

**CITY OF LOUISBURG, KANSAS  
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING  
FEBRUARY 20, 2017**

The Council of the City of Louisburg, Kansas met at 6:30 p.m. in regular session in the City Hall Council Chambers. Mayor Marty Southard presiding.

Council Members Steve Town, Kalee Smith, Bill Smith, Dave Maddax,  
Carol Aust  
City Administrator Nathan Law  
City Clerk Traci Storey  
City Attorney Kelly Stohs  
Police Chief Tim Bauer  
Public Works Supervisor Craig Hufferd  
Planning & Zoning Assistant Jean Carder  
Press John VanPelt  
Visitors Craig Holtzen, Jerry Dixon, Bob Bazin, Sana Antisdell

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Councilmember Dave Maddax led the pledge of allegiance.

**APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA**

Councilmember Carol Aust had questions regarding the bills from KCPL, Simply B and Miami County Conservation. City Administrator Nathan Law explained what each were. Councilmember Dave Maddax moved, seconded by Councilmember Kalee Smith and carried 5-0, to adopt the consent agenda to include adoption of the agenda, and approval of the February 6, 2017, Council Minutes, and approval of the bills list.

**VISITORS**

Craig Holtzen with Edward Jones said he was here on behalf of himself and other business owners on Broadway. Holtzen had 30 signatures of employees or business owners that he had contacted regarding parking on Broadway after improvements are made to downtown. When Holtzen was asked several years ago to be on a committee to help revitalize the Downtown, he accepted. Two important things that came out of that committee were to become ADA Compliant and fix the crumbling infrastructure. With the change to parallel parking on the

east side of Broadway, people with disabilities will have to park and cross Broadway, which could be very dangerous, he said. Holtzen believes the survey that was included in October utility bill asking residents to vote for a one-way or two-way street was misleading. Councilmember Kalee Smith said she feels like the information was provided at public meetings. Holtzen said this is an important decision and should not be made quickly. The citizens should be able to know what they are actually voting on. Holtzen said if there are problems with parking it will get to the point businesses will actually leave the downtown. City Administrator Nathan Law said some parking options include repaving the Farmer's Market parking area and adding sidewalks from that area to Broadway and have more parking behind City Hall. Councilmember Dave Maddax asked Mr. Holtzen what he would like to see done on Broadway. Councilmember Carol Aust said revitalizing Downtown is being done so Louisburg could see economic development. Aust said that Damon Dennis has so many patients he sees every day that patients shouldn't be expected to have to park on the west side of the street and walk to his practice. Holtzen said he just learned at the meeting that parking between Amity and First Street will be angled on the east to allow for more parking in front of Dr. Dennis office and parallel on the west. Holtzen said this is great for Damon but what about the rest of the business owners down the street. The parking keeps changing and it is very confusing, he said. Holtzen said he thinks if another survey were conducted, the results would be in favor of one-way parking on Broadway. Holtzen said he spoke to Mark Williams at First Option Bank about potentially adding parking to the green space located on the south side of the bank building. Holtzen thought that would be a viable option.

Jerry Dixon, President of the Chamber of Commerce asked the Council to reconsider their decision regarding Broadway. Mayor Southard said to reconsider that decision that one of the two councilmembers who made and seconded the original motion would have to make a motion to change it. Those councilmembers were Kalee Smith and Bill Smith. Dixon said if Broadway were one-way it would allow people to drive by something they may not have before. It could attract new businesses to the streets next to Broadway. Dixon would like to see downtown loft apartments with things going on during the day and evening. Many cities that have one-way traffic have a thriving community, he said. It comes down to people do not like change. Louisburg needs to change and grow to help with taxes, schools and businesses, Dixon said. Councilmember Carol Aust said years ago when we started talking about the Downtown the developers had said that Broadway should be one-way or there would be no place to grow. If the Downtown retail spots that are empty start filling up, there will be fighting over parking.

Council had discussion. Mayor Southard asked Councilmembers Kalee Smith and Bill Smith if either were willing to change their vote. Both Councilmembers said they did not want to change their vote.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Sana Antidel told the Council that making sure their customers had a place to park was important to them as business owners. Councilmember Carol Aust asked Councilmember Kalee Smith and Councilmember Bill Smith why they did not want to see change in the downtown. Councilmember Kalee Smith responded that the public voted and she was doing what they asked and keep it two-way. Kalee Smith did not feel that making Broadway one-way would boost business in the downtown. Councilmember Bill Smith said he had no further comments on this issue.

Jerry Dixon said the ballot that was sent out was very vague. Dixon thinks Downtown business owners should have more have more weight on the decision.

### **DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

Police Chief Tim Bauer said the department would be participating in a statewide seatbelt program around school zones. This will be for a two-week period.

### **CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT**

None

### **COUNCIL REPORTS**

**Councilmember Town:** Councilmember Steve Town said the whole reason we were revitalizing the downtown was to bring businesses to the area. It would be nice to see more traffic going around the downtown and surrounding areas.

