Daton Hess reported that they had an interview for the Street Commissioner. He will be setting up a meeting with Kent Hessling, the Waste Water Superintendent to review a sewer maintenance plan in the near future.

**Property and Recreation:** Councilor Ouellette informed the council that there was a Public Hearing for the Public Recreation Commission Budget prior to the Council meeting. He reported that they are still researching the repair work necessary for the pond at the cemetery.

A motion was made by Councilor B. Hess seconded by Councilor D. Hess to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried 8-0.

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JAMES R THATCHER, Mayor

ATTEST:

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KERRY ROZMAN, City Clerk