

WASHINGTON CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
Regular Meeting – City Hall
July 3, 2023

1. Call to order by Council President Roxanne Schottel.

2. Roll Call.

Present: Jerry Fuhrken, Council Member
Terry Morse, Council Member
Carolyn Pinnick, Council Member
Roxanne Schottel, Council Member

Absent: Ryan Kern, Mayor

Staff Present: Carl Chalfant, City Administrator
Denise Powell, City Clerk

Others: Cynthia Scheer, Washington County News
Justin Dragastin, The Dragastin Agency
Jerry Kellogg, Washington
Andrea Alldredge & Claire Lahodny, Playground Committee

3. Citizens Comments.

None.

4. Minutes.

Motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held June 5, 2023, by Morse and seconded by Pinnick.

Vote: Ayes: Jerry Fuhrken
Terry Morse
Carolyn Pinnick
Roxanne Schottel

5. Appropriations Ordinance 2023-07.

Motion to approve appropriations ordinance 2023-07 by Morse and seconded by Pinnick.

Vote: Ayes: Jerry Fuhrken
Terry Morse
Carolyn Pinnick
Roxanne Schottel

6. Justin Dragastin, The Dragastin Agency.

Justin Dragastin, The Dragastin Agency, was present to notify the Council they received a Kansas Municipal Utilities Safety Group dividend check in the amount of \$19,010.08. The City has received a dividend check since 2010.

7. Playground Committee.

Andrea Alldredge and Claire Lahodny, playground committee, visited with the Council about the playground project. They discussed spreading the fundraising over the next two years and inquired about the contract. Staff will visit with City Attorney to see if she has reviewed the contract.

8. 210 W 5th Street.

Jerry Kellogg, at the request of the Council at their June meeting, was present to discuss the demolition progress on the structure he owns at 210 West 5th Street. Photos were taken June 30, 2023, and available for review.

Council asked that the storm windows be removed and replaced with plywood which Kellogg agreed to do.

Consensus of the Council was for Kellogg to attend the next Council meeting, Aug. 7th and have all the work completed.

Kellogg also discussed the storm sewer behind his house at 506 D Street, and stated there are big holes in the pipe and it is dangerous. City Administrator Carl Chalfant stated the city couldn't afford it, but they can be lined with cured-in-place piping. The pipe is 40 to 50 feet long and 2 feet in diameter which needs exposed at joints and mortar placed according to Chalfant.

Kellogg also asked about the camper situation all over town and if anyone could do it. Chalfant stated the City does not have a zoning code.

Cindy Scheer arrived at 7:31 p.m.

9. Special Highway Improvement & Special Alcohol Funds.

Consensus of the Council was to transfer money in the Special Highway Improvement fund to the Capital Projects fund to supplement the street project and close the fund. The Special Highway Improvement fund hasn't had any activity since at least 2004.

The Special Alcohol Fund does not receive any revenue other than a very small amount of interest from a \$3,000 CD. The consensus of the Council at the request of staff was to transfer the opioid settlement funding from the ambulance fund into the Special Alcohol fund so that it can be used and tracked accordingly, and deposit all future opioid settlement funding into the fund. The City is scheduled to receive funds from that settlement for a total of 15 years, and staff is in discussion with the County on a program to utilize these funds for the purposes intended by the opioid program.

10. EMS Pay Rate.

Motion to establish a long-distance run pay rate of \$100 for a paramedic level (ALS) transfer by Pinnick and seconded by Fuhrken.

Vote: Ayes: Jerry Fuhrken
Terry Morse
Carolyn Pinnick
Roxanne Schottel

11. PFAS.

Motion to authorize the Mayor to sign the Retainer Agreement for PFAS Cost Recovery Program with Napoli Shkolnik PLLC by Schottel and seconded by Pinnick.

Vote: Ayes: Jerry Fuhrken
Terry Morse
Carolyn Pinnick
Roxanne Schottel

12. KMGA.

Motion to appoint Carl Chalfant as Director and Terry Morse as Alternate Director to serve two-year terms from September 1, 2023, through August 31, 2025, on KMGA Board of Directors and give the alternate director entitlement to vote on behalf of the City in the absence of the Director by Fuhrken and seconded by Pinnick.

