

WASHINGTON CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
Regular Meeting –City Hall
August 2, 2021

1. Call to order by Mayor.

2. Roll Call.

Present: Kevin Elder, Council Member
Theresa Herrs, Council Member
Don Imhoff, Council Member
Carolyn Pinnick, Council Member
Roxanne Schottel, Council Member

Absent: Ryan Kern, Mayor
Carl Chalfant, City Administrator

Staff Present: Denise Powell, City Clerk
Richard Applegarth, Power Plant Operator
Terry Morse, Power Plant Operator

Others: Chris Pannbacker, Washington County News

3. Citizens Comments.

No public comments.

4. Minutes.

Motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held July 6, 2021, and adjourned meeting held July 9, 2021, by Herrs and seconded by Imhoff.

Vote: Ayes: Kevin Elder
Theresa Herrs
Don Imhoff
Carolyn Pinnick
Roxanne Schottel

5. Appropriations Ordinance 2021-08.

Motion to approve appropriations ordinance 2021-08 by Imhoff and seconded by Herrs.

Vote: Ayes: Kevin Elder
Theresa Herrs
Don Imhoff
Carolyn Pinnick
Roxanne Schottel

6. 2022 Budget.

Motion to authorize staff to publish the proposed notice to exceed revenue neutral rate and budget hearing for the 2022 budget on the City's website and in the Washington County News, the official city newspaper, to hold a public hearing at 6:30 p.m., September 7, 2021, at City Hall by Elder and seconded by Imhoff.

Vote: Ayes: Kevin Elder
Theresa Herrs
Don Imhoff
Carolyn Pinnick
Roxanne Schottel

7. Public Hearing, Neighborhood Revitalization Plan/Resolution.

Motion to open public hearing for the purpose of considering whether City of Washington, Kansas, should adopt a Plan for Neighborhood Revitalization by Herrs and seconded by Imhoff.

Vote: Ayes: Kevin Elder
Theresa Herrs
Don Imhoff
Carolyn Pinnick
Roxanne Schottel

There was no public comment.

Motion to close public hearing for the purpose of considering whether City of Washington, Kansas, should adopt a Plan for Neighborhood Revitalization by Imhoff and seconded by Elder.

Vote: Ayes: Kevin Elder
Theresa Herrs
Don Imhoff
Carolyn Pinnick
Roxanne Schottel

Motion to adopt Resolution 2021-06, A RESOLUTION DESIGNATING A NEIGHBORHOOD REVITALIZATION AREA AND ADOPTING A REVITALIZATION PLAN FOR CITY OF WASHINGTON, KANSAS, by Imhoff and seconded by Elder.

Vote: Ayes: Kevin Elder
Theresa Herrs
Don Imhoff
Carolyn Pinnick
Roxanne Schottel

8. Power Plant Operator Report.

Power Plant Operators Rick Applegarth and Terry Morse were present to discuss the power plant report. Morse and Applegarth presented options for the purchase of 2-12 cylinder turbocharged dual fuel 2000 KW engines with no warranty at a cost of \$324,000 each from Wheeler World Inc. The cost includes the engine at \$297,000, KDHE construction permit of \$2,500; catalyst elements of \$7,000 and performance test of \$7,500. Some concrete work would need to be done. There may be an option to purchase a 6-month warranty on the engines. The proposal would be to replace the 650-kilowatt engines of #5 and #7 and almost double the capacity with engines 1, 6 & 7 leaving plenty of power for future growth.

Morse visited with United Bank and Trust and FNB Washington about financing. Morse stated could be a 10 year note with interest between three and four percent. Morse stated he contacted Citizens National Bank but hadn't received a call back.

Council asked if Wheeler World Inc. would market the engines that would be taken out and the blower that was recently purchased to repair engine seven. Staff will check into that.

Council Member Don Imhoff asked about engine four known as Big Bertha. Morse said they recently ran Big Bertha and she ran smooth on diesel but did not try to run it on natural gas. Morse said he did the history on Big Bertha and it is a 1945 engine that was installed in 1985. Previously there was low natural gas pressure but the line has been changed.

Applegarth said the insulation blanket for No. 6 should be here soon. The two new tie breakers are here and waiting for KMEA Mid-States to install. The boiler will be inspected Tuesday, August 3rd.

