

**CITY OF LOUISBURG, KANSAS
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
JUNE 7, 2021**

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. Councilmember Kevin Vohs arrived at 7:05 p.m. Councilmember Scott Margrave was absent.

Council Members Steve Town, Donna Cook, Sandy Harris, Kevin Vohs
City Administrator Nathan Law
City Clerk Traci Storey
City Attorney Jared Anderson
Police Chief Tim Bauer
Fire Chief Gerald Rittinghouse
Communications Coordinator Jean Carder
Public Works Supervisor Craig Hufferd
Visitors Janet McRae

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Councilmember Sandy Harris led the pledge of allegiance.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Councilmember Donna Cook asked questions regarding the bills list. Administrator Law explained. Councilmember Harris moved, seconded by Councilmember Steve Town and carried 3-0, to approve the consent agenda to include adoption of the agenda, approval of the regular meeting minutes May 17, 2021, and the bills list.

VISITORS

None

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Police Department: None

Fire Department: Fire Chief Gerald Rittinghouse said during routine maintenance that problems were found on the City brush rig. Due to the severity of the mechanical problems the brush rig was taken out of service. The pump from the brush rig was moved to the Chief's truck. Chief Rittinghouse proposed purchasing a 2021 Tahoe that is a special support vehicle to replace the Chief's truck and have that current chief vehicle replace the brush truck full-time. Administrator Law said this item is intended to be discussed later in the agenda if Council would prefer to wait until then.

Public Works: Public Works Supervisor Craig Hufferd said he is conducting interviews for the Public Works position. A recommendation may be brought to the next meeting.

Hufferd presented information on a RTV for Lewis-Young Park. For several years the need for a RTV has grown. The addition of the walking trail and the disc golf course adds the need for more weeding eating, mulching, moving rock or working on baseball fields. The RTV would keep the full size trucks off the grass, walking trails and baseball fields. To help minimize the cost there is a 1982 Ford 5610 tractor that could be traded in. This tractor has seen minimal use in the past seven years. Hufferd said there isn't a need to keep this tractor around and he doesn't want to see it waste away when the City can benefit from the value of the trade in. Councilmember Cook said don't we already have a utility vehicle. Hufferd said yes, but it stays in town during the summer and is used to water flowers. Cook asked if a truck could water them. Hufferd said a truck can't get into the spaces that the UTV can. Cook asked about buying a trailer to haul the UTV back and forth between town and LYP. Councilmembers had discussion. This will be discussed at a future meeting.

Donation of pool pass: City Administrator asked if the Council would like to donate a pool pass for Freedom Fest. This is good for the 2022 season. Councilmember Town moved, seconded by Councilmember Cook and carried 3-0, to donate a 4-person family pool pass to Freedom Fest.

CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT

City Attorney Jared Anderson said he attended the City Attorneys Association of Kansas meeting in Manhattan. There was a lot of useful information covered. Anderson thanked the City for the opportunity to attend.

MAYOR'S REPORT

CMB License: Mayor Marty Southard presented a Cereal Malt Beverage license for Casey's General Store. This will be for the new location that will be open in October. Councilmember Cook moved, seconded by Harris and carried 3-0, to authorize Mayor Southard sign the license.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Master Planning Review Continued: Mr. Law reviewed this meeting's master planning review items from the staff memo.

Councilmembers Harris asked what the status was of the downtown Chinese restaurant. Councilmember Cook said it is going to cost a lot of money to fix it up. Administrator Law said staff has been in touch with the owner in the past as needed.

Councilmember Cook asked if there was any Library news. Mr. Law said options were presented at their meetings prior to Covid. He hasn't heard anything new.

Council Projects for 2022 and Future Years – Continued: Mr. Law said there are varying degrees of cost with the items listed on page 2 of the staff report. Councilmember Cook asked if there was any news from former Councilmember Thorvald McKiernan who was leading a committee regarding wayfinding signs. Mr. Law said he has not heard anything. Mayor Southard said he will reach out to him. Councilmembers agreed to keep working on the list. Mr. Law said councilmembers might want to focus on a short list for the budget workshop.

