

CLAY CENTER CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
JUNE 21, 2011

The Clay Center City Council met in regular session on June 21, 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, Daton Hess, Ryhs Baker, Dennis Ouellette and Butch Hess. Also present were City Attorney Dustin Mullin and City Clerk Kerry Rozman. Councilor Jim Brown arrived at 7:45 p.m.

Mayor Thatcher reported that the National Medal of Honor Society is locating the medal winners via GPS so that people may locate them easily. Henry H Taylor is located in Greenwood Cemetery and received the Medal of Honor on June 25, 1863 for being the first to plant the Union colors upon the enemy's works.

Mr. Thatcher indicated that the Public Utilities will be using some of the millings from the Street Department for a walkway at the Utility Zoo Park. These millings are not the millings that can be used for street repairs.

Copies of the minutes from the June 6, 2011 Public Utilities Commission meeting and Public Utilities Commission Appropriations Nos. 2090 and 2091 were presented for review. Also included for review were the month financial reports.

The Consent Agenda consisted of the meeting minutes of June 7, 2011 and Appropriation Ordinances No. 3382 and 3383 and a Shrine Bowl Proclamation. A motion was made by Councilor B. Hess, seconded by Councilor D. Hess to approve the Consent Agenda in its entirety. Roll call vote: Yeas: Meals, Begnoche, Young, D. Hess, Baker, Ouellette and B. Hess. Nays: None.

A motion was made by Councilor D. Hess seconded by Councilor B. Hess to adopt Ordinance No. 2270 Designating a Handicapped Parking Stall on the East Side of Fourth Street Between Court and Dexter Streets. Roll call vote: Yeas: Meals, Begnoche, Young, D. Hess, Baker, Ouellette and B. Hess. Nays: None.

A motion was made by Councilor B. Hess seconded by Councilor Meals to approve Resolution No. 1510 Setting a Public Auction for Disposal of an Abandoned Car on July 19, 2011 at 7:30 p.m. Roll call vote: Yeas: Meals, Begnoche, Young, D. Hess, Baker, Ouellette and B. Hess. Nays: None.

The Blue Cross/Blue Shield Health Insurance plan year ends on June 30, 2011 and is up for renewal. A motion was made by Councilor Begnoche seconded by Councilor B. Hess to renew the Blue Cross/Blue Shield Health Insurance for a period of one year with the same benefits as are currently offered. The City will continue to pay 100% of the premium for the health and the employee single dental policy. A motion was made by Councilor Begnoche seconded by Councilor B. Hess to approve the renewal of the Blue Cross/Blue Shield Health Insurance from July 1, 2011 to June 30, 2012. Motion carried 6-0. Abstentions: D. Hess.

City Clerk Rozman is recommending the purchase of the payroll software from Data Technologies, Inc. This will enable the payroll to be interfaced with the general ledger as well as the bank reconciliation modules already in place with the current software. The Public Utilities will be paying \$3,575 towards this payroll as all employees are reported on the quarterly and annual payroll reports. A motion was made by Councilor B. Hess seconded by Councilor D. Hess to approve the purchase of the payroll software not to exceed a cost of \$6,425 for the City. Motion carried 7-0.

Mayor Thatcher requested council action on whether they wanted to proceed with the Energy Grant that has been discussed in the past. This grant would be for updating lighting fixtures, furnaces, etc., that are in the various city buildings. A motion was made by Councilor Begnoche seconded by Councilor Young to have Joseph Hurla from 360 Energy Solutions come to a future meeting and review the grant and the options available. Motion carried 7-1. Councilor B. Hess cast the no vote.

Danae Rothfuss d/b/a NCK Fireworks applied for a fireworks license and it was submitted for approval. A motion was made by Councilor Begnoche seconded by Councilor Young to approve the fireworks license. Motion carried 7-1. Councilor Meals cast the no vote.

Bob Kitt d/b/a Bob's Stump Grinding Service applied for a tree trimming license and it was submitted for approval. A motion was made by Councilor B. Hess seconded by Councilor Brown to approve the tree trimming license. Motion carried 8-0.

Committee Reports as follows:

Administrative: Jim Brown reported that the Administrative Committee will be setting up a schedule for budget meetings in July. Keith Blake was in attendance and wanted to get the Council's approval on continuing the existing agreement with the Economic Development Group of Clay County supporting the Economic Development Director position by contributing \$6,250 quarterly towards the salary. A motion was made by Councilor Brown seconded by Councilor D. Hess to continue the Memorandum of Understanding with the Clay County EDG. Motion carried 7-1. Councilor Baker cast the no vote.

Public Safety: Justin Begnoche reported that there was a fire at the old animal shelter caused by a water heater. There was only minor damage and the fire was put out by Parks Superintendent Otto Straub. Janel Michaud updated the governing body on the progress of the potential new animal shelter. They are currently trying to obtain a fiscal sponsorship thru the Clay Center Community Improvement Foundation. They are wanting the go ahead from the governing body to continue to proceed with the project and giving the committee up to a year to decide whether they will use the building that once was the animal shelter. The consensus was to continue on with the project. Janel indicated that once the fiscal sponsorship was secured, they would start searching for grants and have various fund raisers on a monthly basis.

Public Services: Daton Hess reported that nine applications have been received for the Street Superintendent position. He also informed the governing body that the pump station has required \$6,291.70 worth of repairs for damages incurred from the flood.

Kent Hessling is currently working on a uniform bid for the sewer and street departments. Additionally, Kent is working on a sewer maintenance program. Mr. Hess asked Greg Jensen to step up to the podium and thanked him for his three years of service for the City of Clay Center. Greg thanked the governing body for their support and said he has enjoyed working for the city.

Property and Recreation: Councilor Ouellette informed the council that he has received a quote for repairs at the cemetery pond. The flooding washed out the north end of the pond at the dyke. The governing body members will look at the damage and make a decision at a later date as to how they will proceed with the repairs.

The gutters and down spouts at the Boy Scout cabin are in the process of being replaced. There has been a sign posted at Dexter Park to indicate that shoes must be worn at all times around the new playground equipment. There have been a couple of instances where steel from recycled tires have been a problem.

Councilor B. Hess has had a request to put stop signs on all four corners of 4th & Grant Streets. The Public Safety Committee will do some research regarding this request.

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

JAMES R THATCHER, Mayor

ATTEST:

KERRY ROZMAN, City Clerk