

REGULAR MEETING, COUNCIL CHAMBERS; WASHINGTON, KANSAS; DATE: JANUARY 7, 2008

The Governing Body of the City of Washington, Kansas, met in Regular Session in the usual meeting place in said City on Monday, the seventh day of January, 2008, at 7:00 P.M. with the following members present: Mayor Harold H. Jones Jr.; Council Members Justin Cordry, Tom Dragastin, Meyler Gibbs, Randy Wyatt and Gene Martin.

Also present were City Administrator Tim Schook; Dan Thalman, Washington County News, and City Clerk Denise Powell; Clayton and Calvin Portenier, Washington; Zach and Rob Baker, Boy Scout Troop 86.

Harold H. Jones Jr. called the meeting to order at 7 p.m.

Xerox copies of the minutes of the previous regular meeting of Monday, December 3, adjourned meeting minutes of Monday, December 10, 2007 and Friday, December 28, 2007, were given to each Council Member for review. Council Member Meyler Gibbs moved to approve the minutes as corrected, Council Member Gene Martin seconded the motion for the FR Clothing Policy for lineman rather than Tom Dragastin. Council Member Randy Wyatt seconded the motion. Motion carried.

APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE NO. 2008-01

“AN ORDINANCE ALLOWING FOR PAYMENT OF THE CITY’S BILLS AND DEBITS.”

Thereupon on motion made by Council Member Randy Wyatt moved for its adoption, that the City Clerk is hereby authorized and directed to issue payroll Check Numbers 3959 through 3998; warrant Check Numbers 34656 through 34697; and Wires -42 through -43 in payment of just bills and claims against the City and debit the appropriate fund for each expenditure. Thereupon Council Member Tom Dragastin seconded the motion. Thereupon the motion carried.

ZONING: City Attorney Jason Brinegar stated he has put the zoning ordinance on the back burner.

15/36 PROJECT: City Attorney Jason Brinegar and City Administrator Tim Schook gave an update on the 15/36 project.

DISASTER PLAN: Tim Schook, city administrator, said the disaster plan would be ready by spring before storm season.

FARM GROUND LEASES: Council Member Randy Wyatt made a motion to renew the farm ground lease for approximately 15.675 acres (??) near the industrial park at \$920 annually with Stigge and Sons, Inc. Council Member Meyler Gibbs seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Council Member Tom Dragastin moved to present the farm lease as written to Dale Keesecker, Keesecker Agri Business, for approximately 14.19 acres of farm ground at \$797 per year. Council Member Justin Cordry seconded the motion. Motion carried.

CEREAL MALT BEVERAGE LICENSE: Council Member Meyler Gibbs made a motion to approve the cereal malt beverage license applications for Gambino’s Pizza contingent upon receiving their sales tax number. Council Member Tom Dragastin seconded the motion. Motion carried.

GAAP Waiver: Council Member Randy Wyatt moved to adopt Resolution 2008-01, GAAP (Generally Accepted Accounting Principles) Waiver. Council Member Meyler Gibbs seconded the motion. Motion carried.

INDIVIDUAL COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS: None.

RELEASE: City Administrator Tim Schook stated Greg Metz, following his surgery in November, has been released to return to normal work duties.

MILEAGE: Council members were given a report on mileage paid to all city employees in 2007.

EVALUATIONS: Tim Schook, city administrator stated he would have all employee evaluations done by the end of January. Schook gave evaluation forms for Powell, Hillyer and himself to the Mayor and Council.

PERSONNEL POLICY CHANGE: Council Member Tom Dragastin moved to accept changes to amend E-5 of the personnel policy to reflect: SICK LEAVE. Full-time employees shall be entitled to sick leave with pay for absences from illness, injuries, accidents or other physical incapacity, occurring either on or off the job. No employee shall be permitted to use sick leave for any period spent on unauthorized leave. Full-time employees, but not part-time employees, are entitled to sick leave with pay for physical examinations and dental work if he/she has provided at least one (1) day written notice to his/her immediate supervisor and approved by the City Administrator or the City Clerk in the Administrators absence. The employee shall state the reason for leave, doctor or dental, estimated length of time the employee will be away from the job site, date of the appointment, time of the appointment, what time the employee requested to leave, and an estimated time of return to work. Council Member Randy Wyatt seconded the motion. Motion carried.