**Councilmember Kalee Smith:** Councilmember Kalee Smith said she had attended the Park Board Meeting. Smith said she also had time to think about concrete vs asphalt. After talking to others in the community, she would like to rescind her vote in which she voted for an asphalt street for the Downtown Project. Councilmember Kalee Smith moved, seconded by Councilmember Steve Town

and Aust voting yes to rescind the vote. Councilmembers Bill Smith and Dave Maddax voted no. The vote had to pass by a four-fifths majority so it failed.

**Councilmember Maddax:** Councilmember Dave Maddax said he would like to see more parking downtown at the First Option Bank location.

## **MAYOR'S REPORT**

**Appointments:** Mayor Marty Southard presented the appointment of Ernie Rinehart and Lonnie Kunz to the Park Board. They would replace Molly Strubbe and Heather Eslick. Councilmember Kalee Smith moved, seconded by Councilmember Dave Maddax and carried 4-1 (Aust voting no).

**PUA Board:** Mayor Southard recommended Councilmember Bill Smith be appointed to the PUA Board. Councilmember Kalee Smith moved, seconded by Councilmember Steve Town and carried 3-1-1 (Aust votes no) (Bill Smith abstains).

**Recreation Commission:** Mayor Southard stated they would start accepting applications for the Recreation Commission. The City will choose two commission members and the School Board will choose two commission members and this Board will then pick a fifth at-large member. Councilmembers Steve Town and Councilmember Kalee Smith have volunteered to help Mayor Southard and City Administrator Nathan Law with the interview process.

## **ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

**Broadway Street Signage:** City Administrator Nathan Law presented options for the wording of the arch sign that was discussed at the last meeting for the Downtown project. The purpose of having signage is less about street name than it is to identify the area as a place. Options presented for consideration include:

Downtown Louisburg  
Historic Downtown  
Main Street Louisburg

Of the considerations listed above, this does not necessarily discredit having the pillars include the street name as part of the design element, which allows for the place designation without confusing travelers unduly. Councilmember Carol

Aust asked Bob Bazin if he could get another bid for a different arch concept. City Administrator Law responded that the City has accepted the price of the total project and this is an add-on item. Bazin said he would go look at different cities and get more ideas. Administrator Law will bring back word ideas for the sign and pillar ideas at the next meeting.

**Street Bids:** City Administrator Nathan Law presented the top 7 bids for street work. This year street work for approximately 30 blocks was advertised publicly to area and/or those contractors working with the City on various projects in the past. Complete date for the street work is July 31. Any striping needed will be completed shortly after street work is complete. Staff recommends approval of the bid from Little Joe's Asphalt for \$298,855.60. Councilmember Carol Aust asked if Administrator Law could talk to the City of Lawrence regarding the work by this contractor and bring information back to the next meeting. Administrator Law said he would contact the City of Lawrence. No vote was taken on the street bid.

**Automated Water Meter Reading System:** City Administrator Law said one of the items budgeted for 2017 is moving to Automated Meter Reading Systems for both Water and Natural Gas. Based on rough estimates received in 2016 - during 2017 budget preparation - staff included an estimated one-third of the overall \$300,000-\$400,000 AMR cost to the discussion of budget items, noting this would likely be a capital reserve funded project. Public Works Supervisor Craig Hufferd sought and received a quote from Utility Solutions Associates (Neptune), Midwest Meter (Badger) and HD Supply (Sensus/iPerl) for software, handhelds, mobile units and per unit costs for meters. Councilmember Carol Aust asked if this is something we could put off for another year since the City is undertaking some large budget items now. Administrator Law replied this has been in the budget it will also save money by freeing up employees to do other projects. It usually takes up to three days to read meters in town. Staff recommends the purchase of one-third of the approximately 1,800 meters each year starting in 2017. Councilmember Steve Town moved, seconded by Councilmember Kalee Smith and carried 5-0, to purchase from Neptune. Costs for each year as follows:

Year One: \$127,758  
Year Two: \$111,600  
Year Three: \$111,600

**Aquatic Center Diving Board:** Administrator Nathan Law said the diving board at the Louisburg Aquatic Center has been problematic over the last couple of years. Over time the grip has eroded, requiring City to add adhesive grip tape, then later to paint with a heavy grit paint. The base stand has other deficiencies due to use, primarily the wearing of anchor bolts from the weight of divers on the end of the board causing a lever action against the stair/ladder side. Rusty Whitham received bids from three companies. Staff recommends KC Gunitite Inc. Councilmember Kalee Smith moved, seconded by Councilmember Bill Smith and carried 5-0, to replace the LAC diving board with the bid from KC Gunitite Inc. for \$21,650.

**Grand Opening Banner:** A request from Merrell Company to extend City sign restrictions from 21 to 60 days for a grand opening temporary sign was presented to Council. While the current sign is not labeled as such, the timeframe will be the same 60 days whether the sign is replaced with alternative language once open. The regulations restrict the ability to have a grand opening sign to 30 days prior to opening. The sign may be removed at the thirty-day mark if the business is not open, otherwise the sign is allowed to remain until the full extended term. Councilmember Steve Town moved, seconded by Councilmember Kalee Smith and carried 5-0, to allow the extension of the grand opening sign as presented.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

At 8:10 p.m. Councilmember Kalee Smith moved, seconded by Councilmember Bill Smith to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried 5-0.

Approved:

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Marty Southard, Mayor

Attest:

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Traci Storey, City Clerk