

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
April 4, 2023  
CITY HALL  
121 S. MERIDIAN

Council President Anderson called the regular council meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. with the following members present: Matt Stamm, Chris Evans, Clint Bass, Ben Anderson, Gina Gregory, Dale Kerstetter, Robert Wilson, and Ronald Colbert.

Members Absent: Mayor Cicirello

Staff Present: Barry Arbuckle, City Attorney  
Lloyd Newman, Public Safety Director  
Ryan Shrack, Community Development Director  
Rodney Eggleston, Public Works Director  
Neal Owings, Parks and Public Building Director  
Gage Scheer, City Engineer  
Barry Smith, Asst. City Administrator  
Brent Clark, City Administrator  
Kristi Carrithers, City Clerk

Press present: Ark Valley News

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Stamm moved to approve the agenda as presented, seconded by Evans. Vote yea: unanimous. Motion carried.

**ADMINISTRATION AGENDA –**  
MARCH 21, 2023, REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MINUTES-

Gregory moved to approve the minutes of the March 21, 2023, regular City Council meeting as presented, seconded by Bass. Vote yea: Unanimous Motion carried.

**PRESENTATIONS/PROCLAMATIONS –**

Sedgwick County Commissioner Ryan Baty introduced himself to Council and gave update on happening with Sedgwick County. He stated that he plans to attend Council meetings quarterly. He highlighted 4 main topics. 1) Two new appointments, Lynn Packer as HR Director and Laura Rainwater, Sedgwick County Election Commissioner. 2) Budget process has begun. Staffing continues to be a major concern. Mental Health and those departments that work directly with that crisis seem to be the hardest positions to fill. 3) A MOU with the State for a new 50-100 bed mental health hospital is being created. 4) Property tax appraisal have been mailed. Baty reminded Council that the appraiser is a Kansas Department of Revenue employee. 79% of all property owners have a change in value and received appraisal documents. The median increase was 10% but those that experienced a decrease had a median decrease of 17%. He referred all questions and available options for residents to the County Clerk Office. Councilmember Stamm asked about 911 response times. Baty replied that calls have increased, and staffing continues to be an issue, but they are trying to get better response times.

**PUBLIC FORUM –** None.

**APPOINTMENTS –**

Council President recommended Valley Center Public Library-re-appointments for Shelli Miller and Jeanne Shove to a four-year term thru 4/2027  
Kerstetter moved to approve the appointments of Shelli Miller and Jeanne Shove as recommended. Motion seconded by Wilson. Vote yea: unanimous. Motion carried.

**OLD BUSINESS –**

**A. DISCUSSION AND APPROVAL OF 20 MPH SPEED LIMIT WITHIN THE CEDAR RIDGE PLAT**

Public Safety Director Newman asked for feedback from the City Council regarding setting the speed limit within Cedar Ridge Plat at 20mph. Several members of the council stated they did go out and drive on the streets. Reviews were mixed. Discussion was held regarding whether this would set a precedent for other lowering of residential speed limits. Others felt that driving into the addition wasn't bad, driving back out was worrisome.

Wilson moved to direct staff to draft Ordinance to lower the speed limit to 20 mph in the Cedar Ridge Development. Motion seconded by Colbert. Vote yea: Evans, Bass, Gregory, Wilson and Colbert  
Opposed: Stamm Kerstetter and Anderson. Motion carried.

**NEW BUSINESS-**

**A. DISCUSSION AND APPROVAL OF ALTERNATE DATE FOR JULY 4, 2023, REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING**

City Administrator Clark requested approval of alternate date for the July 4, 2023, regular city council meeting pending observed national holiday. He recommended the meeting be moved to July 11, 2023 as people might be out of town during the week of July 4th.

Evans moved to set July 11, 2023, as alternate date for the first meeting in July. Motion seconded by Wilson. Kerstetter stated he would like it to remain in that week, just a later day. Vote yea: Stamm, Evans, Bass, Anderson, Gregory, Wilson and Colbert  
Opposed: Kerstetter  
Motion carried.