STORM: City Administrator Tim Schook gave a report on the recent storm damage. Schook stated FEMA money is available on debris removal and possibly electrical. The Mayor and Council members reviewed the mutual aid report of those cities giving and receiving aid after the storm.

BROWNBACK: Surveys from Senator Sam Brownback were given to the Mayor and each Council Member to complete.

DONATION: Duckwall's gave a donation of \$205.39 to the Washington City Ambulance fund. Proceeds were from their cutest baby contest.

LEGISLATIVE: Information was given to the Mayor and Council Members about KMU and LKM legislative meetings. Schook stated he is tentatively planning to attend both meetings and if anyone would like to attend let him know.

CAPITOL DAY: City Hall Day at the Capitol is January 24.

ELECTRIC: Electric rates were discussed. Tim Schook, city administrator, stated as expected rates have gone up. Demand charge went from \$2.48 to \$3.00 and energy cost is around .53 cents per kilowatt plus transmission bringing wholesale cost of .07 cents per kilowatt.

The Power Plant may be generating more during the summer months to shave peak as part of a new energy plan. Schook stated this will benefit our system and the city will get reimbursed through the EMP project.

Mayor and Council Members reviewed a spreadsheet from MKEC on the hourly electric costs

HOSPITAL: All three transformers were replaced at the hospital due to voltage problems according to City Administrator Tim Schook.

ELECTRIC DISTRIBUTION: Barry Finlayson, line distribution superintendent, put together a list of equipment needed to work more safely and efficiently. Council Member Meyler Gibbs made a motion to approve the purchase of a grounding set at a cost not to exceed \$1,300. Council Member Randy Wyatt seconded the motion. Motion carried.

SEWER: The Council discussed potential upgrades to the city's main sewer lift station. An engineering estimate is \$265,000 for a new main sewer lift station, which needs to be raised above ground.

The City is considering a loan from the Kansas Department of Health and Environment for the project. KDHE will evaluate the local sewer rate and other information to determine the feasibility of the project. The proposed minimum sewer rate would increase from \$13 to \$15.50 and the user rate would go from \$1.00 per 1,000 gallons to \$2.05 per 1,000 gallons. Schook stated the increase would be \$6-\$7 per month for the average customer.

Charles Walters has purchased a lot formerly owned by Eunice Dickson on East College Street and plans to build a house there. He would like to connect to the city sewer system. City Administrator Tim Schook suggest tying into First Street but said main extensions require an engineer and KDHE approval. Schook also suggested a sewer district be created and the estimated cost would be \$20,000.

STREET: City Attorney Jason Brinegar will draw up an ordinance to annex part of U.S. 36 into the City of Washington at the west edge of town so the speed limit can be decreased from 65 mph to 35 mph at the request of Kansas Department of Transportation so the entrance to Gambino's will conform to their standards.

CABIN: Zach Baker, Boy Scout Troop 86, presented a check to the Mayor in the amount of \$250 which he raised to help offset expenses towards the restoration of the log cabin. Baker completed the project for his Eagle Scout project.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: On motion by Council Member Randy Wyatt that the City Council go into executive session for approximately 15 minutes for attorney-client privilege. From 8:40 p.m. to 8:55 p.m. Council Member Justin Cordry seconded the motion. Thereupon the motion carried unanimously.

On motion by Council member Randy Wyatt that the Council reconvenes to the regular session at 8:55 p.m. Thereupon Council Member Meyler Gibbs seconded the motion. Motion carried.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: On motion by Council Member Randy Wyatt that the City Council go into executive session for approximately 10 minutes for non-elected personnel. From 9:05 p.m. to 9:15 p.m. Council Member Tom Dragastin seconded the motion. Thereupon the motion carried unanimously.

On motion by Council Member Meyler Gibbs that the Council reconvenes to the regular session at 9:15 p.m. Thereupon Council Member Randy Wyatt seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Council Member Randy Wyatt made a motion to increase Raymie Jonte's pay by 50 cents per hour effective the next pay day for completing six month probationary period. Council Member Gene Martin seconded the motion. Motion carried.

COMMUNITY SERVICE: The Mayor and Council will give \$50 in Chamber script to Iris Gould in recognition of her community service.

CITY ATTORNEY COMMENTS: None.

ADJOURNMENT: Council Member Meyler Gibbs moved to adjourn. Council Member Randy Wyatt seconded the motion. Motion carried.