9. KMEA/GRDA.

Motion to approve payment of the GRDA bill from the February 2021 winter weather event at an approximate cost of \$43,489 in one lump sum and spread the impact to the fuel adjustment through the spring of 2022 by Imhoff and seconded by Pinnick.

Vote: Ayes: Kevin Elder
Theresa Herrs
Don Imhoff
Carolyn Pinnick
Roxanne Schottel

10. Bulk Salt Bid.

Motion to accept the bid from Independent Salt Company at \$50.32 per ton delivered for two loads of bulk salt by Imhoff and seconded by Pinnick.

Vote: Ayes: Kevin Elder
Theresa Herrs
Don Imhoff
Carolyn Pinnick
Roxanne Schottel

11. Utility Ordinance.

The Council reviewed the proposed changes to the utility ordinance. Council Member Theresa Herrs asked that Article 21-305 be reviewed and clarified. Consensus of the Council was to add language to protect those who currently have a septic system within the city limits. The proposed ordinance increases the sewer rate by 20 cents per 1,000 gallons of water from \$2.05 to \$2.25.

12. Electric Distribution Underground Workshop.

Motion to allow Lineman Jacob Oppenheimer to attend the Kansas Municipal Utilities 2021 Electric Distribution Underground Workshop September 1-3, 2021 at KMU Training Center in McPherson at a cost of \$420 plus lodging and meals by Imhoff and seconded by Elder.

Vote: Ayes: Kevin Elder
Theresa Herrs
Don Imhoff
Carolyn Pinnick
Roxanne Schottel

13. City Administrator Report.

- a) **Old Water Pumphouse.** Council discussed with Power Plant Operator Terry Morse getting a quote to replace the roof on the round pump house for its historic preservation. Previous discussion was to consider removing the structure or removing the top of the structure down to the concrete floor area, removing the pumps, pouring a concrete pad leaving a lookout area over Mill Creek. A railing would be installed around the outside perimeter of the concrete pad. This would leave somewhat of a lookout area over Mill Creek.
- b) **Water Tower.** The original sample of paint from the water tower that was sent the Laboratory to test for lead was lost in the mail. A second sample was sent and was received by the Laboratory on July 27, 2021. Staff is awaiting the results.
- c) **EMS Staff.** Consensus of the Council at the recommendation EMS Service Director Leland Cook was to advertise and see if there is any interest in holding an EMT class. Council discussed the shortage of EMT staff and Fulltime EMT Caroline Scoville having to cover many weekend shifts and holidays.
- d) **Basketball Court.** The new lighting and basketball goals purchased in conjunction with the Washington Rotary Club grant have been installed. Grant funds have been received from the Washington Rotary Club, and a presentation will be held at a later date.

- e) **Employment Positions.** Council asked if any applications had been received for power plant operator or water and wastewater operation positions. City Clerk Denise Powell stated one application was received Monday, Aug. 2, 2021 for power plant operator.
- f) **Policy Reinforcement.** Due to some controversy issues that have arose, staff and administration will be stepping up enforcement and following up on any identified deficiencies or violations in reference to utility connections and hookups with a formal letter to the owner/owners of any and all facilities that such an issue has been noted. Staff and administration will not depend on verbal communication only.

14. City Clerk's Report.

- a) **Thank you.** Staff received a thank you for the memorial sent to the family of Mildred Carpenter.
- a) **Fuel Adjustment.** The fuel adjustment for bills due August 10, 2021 (June usage) is -.00041 utilizing \$14,000 of expenses that were adjusted to levelize the fuel adjustment on utility bills due to the cold snap in February 2021. The remaining expense to be adjusted is \$47,000.
- b) **Munchkinland.** Bill Hugill, representative from Leathers & Associates, performed the assessment on July 26, 2021. Staff is awaiting the final report.
- c) **City Picnic.** The City picnic is scheduled for 6 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 12th at the Firehouse. Invitations were mailed to RSVP by Monday, Aug. 9th. In conjunction with the dinner, all are welcome to a free swim at the pool from 1-8 p.m. Aug. 9th.
- d) **Reports.** Washington County Senior Citizens Meal Site June 2021 financials for the Washington County Senior Citizens Meal Sites and June and July Fire minutes were given to the Council for review.

Motion to adjourn by Herra and seconded by Imhoff.

Vote: Ayes: Kevin Elder
Theresa Herra
Don Imhoff
Carolyn Pinnick
Roxanne Schottel

Meeting adjourned at 7:42 p.m.

Denise M. Powell, City Clerk