

WASHINGTON CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
Regular Meeting –City Hall
October 3, 2022

1. Call to order by Mayor Ryan Kern.

2. Roll Call.

Present: Ryan Kern, Mayor
Jerry Fuhrken, Council Member
Terry Morse, Council Member
Carolyn Pinnick, Council Member

Absent: Theresa Herrs, Council Member
Roxanne Schottel, Council Member

Staff Present: City Administrator Carl Chalfant
Denise Powell, City Clerk
David L'Ecuyer, Power Plant

Others: Cynthia Scheer, Washington County News
Steve Barnes, Washington
Steve Farabee, Farabee

Mechanical

3. Citizens Comments.

Steve Farabee, Farabee Mechanical, visited with the Council after reading the article on the September Council meeting in Washington County News. He said the Council was frustrated with the cost overage for installation of the engines at the Power Plant and he doesn't want Farabee getting the blame as their scope of work and cost has not shifted or changed. Farabee said some of the confusion may come from a Master Service Agreement from KMEA Mid-States for the electrical portion of the project that was signed around the same time. Chalfant stated it was City's own oversight and wasn't all due to the power plant, it was also electric distribution.

Farabee stated they have joined the crowd of being understaffed and they are "busting their butts to get things done".

4. Minutes.

Motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held September 6, 2022, by Pinnick and seconded by Fuhrken.

Vote: Ayes: Jerry Fuhrken
Terry Morse
Carolyn Pinnick

5. Appropriations Ordinance.

Motion to approve Appropriations Ordinance 2022-10 by Pinnick and seconded by Morse.

Vote: Ayes: Jerry Fuhrken
Terry Morse
Carolyn Pinnick

6. Power Plant Engine Lease Purchase Agreement/Invoice.

Motion to approve payment of Invoice No. 2340-8-22 to KMEA Mid-States in the amount of \$18,147.41 for material to hook up two Fairbanks engines at the power plant to be paid through the UB&T lease purchase by Pinnick and seconded by Morse.

Vote: Ayes: Jerry Fuhrken
Terry Morse
Carolyn Pinnick

7. Steve Barnes Request.

Steve Barnes visited with the Council about bushes in the “alley” in the 300 Block of College and 1st Street. City Administrator Carl Chalfant stated there is no dedicated alley in the 300 Block of College and 1st Street according to the City’s plat.

The alley is not platted. The City does have the authority to plat but it must be done through eminent domain/condemnation.

Council asked City Administrator Chalfant to visit with the property owner.

8. Eric’s Automotive Request.

City Attorney Elizabeth Hiltgen is reviewing the request of Eric Gepner, owner of Eric’s Automotive, to install a 150-pound Liquified Petroleum Gas Storage Tank to heat a garage at 205 W 1st Street. In light of the new law the City’s code may need to be modified.

9. Rotary Pickleball Court Memorandum of Understanding.

Motion to purchase the materials to install lighting and timer at the pickleball court not to exceed \$2,000 to be paid out of the special park and recreation fund by Pinnick and seconded by Fuhrken.

Vote: Ayes: Jerry Fuhrken
Terry Morse
Carolyn Pinnick

Council tabled action on a Memorandum of Understanding between the City of Washington and Rotary Club of Washington to establish and allocate responsibilities for the pickleball court to ensure proper and timely completion of ongoing maintenance.

10. Library Request.

Consensus of the Council is to approve the Library Board’s request to make improvements to the interior walls and doors of the library. The board plans to use money from the Estate of Larry A. Davison.

11. PER Street Project.

Motion to approve the Preliminary Engineering Report (KDOT and CDBG) for Street Improvements at a cost not to exceed \$46,710 to be paid out of the Sales Tax Fund by Morse and seconded by Pinnick.

Vote: Ayes: Jerry Fuhrken
Terry Morse
Carolyn Pinnick

12. Electric Fund Finances.

At the September Council meeting, the Council requested a detailed list of electric fund projects along with cost estimates that have been previously approved or that need to be done in reference to ongoing projects. Council was given a detailed list of approved projects not completed or paid for, proposed projects and cost estimates and a detailed spreadsheet of the electric fund budget. Council discussed the conversion project and installation of engine.

Consensus of the Council is that in the future, document plans shall be submitted for projects so funding can be put in place and details and timeline can be established.

13. Sewer Camera Bids.

Motion to accept the bid from Key Equipment for the Rovver X System to include the alternate in an amount not to exceed \$41,500 to be paid out of the Municipal Equipment Reserve Fund by Morse and seconded by Fuhrken.

Vote: Ayes: Jerry Fuhrken
Terry Morse
Carolyn Pinnick

14. Water Wells/Well Generator Upgrades.

Motion to approve two fabricated submersible discharge heads for Wells No. 1 & 2 to allow for well depth monitoring equipment at a cost not to exceed \$3,600 from Sargent Drilling by Morse and seconded by Fuhrken.

Vote: Ayes: Jerry Fuhrken
Terry Morse
Carolyn Pinnick

Motion to approve the acid and chlorine treatment and labor to surge, bail and test pump wells No. 2 & No. 3 at the City Wells from Sargent Drilling at a cost not to exceed \$14,700 by Fuhrken and seconded by Pinnick.

Vote: Ayes: Jerry Fuhrken
Terry Morse
Carolyn Pinnick

15. Sewer Lift Station Control Upgrades.

Motion to approve the purchase of a lift station controller with 4" color touch screen, radar level sensor, installed, new radio equipment installed and moving existing SCADA panel to industrial park sewer lift station, master updated, PID level control available for future use at a cost not to exceed \$18,271.28 from Sargent Drilling by Pinnick and seconded by Morse.

