

**CITY OF LOUISBURG, KANSAS
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
APRIL 1, 2019**

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

Council Members Lee Baer, Steve Town, Sandy Harris, Thorvald McKiernan
City Administrator Nathan Law
City Clerk Traci Storey
City Attorney Kelly Stohs
Police Chief Tim Bauer
Communications Coordinator Jean Carder
Public Works Supervisor Craig Hufferd
Fire Department Brad Seely
Press Doug Carder
Visitors Leroy Johnson

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Councilmember Sandy Harris led the pledge of allegiance.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Marty Southard asked to add a Child Abuse Prevention Proclamation under his report. Councilmember Steve Town moved, seconded by Councilmember Thorvald McKiernan and carried 4-0 to add the Proclamation. Councilmember Sandy Harris moved, seconded by Councilmember Thorvald McKiernan and carried 4-0, to approve the consent agenda to include adoption of the agenda, approval of the March 18, 2019, minutes and bills list.

VISITORS

Louisburg Lions Club: Leroy Johnson representing the Louisburg Lions Club told the Council the annual car show is May 5, 2019. They are asking for two family pool passes for the auction. Councilmember Steve Town moved, seconded by Councilmember Thorvald McKiernan and carried 4-0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Police Department: Police Chief Tim Bauer presented information to replace its 2011 Ford Expedition 4x4 SUV, which is currently being used as the Supervisor's patrol vehicle, with a new Police Duty & Pursuit rated vehicle.

The department would like to replace the 2011 Ford Expedition with a 2019 Ford F-150 Police Responder (Crew Cab Pickup Truck 4x4).

Replacing the Expedition with the Ford F-150 Police Responder would also provide the department with a vehicle that has an open rear bed, which could be utilized for a number of purposes, including; recovering large evidence items, transporting animal traps and captured canines, transporting P.D. equipment, hauling the trailer, etc. The vehicle would also have the capability of accessing a rougher geographical environment with greater ease and ability than the current Police SUVs have as well as an increased towing capacity.

The Police Department obtained three bids for a 2019 Ford F-150 Police Responder. Staff recommends the purchase of a 2019 Ford F-150 Police Responder (Pickup Truck 4x4) from Louisburg Ford with a spray-in bed liner. Councilmembers had discussion. Councilmember Thorvald McKiearnan moved, seconded by Councilmember Lee Baer. Councilmembers had discussion on the color of the truck. They agreed to leave the color up to Chief Bauer. Motion carried 4-0, to purchase the Ford F150 from Louisburg Ford with the spray-in bed liner.

Fire Department: Fire Chief Brad Seely gave an update over the past two weeks. The new air compressors they purchased are up and working.

Administrator Law: City Administrator Nathan Law gave Councilmembers a leaf survey that could go into the next newsletter. Councilmember Steve Town moved, seconded by Councilmember Lee Baer. Councilmember McKiearnan asked why it would be a mandatory fee. Administrator Law said to allow for the purchase of a vacuum truck, the dedicated efforts of a single employee, and the operations during the busy leaf months, that

mandatory fee would cover the full cost of leaf removal. Motion carried 4-0, to accept the survey to send with utility bills.

City Park: Administrator Law stated at the last Park and Tree Board meeting discussion was held regarding fencing on the north side of the park to create a barrier between the new playground equipment and S. Fourth St., as requested by Council. Board members did not like the idea of placing a fence there. It is hard to mow around and the aesthetics of a single line fence are both unattractive and serve to make an already small park seem even smaller. An audience member at the park meeting suggested installing benches that would make a barrier where parents could sit and watch their children. The benches would cover up to 120 feet so we would need at least 2-3. The cost for two benches is \$2,753.98 and for three the price is \$4,130.97. Councilmember Harris asked if the children can still get through the benches and into the street. Administrator Law said ideally parents would sit on the benches to watch their children play and would be able to stop them from running between the benches and into the street. Councilmember McKiernan asked if a sketch of what the benches would look could be provided. Administrator Law said he would be happy to bring back sketches for the next meeting.

Fire Chief Brad Seeley said on April 3, 2019 there would be an electrical safety class at the fire station given by KCP&L.

CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT

None

COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilmember Harris: Councilmember Sandy Harris would like to commend Jean Carder, Carolyn Stowell and Larry Viterna for volunteering to help with the recent floods in Nebraska. Jean Carder said they helped three communities during their time in Nebraska.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Fire Chief Update: Mayor Marty Southard thanked everyone that helped with the Fire Chief interviews on Saturday.

National Day of Prayer Proclamation: Mayor Southard presented a proclamation that proclaims May 2, 2019, as National Day of Prayer in Louisburg. Councilmember Steve Town moved, seconded by Councilmember Sandy Harris and carried 4-0, to authorize Mayor Southard sign the National Day of Prayer Proclamation.

Child Abuse Prevention Month: Mayor Southard presented a proclamation that proclaims April as Child Abuse Prevention Month. Councilmember Thorvald McKiearnan moved, seconded by Councilmember Sandy Harris and carried 4-0, to authorize Mayor Southard sign the proclamation proclaiming April as Child Abuse Prevention Month.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Council Projects for 2020 and Future Years Continued: City Administrator Nathan Law presented a list from Councilmembers that if approved, should be considered city priority when discussing budgeting and funding of projects in 2020. A budget workshop could also be beneficial to discuss priority projects. Councilmember Thorvald McKiearnan moved, seconded by Councilmember Lee Baer and carried 4-0, to have Administrator Law seek out dates for a budget workshop. Mayor Southard said he would suggest projects include sidewalk improvements and pool enhancements. Administrator Law noted Park and Tree Board members would prefer baseball field and park improvements instead of pool upgrades.

