

**CITY OF LOUISBURG, KANSAS**  
**MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING**  
**May 2<sup>ND</sup>, 2023**

**Livestream:** <https://boxcast.tv/view/louisburg-special-meeting-5-2-23-fmoidwbqhg3tn2wknadd>

The Council of the City of Louisburg, Kansas, met at 6 p.m. in special session in the City Hall Council Chambers. Mayor Pro Tem Clint Ernst presiding in the absence of Mayor Donna Cook.

Councilmembers Steve Town, Scott Margrave, Tiffany Ellison, TJ Williams  
City Administrator Nathan Law  
City Clerk Jessica McGowin  
Communications Coordinator Jean Carder  
City Attorney Mary Stephenson

**CALL OF SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING**

Mayor Pro Tem Clint Ernst read the following statement: I, the undersigned Mayor Pro Tem of the City of Louisburg, Kansas, having received a request for a special meeting of the Governing Body of said city, do by these presents call a special council meeting of the City of Louisburg, Kansas, for the purpose set forth in the foregoing request.

**ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING STATION GRANT**

This meeting was to further discuss the electric vehicle charging station grant presented during the regular Council meeting May 1, 2023. City Attorney Mary Stephenson advised the Governing Body on her recommendation to include a contract outlining financial responsibilities between the City and Louisburg Ford since the City would be the applicant on the grant. Mayor Pro Tem Ernst reiterated that the action tonight would be to vote only to allow Ford to move forward with the pre-application of the grant ahead of the May 5 deadline. Jason Gudenkauf discussed the cost and the breakdown of what the grant would cover and what his cost share would be. He stated in the grant that Louisburg Ford would request three Level 3 and six Level 2 charging stations. Councilmember Ellison asked about an offsite charging station at City Hall and if that would be part of this cost. Mr. Gudenkauf stated that it would not be part of this cost. There was discussion about approved contractors through KDOT. Ernst stated that this could be future discussion if the grant is approved. Ellison voiced concern about projected future cost to the city, Mr. Gudenkauf stated that he would pay anything that would not be covered or reimbursed. Ellison asked if we had to find the money in our budget even though contractually Louisburg Ford would be reimbursing us. City Administrator Law stated that it would need to be budgeted because the grant and local matches would be shown as revenue and the total project cost would be shown as expense and should net out to be zero. Ernst said that this would be part of what needs to go in the contract and how we budget for the year. Ellison asked for time to

address the Council and public with information and concerns. Ellison then asked if the public could have a chance to speak. Mayor Pro Tem Ernst allowed three minutes for any attendee not on the list to speak.

**Oren Goldstein** – 1310 N 1<sup>st</sup> St. East - Mr. Goldstein stated that if this moves forward and tax dollars are used towards this project then there is an ethical issue. He stated that if someone can go to Louisburg Ford and get their fuel for free and the other Louisburg residents have to pay for fuel then there would be an ethical problem and there would be a creation of two tiers of citizens. Ernst interjected and clarified that all people would have to pay regardless of electric charge or gas. Goldstein thanked Ernst for clarifying. Goldstein feels like EV drivers are affluent and do not need a charging station. Goldstein said he does not feel like we should move forward with it just on the grounds of what is right and what is wrong.

**Kimberly Richardson** – 307 S Berkley - Ms. Richardson thanked Council for not voting at the last meeting and taking the time to review the grant. Richardson asked if the majority of the constituents of each ward were in favor of this. Richardson asked how many people in Louisburg and Miami County own an electric vehicle. She asked how the initiative benefited the taxpayers and who would pay for the maintenance and upkeep. Richardson stated she would like to see the Council have the answers to these questions before they vote.

**Mark Mowrey** - 1411 N 3<sup>rd</sup> St. East - Mr. Mowrey wanted to reiterate that this started with climate change, and he would like to see free market drive this. Mowrey would like to see Quick Trip and Casey's have charging stations. He asked that the Council deny the application.

## **DISSCUSION**

Councilmember Steve Town clarified that what they were voting on tonight was to allow the city to apply for a grant on Louisburg Ford's behalf. If Council did not agree with the terms, it could be canceled at a later date. Ernst said this would be the proof-of-concept form and that there was potential that the form may not be accepted. Ellison said that the concept had a good chance of passing and we needed to be prepared to accept a grant proposal in July. Ernst talked about the positive effects this could bring to Louisburg, including tourism. Mr. Gudenkauf gave the Council an overview of expected future predictions for electric vehicles and what that means for auto sales. Ernst said the Council has to balance the thoughts of many people, and he appreciated the comments. Councilmember Williams stated that the \$39 million dollars was approved by the State of Kansas for this grant program. Williams stated that tax dollars will not go up, and regardless if Louisburg Ford receives the grant or not someone in Kansas will receive the money. Williams moved to approve the grant program, seconded by Ellison. Ellison then made a motion to amend the original motion to include approval with the understanding that if the City moves forward with the grant, there will be a contract with Louisburg Ford to cover additional project costs, costs of maintenance of charging stations, and installation. Town seconded the amended motion. The amended motion passed 5-0. The original motion passed 5-0.

**ADJOURNMENT**

At 7 p.m. Ellison moved, seconded by Williams and carried 5-0, to adjourn the meeting.

Approved:

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Donna Cook, Mayor

Attest:

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Jessica McGowin, City Clerk