Vote: Ayes: Jerry Fuhrken
Terry Morse
Carolyn Pinnick

No action was taken on an Inspection and Maintenance Agreement from Nebraska Generator Service LLC on the generator at the wells. Council asked that a staff member be designated to be responsible for the maintenance.

16. Water Project Pay Request.

Motion to approve and authorize Mayor Ryan Kern to sign Contractor's Application for Payment No. 1 Sargent Drilling in the amount of \$159,726.93 by Pinnick and seconded by Fuhrken.

Vote: Ayes: Jerry Fuhrken
Terry Morse
Carolyn Pinnick

17. Underground Wire Project Memo.

Motion to approve the quote not to exceed \$7,475 from Mike Schmaderer, KMEA Mid-States, to assist in pulling and terminating underground wire for the conversion for two feeder lines at North B Street by Morse and seconded by Fuhrken.

Vote: Ayes: Jerry Fuhrken
Terry Morse
Carolyn Pinnick

18. Boiler Relocation Quote.

Motion to approve the quote not to exceed \$7,450.00 from Mike Schmaderer, KMEA Mid-States, to relocate the boiler at the power plant by Morse and seconded by Pinnick.

Vote: Ayes: Jerry Fuhrken
Terry Morse
Carolyn Pinnick

19. Emergency Vehicles Letter.

Motion to authorize the Council and Mayor to sign a letter to be sent to legislators regarding emergency vehicle production delays by Morse and seconded by Pinnick.

Vote: Ayes: Jerry Fuhrken
Terry Morse
Carolyn Pinnick

20. Executive Session.

Motion to enter into executive session to discuss employee evaluation and job performance for non-elected personnel to include the Mayor, Council, and City Administrator to resume in the Council chambers at 8:40 p.m. by Pinnick and seconded by Fuhrken.

Vote: Ayes: Jerry Fuhrken
Terry Morse
Carolyn Pinnick

Motion to give Lineman 2 a \$1.00 dollar per hour wage increase effective on the first full pay period following his six-month probationary date of October 11, 2022, by Pinnick and seconded by Fuhrken.

Vote: Ayes: Jerry Fuhrken
Terry Morse
Carolyn Pinnick

21. City Administrator Report.

- a) **Storm Sewer Bids.** Bids were requested for storm sewer installation and are due Monday, October 10. Staff is requesting the Council adjourn to Noon, Tuesday, October 11, 2022 to consider approval.
- b) **KDOT 36 Project.** Staff reached out to KDOT due to all the complaints on the condition of the roads south of Highway 36 that semis are using instead of the detour. KDOT sent an email stating they will consider reimbursement for damages.
- c) **Street Line, Curb, & Handicap Parking Painting.** Pete Sherlock has put together a group of youth volunteers to help paint street lines, curbs and handicap parking downtown at 1 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 16th, 2022. All volunteers are welcome!
- d) **Electric Service to Water Plant.** Staff has received a quote from KMEA Mid-States to relocate the electric service from the water plant to an underground service at an estimated cost of \$8,775. The current overhead service is in bad shape, and has three transformers on a pole in bad condition. Staff is installing the conduit in the substation while it is torn up and other conduit is being laid to allow for access to an underground service. Cost estimate is enclosed for review.
- e) **TRANSFORMER RELOCATION AT POWER PLANT.** Staff sought a quote from KMEA Mid-States to relocate the transformer bank located on the north side of the power plant which is interfering with the new engine coolers and exhaust towers. This was recognized earlier but somehow an estimate was obtained for the relocation. The cost is around \$34,720. Staff believes they have a temporary solution that would allow the power plant to keep operating and not face the expense in 2022 but will need to be completed within the next year. Cost estimate was given to the Council for review.
- f) **Playground Committee.** Notes from the Playground Committee were given to the Council for review. Their next meeting is October 9th at the Emergency Services building.

g) **Retirement.** Chalfant received an official letter of retirement from Power Plant Operator Richard Applegarth effective December 31, 2022.

22. City Clerk Report.

- a) **Employee Health Insurance.** Staff asked about seeking bids on employee health insurance. Consensus of the Council was to wait on BCBS renewal rates before making a decision.
- b) **Uniform Policy.** No decision was made on a uniform policy other than employees should only wear them while working for the City.
- c) **League Legislative Dinners.** Council was given the dates of the 2022 League of Kansas Municipalities Legislative Dinners. Anyone interested in attending should contact City Clerk Denise Powell to be registered.
- d) **Reports.** The Washington County Senior Citizens Meal Site August 2022 financials were given to the Council for review.

23. Reports.

Pinnick.

- a) **Daily Sheets.** Discussed daily sheets, staff time management and supervision.

Morse.

- a) **Fuel Adjustment.** Discussed changes in the fuel adjustment. Morse stated he obtained utility bills from other suppliers and stated they were not any higher than the City's.
- b) **Groundskeeper/Maintenance Man.** Morse presented the idea of hiring a groundskeeper/maintenance employee.
- c) **Potholes.** Discussed potholes.

Kern.

- a) **Water Contractor.** Asked about the work that was not completed by the water contractor and the deadline to pull the bond. City Administrator Chalfant will visit with the Engineer.

Meeting to adjourn to Noon October 11, 2022 by Pinnick and seconded by Fuhrken.

Vote: Ayes: Jerry Fuhrken
Terry Morse
Carolyn Pinnick

Meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

Denise M. Powell, City Clerk