

CITY OF PLEASANTON, KANSAS

City Council Meeting Minutes

Monday November 16, 2015

6:00 p.m.

Mayor Pro-Tem Brandon Johnson opened the meeting at 6:03 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance. Attending council members included Chris Ellis, Brandon Johnson, Jake Mattingley, Cynthia Frisbee and Tristian Wurtz-Smith. Also present were City Counselor Gary Thompson, City Administrator Erica Kern, City Clerk Teresa Whitaker and Amber Coulter of *Linn County News*.

❖ Mayor's Comments/Executive Session Requests:

The meeting opened at 6:00 pm with the Pledge of Allegiance. At 6:30 pm a motion was made by Jake Mattingley to go into executive session for non-elected personnel for 30 minutes to resume at 7:00 pm. Chris Ellis 2nd. 4-0. The meeting resumed at 7:00. No action taken. Jake Mattingley requested an additional executive session for 20 minutes for non-elected personnel. Chris 2nd. Motion carried 4-0. Brandon Johnson called the meeting back to order. A motion was made to discontinue the sick bank immediately and have it removed from the city handbook by Cynthia Frisbee. Tristian Wurtz -Smith 2nd. Motion carried 4-0.

❖ City Administrator & Financial Overview:

Due to the late arrival of two Council members, Kern offered her executive report. Kern stated that Christmas in the Park is coming up on December 5, 2015. Last year, there was a chili feed. She asked the Council what they wanted to do this year as far as food and which bank to go through. Smith stated she had prepared the chili, and Rocky Beltz and Tim Staton had prepared some food also. Smith asked if the ticket proceeds will go towards the community building fund. Kern stated that is how it is advertised. It was estimated that about \$900.00 was donated towards the community center last year. Kern gave the council the flyers for the event. The flyers were distributed to the kids at school a couple weeks ago. Smith asked if there was a group put together for this. Smith suggested reaching out to the Chamber of Commerce.

Kern stated the brick count on the community building was short about 1000 bricks but Joplin Building Supply has the bricks in stock and we will need to pick them up. Kern then shared that the grant extension will be submitted this Friday but it is due the end of November.

7 employees signed up for the new health insurance and met with Scott Day last week. The old insurance will be finished in December and the new one will take effect in December 2015.

Public works went and fixed Peggy Magee's ditch. Ms. Magee was still concerned with the ditch's appearance. Joe will go back over there and see what still needs to be done. Kern encouraged the council to drive by and look at the property.

The sidewalk grant survey is nearly done. Within the next month, all the final surveying will be done and then we will advertise for bids. We are coming up on the deadline for awarding the work.

Snow Hill Rock Quarry is doing well. Kevin is expecting to be up to about 50 employees soon. His wages are between \$13-14 for non-skilled laborers and \$14.00-\$16.00 per hour to skilled laborers.

Kern shared the preliminary correction notices for the employees. The outlines were presented to the Council with some scenarios. Frisbee asked if City Attorney Gary Thompson had looked at the new correction forms. Kern affirmed.

The county infrastructure grant should be discussed as to how the City will use the monies. Johnson asked if streets were considered infrastructure. Kern said they were in addition to curbs and gutters, demolition and clean up, public utilities etc. Johnson stated it isn't a lot of money so not much can be done. Kern stated we could hold off on spending it and let it build and then use it on streets or another project. Thompson asked when the application had to be in. Kern stated the timelines. Johnson asked if this will be an annual amount. Kern stated this year is more than what is expected next year. As it stands, it is supposed to go on for 3 years. Kern stated she will attend the economic development meeting and talk to the commissioners about how best to use the funds.

❖ Approve Consent Agenda:

Motion made by Tristian Wurtz Smith to approve consent agenda. Cynthia 2nd. Motion carried 4-0.

❖ Public Speaker:

Scott Mayse of 705 E. Park St. was here to discuss raw sewage issues. The issues began around May. He discovered he had a septic tank and had never been on city sewer but had paid sewer since 1990 roughly. Ellis gave a bid of around \$3000.00 to repair it but Ellis felt that Public works could take care of the issue. Public works had to dig down 12 feet. He estimated at about \$26.00 per month for the years he had service that he wasn't actually using was near \$6000.00. He asked that the Council consider giving him a reprieve on his bill in lieu of money to reimburse the costs. Kern stated that she was concerned about crediting for years that have already been audited. She stated we could go back and credit or remove sewer charges for a period of time. Ellis asked if there were customers that weren't receiving charges. Smith asked if we could go back. Kern stated she wasn't sure how we could go back without throwing red flags. As long as Kern can remember, we have

charged for sewer. The cost of the sewer was discussed. Mid -summer Mayse had his bill adjusted to remove sewer charges until the problem could be fixed. Ellis stated it wasn't unreasonable. There was supposed to be a sewer line that was tied into when Mayse bought the house. The sewage came out this spring and he then stated he didn't know he had a septic tank so it had never been drained. Thompson stated it would take roughly 16 years at the current rate to reimburse him. The cost of materials was roughly \$100.00 and 8 tons of rock at about 10.00 per ton at a cost of roughly \$200.00. Mayse stated public works did a great job and will finish in the spring. Thompson stated that the auditor needs to be contacted. Kern stated that she will talk to Terry Sercer and ensure there are no repercussions. Mayse stressed he is not after cash but would like some sort of reprieve. His account is currently not being charged for sewer. Until the auditor is contacted, no timeline or repayment can be offered.

