

CITY COMMISSION MINUTES

August 20, 2024

7:00 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

The scheduled meeting of the Junction City Commission was held on Tuesday, August 20th, 2024 with Mayor Pat Landes presiding.

The following members of the Commission were present: Pat Landes, Ronna Larson, Al Gordon, & Richard Pinaire. Staff present was: Interim City Manager Vernon, City Clerk Diaz Lorenzo, City Finance Director Jamel Wilcox, and City Attorney Stites.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Micheal Johnson, 317 W 2nd Street, Junction City Kansas discussed 2nd & Adams & 1st & Adams has drainage issues.

Larry Ruiz, 1906 McFarland, Junction City Kansas discussed the Land Bank properties and all empty properties.

Mary Snipes, 222 East 15th Street, Junction City Kansas discussed Sonia Massey case. Thanked the Police Department and the Parks & Recreation Department.

Patrein Dozier, 226 West 14th, Junction City Kansas discussed an incident with her alarm system and the Police Department.

Desree Petra, 3224 Old Highway 40, Junction City, Kansas discussed the feasibility study.

Yurii Zhupnyk, 342 Grant Avenue, discussed city water bill rates.

Ryan Wood, 1302 Summit, Junction City Kansas discussed the firework ordinance.

Ryan Wilson, 950 Court St, Clay Center Kansas discussed the Union newspaper.

Mathew Smith, 1313 Manley Circle, Junction City Kansas discussed a matter involving a missing child.

Niket Patel, 1001 East 6th Street, Junction City Kansas discussed his hotel's water bill.

CONSENT AGENDA

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Commissioner Gordon moved to approve the Minutes of August 6th, 2024, seconded by Commissioner Larson to approve the consent agenda as noted below. Ayes: Landes, Larson, Pinaire & Gordon. Nays: None. Motion carried.

- a. Consideration of Appropriation Ordinance A-16 dated – August 6, 2024 – August 21, 2024, in the amount of \$1,093,179.60 and pre-approval for items listed below in the amount \$4,320.00.

WDM Architects PA \$4,320.00

Security Bank \$268,367.50

Everygy \$65,126.32

- b. Consideration of July 2024 ambulance contractual obligation adjustments for \$28,993.64 and bad debt adjustments for \$19,011.04.
- c. Consideration of the amended City Commission Budget Work Session Minutes from the July 15th, 2024 Meeting.
- d. Consideration of City Commission Minutes from the August 6th, 2024 Meeting.
- e. Consideration of the IT Department's request to purchase computer systems as part of the City's computer replacement program.
- f. Consideration of the request for approval for Highwind Brewery to sell and serve Cereal Malt Beverages at Heritage Park during the Junction City EXPO, scheduled from 29 August 2024 to 29 August 2024.
- g. Consideration of Subdivision Special Assessments, Storm Water Assessments, & Blight Assessments to be sent to Geary County for the 2024 Tax Statement.

NEW BUSINESS

Payroll No. 15 & No. 16 was presented.

Commissioner Pinaire stated that he wanted a commitment from someone that from now on after this meeting that the payroll details will be added to the packet and that if he did not get the commitment, he would not vote to approve payroll tonight.

Interim City Manager Vernon stated that in the past they had not added payroll details. That it is available through the Freedom Information Act. Mayor Landes stated that they needed to hold a special meeting when Commissioner Underhill returned. Commissioner Larson stated that they had talked about different options and Commissioner Pinaire was not happy with the option she had brought up. Commissioner Pinaire stated he wants names, that he has no idea

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what the severance pay the former city manager got. That it should be in the packet like all the other thousands of bills we pay.

Interim City Manager Vernon stated that the salaries are approved during the budget development by department. Commissioner Pinaire stated that the public has to do a Freedom of Information Request unless it is in the packet.

Commissioner said it was about being held accountable. Commissioner Larson stated there is accountability, audits, there are different steps...there is a way to hold them accountable without specifying name and paycheck.

Commissioner Pinaire stated he is not going to vote on a salary that I can't read in my packet. Commissioner Gordon stated he did not feel comfortable either.

City Attorney Stites stated that if they did not pass payroll and employees were not paid that it will open the city to potential liability under the Fair Labor and Standards Act and as well as other state acts, that could be 200 plus lawsuits against the city if you choose not to pass payroll and pay your employees. Commissioner Pinaire stated that is why he is asking for commitment.

