

City of Smith Center
City Council Meeting Minutes
April 14, 2025

I. Call to Order

Mayor Wiehl opened the meeting at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, April 14, 2025, at the Srader Building.

Attendance

Governing Body Members: Don Wick, Everett Mansholt, Tracy Kingsbury, Ty Wallgren, Bryce Wiehl, and Chris Cole.

Others: Melissa Colby, Rob and Staci Buckmaster, Shawn Stansbury, Tabitha Owen, Kim Maudlin, Stand Herredsberg, Ryan LaDow, Rick Hileman, Laura Zabel, Kim Phelps, Sherry Weatherholt, Kenny Sloan, and Jill Conaway.

II. Consent Agenda

Following review, a motion was made by Wick, seconded by Kingsbury, to approve the meeting minutes; vouchers, and receipts. Motion carried.

III. Guest

Stan Herredsberg addressed the governing body regarding the K204 waterline and the road restoration project. The members and guests talked at length about the projects, the location of the replacement sidewalks that will be approximately 5 feet from the back of the curb, communication with the waterline project and upcoming road project, construction timeframe, public right of way, and the possible removal of current landscape.

IV. Previous/Ongoing Business

- a) Credit Card Options-Colby reported on some clarifications on the quote from Evolv. The city will not own the credit card terminals. The cost was lowered to \$79 per terminal (3), that can be used for both debit and credit cards. There will be a set up fee of \$199; with no term commitment. Greg Hobelmann has agreed to assist in setting up the terminal at the golf course. Following discussion, a motion was made by Wallgren, seconded by Wick, to enter into contract with Evolv. Motion carried.

HEARING

Mayor Wiehl opened the hearing to review the petition to vacate an alley at 6:15 p.m. The petition was filed seeking the vacation and closure of the north/south alley between lot sections 7 and 8 and lot sections 23 and 24 of block 1, Dutton's Addition. As there were no public objections, a motion was made by Kingsbury, seconded by Wallgren, to adopt Ordinance 1051 closing said alley. Motion carried.

(Previous/Ongoing Business Continued)

- b) Lagoon Project Reimbursement Request-Conaway presented a reimbursement request of \$85,699 for payments made to acquire the land and engineering fees. A motion was made by Wick, seconded by Cole, to approve the reimbursement as presented for \$85,699. Motion carried.
- c) Lagoon Project-Conaway presented a Notice of Award to Malm Construction Company for the Wastewater Lagoon Facility Improvement, cell addition in the amount of \$678,247.69, the lowest bid received, explaining that this bid also came in under budget. A motion was made by Kingsbury, seconded by Wick, to accept the bid and sign the Notice of Award to Malm Construction as presented. Motion carried.

V. New Business

- a) Letter of Support Request-Wiehl asked the council for their approval to submit a letter of support for the old hospital building housing project, to be submitted with a grant application. He reported that phase one of the project is to turn the previous elder care section of the building into 12-15 apartments. Owen asked for clarification on the body of the letter. The council clarified that the letter is to show the city's support of the project, with no in-kind labor. Owen will draft a letter for signature. Wiehl shared that a meeting will be held at 4 p.m. on Wednesday, April 23rd at the courthouse.
- b) Utility Billing Printer-Colby presented quotes from 360 Document Solutions and Tri-Central Office Products to replace the utility billing printer. Following review, a motion was made by Cole, seconded by Wallgren, to purchase the Kyocera from 360 Document Solutions at \$1,428.95 with a maintenance agreement. Motion carried.
- c) Fair Housing Proclamation-Mayor Wiehl declared April as Fair Housing Month and signed the proclamation.
- d) Property-Conaway reported on an inquiry received on the city owned corner property at Colfax and Kansas Avenue. The caller inquired on the property to build a home on. Due to the underground infrastructure remaining from the old water tower, and the size of the property with required setbacks, it was the consensus of the council that it will need to remain the property of the city.

VI. Department Reports/Committee & Board Reports

- a) Pool and Seasonal Applications-Conaway presented applications that have been received to date. Following review, a motion was made by Cole, seconded by Wick, to hire Brenner Montgomery for public works/mowing. Motion carried. Motion by Kingsbury, seconded by Mansholt to hire Donna Favinger-pool manager; Danica Favinger-lifeguard and assistant manager;

and lifeguards Tyler Quinn, Daryssa Ochoa, Kaley Frydendall, Cole McKelvey, Carson McKelvey, Leah McKelvey, Miriam Dowling, Sadie LaDow, and Khloe Padilla. Motion carried. Motion by Wick, seconded by Kingsbury, to hire Alex Hobelmann to assist with mowing at the golf course. Motion carried.

Wick asked Wiehl if he had updated information on the pool house rafters. Wiehl reported that the rafters will be delivered in 2 weeks.

- b) Fire Department-Cole read Chief Steve McNary's bi-annual report.
- c) Recreation Commission-Stansbury presented action items from the commission's meeting. A motion was made by Cole, seconded by Wick, to approve hiring Avery Hawkins as field director for the season. Motion carried. Stansbury shared a quote of \$1,601.46 from Prairie Land Electric for pole repairs at the ballfield. A motion was made by Kingsbury, seconded by Wallgren, to approve the payment to Prairie Land from city funds. Motion carried.
- d) Golf Course-Owen shared that she has reviewed the by-laws and the job description presented by the advisory board but has some questions. She will discuss these with Taylor Kuhlmann.
Hileman shared that every year, he sends planned improvements for the golf course to Mark McClain, who in turn works through some grant options but this year it slipped by him. There is a fund that was created years ago for course improvements that creates interest that has been used for these improvements. The practice range fencing was damaged therefore the metal fencing has been ordered. Prairie Land donated the poles. A concrete pad was poured for aggregate used on the course. It was the consensus of the council to have Hileman work on a local grant application to be submitted by May 1st for some of the expenses to make the necessary repairs.
- e) Hileman-Street Superintendent Johnson is looking at used dump trucks that are on the Purple Wave auction. Hileman shared the known specifics on a particular truck and the current bid. Following discussion, it was the consensus of the council to allow Johnson to bid up to \$20,000 on the truck, following inspection.
Hileman discussed the status of the bathhouse at the pool, and asked if the contractor could move forward with the sidewalk and the fencing. The dirt work was discussed as the parking areas need to be completed as well. Wiehl shared where he thought the parking areas should be, with the curbing removed and a drive over curb put in place. As some decisions need to be made, a meeting was scheduled for those involved with the construction to be held on location at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, April 16th.
Hileman inquired on the process of the Land Bank. Owen shared that the initial paperwork and associated documentation starts with the economic

development director that then presents the information to the Land Bank Board, which currently has the same members as the council, which tends to cause some confusion. Once that meeting is held, it comes to the city council. As with other programs, the leg work is completed prior to it coming to the council.

Hileman also reported that the pump at the sewer pond went out.

- f) Clerk-Conaway shared that the residential city wide clean up has been scheduled to begin on Monday, April 28th and will end at noon Friday, May 2nd.

VII. Governing Body Reports

- a) Cole-Asked about the siren testing process. Hileman explained that a worker is at each siren location during the test to assure that each siren is in working order. He stated that he did have a resident inquire on the fire siren and explained that only the downtown siren is utilized for fire.

VIII. Adjournment

A motion was made by Wick, seconded Wallgren, to adjourn. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:34 p.m.