❖ **Council Member Discussion:**

Wurtz Smith asked if Kern knew of Josh Baldwin at Dreamscapes could do the Christmas decorations. Kern said she did and had already met with him and they came to the conclusion that it was too rushed to get it done this year. There are some decorations Kern is trying to get done with the help of Baldwin. There is an issue with power to the decorations on Main Street. Smith stated that Mound City has their decorations done by Baldwin every year and thought it would be a good idea to have him do ours each year. Tanner Ogden stated that he does some of our decorations already. Kern stated Baldwin is going to work up a proposal for him doing our lights next year. Smith then stated that two years ago, there was a contest held for the best lighting display and they were awarded a water bill discount as a prize. She stated it would be a good idea to do it again. Kern will put something together for that.

Cynthia Frisbee asked about the potholes on the gravel road by the compactor. Both coming in and going out the road is in bad shape. Joe Whitaker stated it has been a long time since it has been done. The grader tires were in need of repair and now that they are done, the road will be addressed.

Jake Mattingley made a motion to terminate Chris Wurtz as an at will employee. Chris Ellis 2nd. Brandon Johnson voted in favor. Cynthia Frisbee voted against. Tristian Wurtz-Smith recused. Motion carried 3-1.

❖ **City Attorney:**

No report

❖ **Chief of Police:**

Tanner Ogden said he had nothing to report as it has been a nice couple of weeks.

❖ **Planning & Zoning:**

The names are still needed for the planning and zoning committee. Erica stated the council needs to get the names to her and she will present them to Eldred then get a letter drafted for approval. Kern stated two names are inside the city limits and one is outside. Kern stated she spoke to Larry Robinson. Mr. Robinson initially lived inside the city limits but has since moved outside the city limits. He told her they need a mixture of out of town and in town members.

❖ **Public Works:**

Joe Whitaker stated that things have been being cleaned up around town. Last week, a gentleman was having sewer issues. Whitaker stated that the sewer had collapsed and was supposed to have been repaired about 4 years ago. The address was behind 109 East Broad. There was initially about 30-40 feet replaced back then. There was a riser on the line with an orange caution cone that gave Public Works the impression the sewer wasn't hooked up. It evidently was hooked up though. They dug down 12 feet and repaired it.

The west lakes have been mowed up around the edges and around the spillway. The ditch line on 15th Street was taken care of also. Chris Ellis asked if the guys are trained on trench safety. Whitaker stated one employee is. Kern stated there has been discussion on purchasing some shoring. Whitaker stated most of the time they can stair step the sides but the sewer near the church is 12 feet deep and is going to require shoring. The city can rent it at about \$150 per day.

❖ **New Business:**

Discuss and approve the contract for Erica Kern. The pay rate needs to adjust to \$50,440.00. As Kern doesn't get the water allowance, it was discussed if she could receive a benefit in lieu of the water allowance. The Council stated that was not something they would change as she is just outside the city limits. The mileage rate would be the standards government mileage rate. After some discussion, Cynthia Frisbee motioned to approve the contract for Erica Kern for an annual salary of \$50,440.00 with a correction of the name on the contract to read Erica Kern. Chris 2nd. Motion carried 4-0.

Kern stated the adjustment to the smoking policy needs to include chewing tobacco, dip and other similar tobacco products. Council asked if the e-cigarettes or vapors were included. Thompson stated it did not cover those. Council asked if he could revise this to include those.

Discuss the changes to employee disciplinary forms. The council wished to review then will discuss it at a future meeting.

The employee confidentiality HIPPA agreement was discussed and Gary explained the form. Motion was by Chris Ellis to approve the form. Jake Mattingley 2nd. Motion carried 4-0.

The Christmas bonuses were discussed. Kern stated the bonuses had been \$200.00 for full time and \$100.00 for part time. Kern also presented the alternative of raising the bonuses to \$250.00 and \$125.00. The council asked about the part timers and would they be included. Chris Ellis motioned to approve the bonuses at the same amount as it was last year to include full timers and only the active part timers. Cynthia 2nd. Motion carried 4-0.

A Water/ sewer increase of 3% was discussed. Kern read the water increase schedule that has taken place over the last three years. Thompson stated that is as far as the scheduled increases had gone. Chris Ellis made a motion to raise the water and sewer by 3%. Jake Mattingley 2nd. Motion carried 3-0. Cynthia and Tristian opposed. Motion carried 3-2.

❖ **Unfinished Business:**

None

❖ **Reminders**

- Volunteers needed Saturday and Sunday anytime from 9:00 am till done.
- Christmas in the Park is scheduled for December 5, 2015 from 6:00-8:00 pm.

❖ **Adjourn**

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Tristian Wurtz Smith. Chris Ellis 2nd the motion. Motion carried 4-0. The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 pm.

Brandon Johnson, Pro-tem Mayor

Teresa Whitaker, City Clerk