Commissioner Larson asked what the commitment is, Commissioner Pinaire stated that he will approve this payroll with the commitment that the payroll details will be included moving forward starting with the September Commission Meeting.

Mr. Vernon said he was not going to make that commitment. Commissioner Larson stated that the amount and breakdown was shown and that she didn't understand why he needs it laid out by name and we have audit and accountability pieces.

Larson stated she was not going to have anyone not get paid because the commission could not agree on something and that was not going to have 200 lawsuits come to the city so she would be the third vote.

Commissioner Pinaire moved to approve Payroll No. 15 & No. 16 with the commitment from Commissioner Larson to support the publication of future salary details being published moving forward, seconded by Commissioner Gordon. Ayes: Gordon, Pinaire, & Larson. Nays: Landes. Motion carried.

Consideration and approval of the vacation the 8-foot side yard setback from Lot 1 & 18, Block 5; Sutter Highlands Subdivision. Community Development Director Srackangast gave details. Commissioner Gordon moved to approve the vacation of the 8-foot side yard setback from Lot 1 & 18, Block 5; Sutter Highlands Subdivision, seconded by Commissioner Larson. Ayes: Landes, Larson, Gordon, & Pinaire. Nays: None. Motion carried.

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The Award of Bid for the Water Line Improvements Phase II to Serve Rosa Meyer Residence to J & K Contracting, L.C. in the amount of \$116,180 was presented. Leon Osborne from Kaw Valley gave details and answered questions. Commissioner Gordon moved to approve the Award of Bid for the Water Line Improvements Phase II to Serve Rosa Meyer Residence to J & K Contracting, L.C. in the amount of \$116,180, seconded by Commissioner Pinaire. Ayes: Landes, Larson, Gordon, & Pinaire. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Discussion on the Call Center, VA Possibility, & RFPs. City Attorney Stites and Community Development Director Srackangast gave details and answered questions.

Discussion on the Offer of Option on City Land. City Attorney Stites gave details and answered questions.

Discussion of the Fireworks Ordinance. City Attorney Stites gave details and answered questions. Ryan Wilson spoke on the dates and hours that fireworks were being shot off.

Discussion on EMS Mediation. Attorney Stites gave details and answered questions.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Executive Session for Attorney Client Privilege regarding the pending litigation in 24-CV-15 & the ongoing EMS negotiations with Geary County concerning FY 2024 and FY 2025 was held. Commissioner Larson moved that the Commission recess for an executive session for 10 minutes at 8:45 p.m. to include the Interim City Manager, City Attorney, City Finance Director, and The Junction City Fire Chief to consult with the City Attorney regarding the pending litigation in 24-CV-15 & the ongoing EMS negotiations with Geary County. The justification for the executive session is to protect the attorney client privilege and is provided by KSA 75-4319(b)(2). The open meeting is to resume in this room at 8:55 p.m., seconded by Commissioner Gordon. Ayes: Gordon, Landes, & Larson. Nays: None. Pinaire Abstained. Motion carried.

Commissioner Larson moved to return from Executive Session for Attorney Client Privilege regarding the pending litigation in 24-CV-15 & the ongoing EMS negotiations with Geary County where no action was taken, seconded by Commissioner Gordon. Ayes: Gordon, Landes, & Larson. Nays: None. Pinaire Abstained. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS CONTINUED

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Discussion on the commitment of remaining ARPA Funds. Interim City Manager Vernon, Leon Osborne Kaw Valley, & Parks & Recreation Director Gray gave details and answered questions.

Discussion on Day Care Ordinances. City Attorney Stites gave details and answered questions.

Discussion on Viewpoint Promotional Opportunity. Interim City Manager Vernon gave details and answered questions.

MAYOR, COMMISSIONER & STAFF COMMENTS

Mayor, Commissioners and Staff provided reports on Committees and Community Events.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Gordon moved, seconded by Commissioner Larson to adjourn at 9:33 p.m. Ayes: Gordon, Landes, Larson, & Pinaire. Nays: None. Motion carried.

APPROVED AND ACCEPTED THIS 3RD DAY OF SEPTEMBER AS THE OFFICIAL COPY OF THE JUNCTION CITY COMMISSION MINUTES FOR AUGUST 20TH, 2024.



Ariana Diaz Lorenzo, City Clerk



Pat Landes, Mayor