Vote: Ayes: Jerry Fuhrken
Carolyn Pinnick
Roxanne Schottel
Abstain: Terry Morse

13. Washington County Fair Board Request.

Motion to approve the Loudspeaker/Sound Amplifier Permit and Street Use Permit from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. July 22, 2023, for Washington County Fair Board Parade by Pinnick and seconded by Fuhrken.

Vote: Ayes: Jerry Fuhrken
Terry Morse
Carolyn Pinnick
Roxanne Schottel

14. Equipment Purchase.

Motion to purchase a Radiodetection RD7200 5W Transmitter Kit, TX-Lion with AC Charger, RX Batpack-Lion V2 freight included at a cost of \$5,439.40 to be paid out of the Municipal Equipment Fund by Morse and seconded by Fuhrken.

Vote: Ayes: Jerry Fuhrken
Terry Morse
Carolyn Pinnick
Roxanne Schottel

15. 2024 Budget RNR.

Motion to authorize the City Clerk to notify the County Clerk of the City of Washington's intent to levy a property tax exceeding the revenue neutral rate (RNR) for 2024 by Morse and seconded by Pinnick.

Vote: Ayes: Jerry Fuhrken
Terry Morse
Carolyn Pinnick
Roxanne Schottel

16. Power Plant Lease Purchase.

Motion to approve payment of bills to KMEA Mid-States in the amount of \$47,795.03 to be paid through the UB&T engine lease purchase by Pinnick and seconded by Morse.

Vote: Ayes: Jerry Fuhrken
Terry Morse
Carolyn Pinnick
Roxanne Schottel

17. Resignation.

Motion to accept the resignation of Council Member Theresa Herra by Pinnick and seconded by Fuhrken.

Vote: Ayes: Jerry Fuhrken
Terry Morse
Carolyn Pinnick
Roxanne Schottel

18. Mayoral Appointment.

Mayor was not present and appointment was tabled until next month.

19. Water Project Change Order.

Motion to approve Change Order #1 in the amount of \$500 for two inline tees on the sewer main in the industrial park by Ohlsen Right of Way & Maintenance, Inc. by Pinnick and seconded by Morse.

Vote: Ayes: Jerry Fuhrken
Terry Morse
Carolyn Pinnick
Roxanne Schottel

City Administrator Chalfant stated that Brad Portenier has requested two taps for the new sewer extension and the contractor will install two inline tees, which Portenier will pay for.

20. City Administrator Report.

- a) **City Picnic.** Consensus of the Council was to host a city picnic and free swim on Sunday, July 30th. City employees and their families, will enjoy a free swim all day and a catered meal from 5-7 p.m. at the Emergency Services Building.
- b) **Industrial Park Utility Extension.** Ohlsen Right of Way & Maintenance will begin work July 5 on the utility extensions at the industrial park.
- c) **Substation Transformer Repair.** Staff is waiting for Solomon and Mid-States to schedule a date to perform the repair on the transformer in the D Street substation.
- d) **Senator Marshall's Representative Visit.** City Administrator met with a representative from Senator Marshall's Office last week. Highlights of the meeting were expressing local needs, such as affordable housing, attracting and retaining good employees, and the importance of full funding of the Farm Bill and the impact on small rural communities and their businesses, farmers, residents, and local economy. Also discussed was the importance of the financial assistance with local infrastructure through the farm bill that gets directed through USDA's Economic Development loans and grants, such as what the city of Washington benefited from for the water line replacement project.
- e) **Evergy.** Evergy has given notice of public hearing to KCC for a possible electric rate increase of 9.7%. If it is approved, Evergy customers would see monthly bills increase approximately \$14 per month. Chalfant stated that this would not affect any of City of Washington electric customers, and is just informational concerning the current energy market.

21. City Clerk's Report.

- a) **Washington Ball Association.** Full-time EMT Caroline Scoville submitted notice requesting the Mayor appoint someone else to serve on the Washington Ball Association.
- b) **Reports.** The Washington County Senior Citizens Meal Site May 2023 financials and June Fire minutes were given to the Council for review.

22. Reports.

Terry Morse

- a) **Sewer Rates.** Inquired about sewer rates.
- b) **Library.** Reported the new lights at library are installed. Also stated there is a group wanting to upgrade the kids' area in the library.

Jerry Fuhrken

- a) **Street.** Thanked staff for filling potholes on 6th Street.

Motion to adjourn to 5 p.m. Wednesday, July 19th by Pinnick and seconded by Schottel.

Adjourned at 8:06 p.m.

Denise M. Powell, City Clerk