

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
September 5, 2023
CITY HALL
121 S. MERIDIAN

Mayor Cicirello called the council meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. with the following members present: Matt Stamm, Ben Anderson, Gina Gregory, Dale Kerstetter, Robert Wilson, and Ronald Colbert.

Members Absent: Chris Evans and Clint Bass

Staff Present: Ryan Shrack, Community Development Director
Lloyd Newman, Public Safety Director
Rodney Eggleston, Public Works Director
Barry Arbuckle, City Attorney
Barry Smith, Assistant City Administrator
Brent Clark, City Administrator
Kristi Carrithers, City Clerk
Desirae Womack, City Treasurer

Press present: Ark Valley News

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor Cicirello requested amendments to the agenda. Remove Ryan Baty from Presentations and move Appropriation Ordinance from Consent Agenda to New Business, Item G. Gregory moved to approve the agenda as amended, seconded by Kerstetter. Vote yea: unanimous. Motion carried.

ADMINISTRATION AGENDA –

AUGUST 15, 2023, CITY COUNCIL MINUTES-

Stamm moved to approve the minutes of the August 15, 2023, City Council meeting as presented, seconded by Colbert. Vote yea: Unanimous Motion Carried.

PRESENTATIONS/PROCLAMATIONS –

Allison Clubb, Valley Center Chamber of Commerce announced Grand Marshal and Citizens of Year for the 2023 Fall Fest. Junior Citizen of Year: Cambree Dicks, Citizen of Year: Christy Miller and Grand Marshall: Chris Strunk

PUBLIC FORUM –

Michael Miller, 650 Scott St. address Council with concerns and questions regarding the removal of political signs last month during the School Bond Voting process. He requested that the item be placed on future agenda for discussion.

APPOINTMENTS – None

OLD BUSINESS – None

NEW BUSINESS-

A. PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING THE 2024 VALLEY CENTER PROPOSED PROPERTY TAX LEVY IN EXCESS OF THE REVENUE NEUTRAL RATE AND ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION 739-23

Assistant City Administrator Smith presented information regarding the Revenue Neutral Rate and the steps in the budget process. Smith explained that the mil will remain the same, however, due to increased property values, the City would see an increase of \$341,978.00 over 2023. These funds are only used for General Funds, Employee benefits, Bond & Interest, Library and Emergency Equipment. Smith outlined a ten-year mill levy comparison as well as a valuation comparison. Smith presented mil levy information for other Sedgwick County Cities.

Mayor Cicirello opened the public hearing regarding the proposed tax levy in excess of the revenue neutral rate at 7:25pm. Mayor Cicirello requested public comments be limited to 3 minutes. Joe Dessenberger, 453 Valley Creek Drive, requested five minutes to address Council. Dessenberger opposed any increase to property taxes and asked the Council to think of people on fixed incomes or struggling financially. Lee Ryglinski, 2001 Winsor Creek Court, asked for clarification on CHIP/HIP. (Commercial Housing Incentive Program and Housing Incentive Program.) Mayor Cicirello closed the public hearing at 7:37pm.

Councilmember Kerstetter stated that he is also apprehensive about the increase in taxes. He acknowledged the need to exceed the RNR, but perhaps by a smaller amount. Mayor Cicirello stated that the approval of authorizing the exceeding the Revenue Neutral Rate and the approval of the budget are - two separate items. The approval of Resolution 739-23 does not set the budget. Smith recommended that authorization always be given to exceed the RNR. Final approval of the 2024 Budget must be made at the next Council meeting.