**B. APPROVAL OF BUDGET CALENDAR**

Asst. City Administrator Smith presented the proposed 2024 Budget Calendar. He stated they will receive revenue neutral rate from the County on June 14<sup>th</sup>. At the regular Council meeting on June 20<sup>th</sup> a draft of the 2024 budget can be presented and discussed. This allows discussion at the July 11<sup>th</sup> and July 18 meetings to determine if we will exceed the revenue neutral rate for the 2024 budget.

Wilson moved to adopt the proposed 2024 budget calendar. Motion seconded by Gregory. Vote Yea: unanimous. Motion carried.

**C. ORDINANCE 1387-23; RE-ZONE PROPERTY AT 145 N MERIDIAN**

Community Development Director Shrack presented Ordinance 1387-23 which would rezone property at 145 N Meridian from R-1B to C-1 for 1<sup>st</sup> reading. The request for re-zoning was reviewed and approved by the Planning and Zoning Board at their March 28, 2023, meeting. The property had a home that burned. The current owner Vincent Garcia purchased the lot and demolished the burned structure with the intention of developing a law office with housing above on upper level. Shrack stated this lot does fall within the overlay district. Discussion was held with Kerstetter voicing concerns for allowing commercial property surrounded by residential home. Gregory asked what concerns were raised during the Planning and Zoning meeting. Administrator Clark stated that some residents expressed concern about property values and what type of business could be opened in the future. Wilson and Stamm were in support of the re-zoning change. Anderson stated that the planning and zoning board serve the community and are appointed to make decisions to benefit the community.

Wilson made motion to adopt Ordinance 1387-23 to re-zone 145 N Meridian from R-1B to C-1 for 1<sup>st</sup> reading. Motion seconded by Evans. Vote yea: Stamm, Evans, Bass, Anderson, Wilson and Colbert  
Opposed: Gregory and Kerstetter. Motion carried.

**D. APPROVAL OF LAND PURCHASE AGREEMENT WITH LOUIS ROBELLI**

City Administrator Clark presented a purchase agreement for land located to the north of the Middle School to construct the new Recreation and Aquatic Complex utilizing sales tax revenues. The property is roughly 31.843 acres and will be replatted once the final acreage for the complex is identified. The purchase price is \$19,000.00 per acre or \$605,017.00. When asked about final plans, Clark directed them to go to website to view plans or watch committee meetings. Clark hoped to begin development by August with an 18–20-month construction timeline.

Colbert made motion to approve purchase said Parcel 1 from Louis J Robelli for \$605,017.00 and authorize the Mayor or City Administrator to sign all documents associated. Motion seconded by Wilson. Vote yea: unanimous. Motion carried.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

- A. APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE – APRIL 4, 2023
- B. DELINQUENT ACCOUNT REPORT – JANUARY 2023
- C. PUBLIC POWER COMMITTEE MINUTES-FEBRUARY 23, 2023

Wilson moved, seconded by Kerstetter to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Vote Yea: Unanimous. Motion carried.

**STAFF REPORTS**

**PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR EGGLESTON**

Eggleston reported that Ford Street is complete and opened to Seneca. He also reported on the traffic signal at 5<sup>th</sup> and Meridian.

**CITY ADMINISTRATOR CLARK**

Reported that posts for the shade structure at the swimming pool in Lions Park have been installed. Thanked Neal Owings, Matt Nordick and staff for all their hard work.

Gregory asked about the status on Clearwave fiber. Clark said they are trying to get more surrounding communities on board but should beginning installation soon.

**GOVERNING BODY REPORTS –**

**COUNCILMEMBER WILSON**

Asked for update on pickleball court. Owings replied that the recreation commission is taking the lead on the project but should see more work in April. Wilson stated that the public library had an outstanding event last weekend. Approximately 120-130 people attended the presentation featuring an author.

**COUNCILMEMBER COLBERT**

Reported that there are only 2 more weeks for Kansas legislature. One of the major concerns was not allowing local sales of consumer products. This is a blow to local Home Rule.

Colbert moved to adjourn, second by Kerstetter. Vote Yea: Unanimous.

**ADJOURN -**

**Meeting adjourned at 8:01pm.**

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**Kristi Carrithers, City Clerk**