ARPA Funding Potential Uses: Mr. Law reviewed the ARPA potential funding uses as described in the staff memo. He told Council there is a long list of eligible items in which funding can be allocated. He did tell Council the State is considering allowing some funding to go directly to Townships. If that happens, the funding to municipalities will decrease significantly. Mr. Anderson said this topic was discussed in the recent city attorney conference he attended. Mr. Law said Councilmember Cook had asked previously if this funding could be used for

stormwater and he believes it can but cannot be used to pay the February gas bill. Councilmember Cook asked if the funding is used for stormwater can it also be used to replace sidewalks washed out by stormwater. Mr. Law said likely if the sidewalk was part of a complete stormwater project and could not be used to just replace sidewalks.

Councilmember Cook asked what is the next step. Mr. Law said this is the start of the conversation. Mayor Southard said he thinks various stormwater projects are a good use of this funding. Mr. Law said those projects are estimated to cost \$3M and most of the set-aside funding have been earmarked for design. Council will have to think about how to pay for those future projects. Councilmember Harris asked if Mr. Law wants suggestions tonight on how to use the funding. He asked if funding, perhaps 2-3%, can be directed to the Ministerial Alliance to help residents pay their bills. Miami County Economic Development Director Janet McRae said the County and State currently provides funding to ECKAN, who already offers direct assistance for rent, food distribution and utilities. If money were to go to a local organization, she said there would need to be significant documentation on how those funds are spent. She suggested it might be best to use dollars that are already available for those needs.

Council will continue to discuss this funding.

Fire Chief Truck: Mr. Law said the information on a new fire chief vehicle is listed in the staff report. Councilmember Harris said while he doesn't mind replacing big vehicles, he asked if money is available. Mr. Law said the vehicle came along at the right time and because of the current delay in production should be at least considered. Chief Rittinghouse said the vehicle would be ready for pickup around July 1. Councilmember Town asked what the advantages were of this vehicle over a truck with a camper shell. Chief Rittinghouse said this vehicle will be available soon and the dealership won't quote a truck until next year and a truck would cost more. Mr. Law said it is difficult to pass on this vehicle. Councilmember Town asked if the brush pump would be permanently placed in the current chief truck. Rittinghouse said it would. Councilmember Cook asked how many brush rigs do we have. Rittinghouse said there are 4 at the station but only 1, the one with the mechanical issues, belongs to the City with the rest owned by the Fire District. Councilmember Cook asked from which budget the purchase would come from. Mr. Law said the fire department and if that department exceeds their budget but the general fund does not, there is no budget violation. Councilmember Harris moved to accept the SUV at the price stated plus the add-on specialty equipment.

Councilmember Town seconded the motion. Councilmember Harris asked if this vehicle is capable of performing the job. Rittinghouse said it is a special service vehicle. Police Chief Bauer said it is very similar to a regular police cruiser. He said the vehicle the police ordered in early 2021 won't be available until at least September. Rittinghouse said the add-on equipment of signage, lights and radio might be a bit cheaper since that equipment is installed in-house and there are no labor costs. Councilmember Harris asked if the lights from the old truck can be used on the new SUV. Rittinghouse said no as they wouldn't be compliant on a new vehicle. He said it was a great truck but is a 1988 model. Motion passed 4-0.

COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilmember Town: None

Councilmember Cook: Councilmember Donna Cook asked if motorized boats could be used at the City Lake. Mr. Law said only trolling motors are allowed. She asked about stormwater priorities. Mr. Law said he would provide her with the link for that information which is on the City's website.

Councilmember Harris: Councilmember Sandy Harris said the lake was looking great. He asked about the parking issue at the Library. Mr. Law said all the downtown owners said they would like parking spots as well. This item will be discussed at a future meeting.

Harris asked if we are live streaming the meetings. Mr. Law said we are in the testing phase.

Mr. Harris received a call from the swim team regarding the temperature of the pool. Mr. Hufferd said the pumps have been fixed and should start warming up. Having all the rain and no sunshine makes it difficult to heat the pool.

Councilmember Vohs: Councilmember Kevin Vohs reported at the last LRC meeting they voted to have an election to request a mill increase. This is in effort to construct a ballfield complex.

Mayor Southard reminded everyone of the wastewater treatment plant tour on Thursday.

ADJOURNMENT

At 7:35 p.m. Councilmember Harris moved, seconded by Councilmember Town and carried 4-0.

Approved:

Marty Southard, Mayor

Attest:

Traci Storey, City Clerk