KCP&L Renewables Direct Wind Energy Option: City Administrator Law presented information provided by Evergy, a KCP&L/Westar Energy Renewables Direct offering. The presentation includes information for short- or long-term savings through an agreement with the City of Louisburg to source a defined quantity of government facility electricity load requirements from available wind generation capacity already secured by KCP&L/Westar Energy. If an agreement was made there are potential savings from \$4,415.04-\$22,075.20 depending on the term selected. Councilmember McKiearnan said he was not a fan of promoting wind energy and has no interest in the program. Councilmember Harris asked if other cities in Miami County are participating. Administrator Law said he does not know if any have signed up. Councilmembers had discussion. There is no interest from Councilmembers to engage into the agreement.

WWTP Eminent Domain Process Continued: At the last Council meeting, staff presented the first step in the process to condemn and appropriate

necessary easements for the force main sewer line as part of the wastewater treatment plant project.

Costs incurred with this process include publication costs, additional costs associated with real estate law firm, and district court costs.

If current negotiations do not move forward to an acceptable agreement with all property owners, this process allows the City to condemn and appropriate property. Councilmember Thorvald McKiernan moved, seconded by Councilmember Steve Town. Councilmembers asked if the property owners were notified and shown where the lines would be placed? Administrator Law said yes that information has been presented to property owners. Motion carried 4-0, to authorize Mayor Southard sign Ordinance 1105 as presented.

Flip Program: City Administrator Nathan Law said the FLIP-Residential has been very successful this year. Just over \$4,000 of the \$5,000 available has been allocated for reimbursement. Staff gets multiple inquiries about the program weekly.

An unintended consequence has resulted after the recent property appraisal. Homes values have increased in the City an average of 9.5% according to County information. Two applicants have been turned down as the homes are now over the \$175,000 value. Last year these homeowners would have qualified for the projects as the homes were under that \$175,000 value.

Staff is seeking to add \$5,000 to the FLIP-Residential program. This was the dollar figure discussed when the program was renewed for 2019.

Staff recommends approval of additional \$5,000 to the FLIP-Residential program and increase the property value requirement from \$175,000 to \$190,000. Councilmember Sandy Harris moved, seconded by Thorvald McKiernan to add \$5,000 to the FLIP-Residential program. Councilmembers had discussion. Motion carried 4-0, to approve the additional \$5,000 to the FLIP-Residential program, but leave the \$175,000 property value in place.

New Fence at Cemetery: Public Works Director Craig Hufferd presented three bids for fencing to match the cemetery fence in the old section. Bids for 1” panels from Guier Fence were \$60,580. If consideration was given for ¾” panels, bid came from Guier is \$30,410. Councilmembers had discussion regarding the

amount of money to be budgeted for fencing. After discussion, Councilmembers decided not to spend that much money on the fence.

Monument Sign: Public Works Director Craig Hufferd presented two bids for a new aluminum sign and arch for the monument sign located on the southeast corner of Amity & US 69, next to the gas station. Councilmember Harris asked if the churches would be able to put a logo on the sign. Councilmember McKiearnan would like this sign to be digital. Councilmembers had discussion. Councilmember Steve Town moved, seconded by Councilmember Lee Baer to approve the sign replacement. Councilmembers had discussion regarding the wings and lighting of the sign. Motion carried 4-0, to accept Acme Sign in the amount of \$10,670.00. This will include Apple Electric and Amborn Stone items that were listed on the bid.

Natural Gas Training: The Natural Gas Training will be Tuesday, April 2nd from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at Louisburg City Hall. The Kansas Corporation Commission requires the gas utility to provide training annually to prepare for an emergency response in the event of a natural gas emergency.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Council recessed into a 15-minute executive session to discuss a recommendation for job offer to fill position of Fire Chief under the non-elected matter exception, pursuant to K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(1). Council entered executive session at 7:35 p.m. and reconvened at 7:50 p.m.

REGULAR SESSION

A recommendation was made to have City Administrator Nathan Law negotiate and finalize hiring Gerald Rittinghouse as Fire Chief. Councilmember Steve Town moved, seconded by Councilmember Thorvald McKiearnan. Councilmember Harris asked if the Fire Chief needed to live in the community. Administrator Law said Rittinghouse lives close enough to satisfy personnel policy. Motion carried 4-0.

Josh Weber thanked the Mayor and City Administrator for including the fire staff during the interview process.

Councilmember McKiernan asked when the signs for no parking would be installed in Summerfield Farms Subdivision. Public Works Supervisor Craig Hufferd said they are on order and should be in next week.

Mayor Southard read a thank you note from Traci Storey thanking the Council and Staff for flowers sent for her father-in-law's funeral.

ADJOURNMENT

At 7:53 p.m. Councilmember Thorvald McKiernan moved, seconded by Councilmember Sandy Harris to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried 4-0.

Approved:

Marty Southard, Mayor

Attest:

Traci Storey, City Clerk