

**CITY OF LOUISBURG, KANSAS
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
JUNE 18, 2018**

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 Bill Smith was absent.

Council Members Thorvald McKiernan, Kalee Smith, Steve Town and Dave Maddax
City Administrator Nathan Law
City Clerk Traci Storey
City Attorney Kelly Stohs
Police Chief Tim Bauer
Communications Coordinator Jean Carder
Public Works Supervisor
Fire Department Jerry Rittinghouse
Press John VanPelt
Visitors: Teresa Barker Sturm, Bill Barker

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Councilmember Dave Maddax led the pledge of allegiance.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Councilmember Dave Maddax moved, seconded by Councilmember Thorvald McKiernan to approve the consent agenda to include adoption of the agenda, approval of the June 4, 2018, minutes and bills list. Motion passed 4-0.

VISITORS

None

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

None

CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT

None

COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilmember Thorvald McKiernan: Councilmember Thorvald McKiernan voiced his concern regarding the property on N. 4th and Summerfield where there is a detention pond. This is a health issue with mosquitos everywhere. Kids are going in there and playing. Two people were stuck in it a few weeks ago. City Administrator said it was bank owned. Homeowners in the area should also post no trespassing signs.

Councilmember Dave Maddax: Councilmember Dave Maddax commented how beautiful the downtown looked.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Marty Southard thanked everyone for all the help on the Fishing Derby. It looked like everyone had a great time.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

LBT Farms Request for Extension: City Administrator Nathan Law said at the last meeting LBT requested Council consider allowing for additional deferment of the North Interceptor benefit district assessments on this agricultural property. Bill Barker spoke to the Council asking for more time and consideration since it is a hardship on his sister.

Councilmember Dave Maddax asked Administrator Law if all the other owners have paid the same assessments. Administrator Law said that yes everyone except the Barker family has paid their assessment. Councilmember Maddax asked if the Barkers agreed to the petition for the improvements. Administrator Law said yes they voluntarily petitioned to be part of this benefit district. Councilmember Maddax asked if the \$600,000 they are being assessed could help fund a Recreation Center. Administrator Law said the money would go back into

the sewer fund. If the Council wanted to allow for deferment, they would be able to set the interest rate and for how long. The original rate was set at 4.5% for 10 years. Councilmember Steve Town made a motion to extend the terms for another 5 years. Motion died for lack of a second. Councilmembers had discussion. Councilmember McKiernan asked if the assessment could be paid in 2-4 years with an installment plan. Teresa Barker Sturm said she lives on social security so the only way she will be able to pay it back would be after the property sold.

Administrator Law discussed the financial impact to the City at the last meeting for allowing continued deferment. While there is no requirement for additional interest, interest may be added for continued deferment of the assessment beyond the initially agreed upon term. Additionally, the cost to the city is the full value of the outstanding deferment for the term during which those dollars were unusable and being paid the City toward the issued debt. Time value of money being what it is, there are any number of projects or uses the City would have foregone without the availability of the \$457,985.06 principle and even the \$120,811.06 interest, Administrator Law said.

If Council wants to have discussion with the property's legal representative, then Staff recommends obtaining the services of either Tim Orrick or another counselor with Orrick & Erskine to act on behalf of the City. This would include a determination if any modified terms for payment are warranted and that any legal services costs should be included as part of terms of deferment and assessment. Councilmembers agreed to have Administrator Law talk to the attorneys and bring back with all the parties input.

Lewis-Young Ballfield Fence Work: City Administrator Nathan Law said the Park and Tree Board discussed the conditions of backstops on all ballfields at Lewis-Young Park at their last meeting. The current backstops are a combination of wood planks and netting. The more permanent version of this type of consideration is for chain-link fencing of an appropriate height, and carrying the same further out toward dugouts and shortly beyond. There are a couple of considerations paid to a switch to chain-link beside cost, and that is both the longer-term quality of new fencing material and the reduction of ADA considerations for replacement benches as the sight lines are reduced from the height of the current plans to that of ground level or full visibility. The Park and Tree Board took action to recommend City Council replace current backstops with chain-link fencing and place initial priority on "C" field. They also recommend that Council consider identifying funds in the current year, if possible or that this

work be placed as a priority for 2019 and ideally will not detract from other requested budget items.

Estimates were sought and provided by four companies with Tom Burge Fence and Iron, Inc. being the lowest bid at \$25,895.00. There is additional cost associated with a concrete base intended to run under the entirety of the backstop area to help anchor the fence and retain infield dirt. The Park and Tree Board recently used \$25,000 on new playground equipment. Councilmember Kalee Smith asked if the Recreation Commission would help fund the project. Administrator Law said that could be discussed at the Recreation Commission at its meeting tomorrow night. Councilmember McKiernan asked how the bleachers were coming along. Administrator Law said they are replacing them a few at a time. Councilmember Kalee Smith asked if the Recreation Commission could help find grants to help fund the project. Councilmember McKiernan added he would also like to see what the Recreation Commission would be able to kick in. Administrator Law said he would like to see a recommendation tonight. Councilmember McKiernan moved, seconded by Councilmember Kalee Smith to approve the backstop project for "C" field be completed next year. Councilmembers had discussion. Motion carried 4-0, to move the project into 2019.

Lewis-Young Dog Park: City Administrator Nathan Law said the Council indicated creating a dog park was a priority project for 2018 through the Council project process from 2017. At the last Park & Tree Board staff provided the suggested items within the staff-created master parks plan and identified a portion of Lewis-Young Park now used as a hay field as the ideal location for the small park. The benefits stated to the board for this location is the distance from residential properties, proximity to newly installed parking lot for the flag football fields, distance from other park uses, and space for expansion. The board discussed alternative locations specifically next to the Aquatic Center. As this is a Council priority item for the current budget year, the Park & Tree Board was asked only for their recommendation of the project to City Council.

A cost estimate received from the previous item's lowest responsible bidder prices this work at \$17,000. Staff sought additional bids from other local/area fencing contractors dealing with residential style fence, and found prices to be similar. Administrator Law said if we wanted to have Public Works Department put up the fencing that would save money, but would wait until later in the year. Councilmember Maddax asked why Lewis-Young Park was the chosen location. Administrator Law said most people do not always want a dog park in their

backyard. Maddax asked about the land next to the pool. Law said there is discussion to expand the pool and a potential dog park at that location might impact any expansion plans. Councilmember Kalee Smith asked if there are other items that go into a dog park and would this even be worth the money. Administrator Law said the public have requested this amenity in the past. Councilmember Kalee Smith said she would like to see if there is a big need for it before spending the money on building it. Councilmember McKiernan said he feels like other things should take priority before a dog park. Administrator Law said he will reach out to the community to gauge interest in a dog park and report back.

Freedom Fest Pool Pass: Administrator Law is asking for a family pool pass for a raffle for the Freedom Fest. Councilmember Dave Maddax moved, seconded by Councilmember Steve Town and carried 4-0, to donate a family pool pass to Freedom Fest.

ADJOURNMENT

At 7:14 p.m. Councilmember Kalee Smith moved, seconded by Councilmember Thorvald McKiernan to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried 4-0.

Approved:

Marty Southard, Mayor

Attest:

Traci Storey, City Clerk