Anderson moved to approve Resolution 739-23 to levy a property tax rate exceeding the revenue neutral rate. The motion was seconded by Wilson. Roll Call Vote yea: Stamm, Anderson, Gregory, Kerstetter, Wilson and Colbert. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

B. PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING THE 2024 VALLEY CENTER BUDGET AND ADOPTION OF THE 2024 BUDGET

Assistant City Administrator Smith requested approval of the 2024 budget. Kerstetter requested the Council discuss the proposed budget. Gregory stated that she had really looked at the budget and couldn't find anything to cut. Discussion was held regarding the CHIP/HIP program. The program will be re-evaluated in December, but the increase of that program in the 2024 budget is only \$34,623. Mayor Cicirello stated that a lot of the decisions made by this Council now are for tomorrow's residents. Administrator Clark thanked the department directors and Asst. City Administrator Smith for the hard work and tough decisions they made in preparation of the 2024 budget. He is not sure where we can really cut or squeeze on the budget. Anderson and Stamm both agreed that the staff has worked hard on bringing to Council a trimmed budget. Stamm stated the city has good staff, good council and is moving forward. Colbert expressed that he would like more citizens to voice their opinions.

Wilson moved to table final approval of 2024 budget until the September 19th meeting. Motion seconded by Kerstetter. Vote Yea: unanimous. Motion carried.

C. RESOLUTION 740-23: G.O.TEMPORARY NOTES, SERIES 2023-1

Clayton Kelley, Piper Sandler presented bids received August 30, 2023, for GO Temp notes, series 2023-1 dated September 20, 2023, in the amount of \$27,370,000.00. The winning bid was received from KeyBanc Capital Market at a rate of 4.344. Kelley reminded Council that notes have been at historic lows in the past couple of years. Resolution 740-23 will authorize and direct the issuance, sale and delivery of General Obligation Temporary Notes, Series 2023-1. Funding from the sale of the notes will be September 20, 2023.

Colbert made a motion that the bid be accepted, and that the City's execution of the bid form be ratified and confirmed and Resolution 740-23 regarding G.O. Temporary Notes, series 2023-1 be adopted. Seconded by Wilson. Vote Yea: unanimous. Motion carried.

D. ORDINANCE 1395-23: RE-ZONE 116 S ASH AVE

Comm. Dev. Director Shrack presented Ordinance No. 1395-23. A request from property owner Jason Febres was received. He wished to build a house for his mother to live in. This Ordinance would rezone the property from C-2 to R-1B. This request for re-zoning has been reviewed by the Valley Center Planning and Zoning Board.

Wilson moved to approve Ordinance 1395-23; to re-zone property at 116 S. Ash from C-2 to R-1B for 1st reading, seconded by Stamm. Vote Yea: unanimous. Motion carried.

E. APPROVAL OF PURCHASE AND NEW CONTRACT FOR FLOCK CAMERAS

Public Safety Director Newman requested the purchase of a third Flock camera to be placed on Ford Street. He also requested approval of a new five-year contract with Flock Safety to take advantage of pricing. Wilson stated that he thought the installation of a camera at the north edge of Valley Center would be advantageous.

Stamm moved to approve the purchase of an additional Flock camera and authorize a new 60-month contract with Flock Safety. Motion seconded by Anderson. Kerstetter verified that the contract price was for the full five years. Vote Yea: unanimous. Motion carried.

F. APPROVAL OF CREATION OF STORMWATER CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Public Works Director Eggleston requested the formation of a Stormwater Citizens Advisory Committee. He explained that to remain in KDHE compliance certain goals must be obtained. This committee would meet twice a year to offer guidance on our stormwater management plan. Staff recommends the appointment of the sitting Planning and Zoning Board members to serve on the committee. Colbert asked why the full board would be appointed. Eggleston stated that there is no maximum or minimum membership to serve, but the Planning and Zoning Board does have a broad representation of the community.

Anderson moved to create a Stormwater Citizens Advisory Committee. Motion seconded by Stamm. Vote Yea: unanimous. Motion carried.

Anderson moved to appoint sitting members of the Planning and Zoning Board to serve on the committee, seconded by Stamm. Vote Yea: unanimous. Motion carried.

G. APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE – SEPTEMBER 5, 2023

City Clerk Carrithers stated that the appropriation ordinance as listed in the consent agenda had the wrong dollar amount. It should be approved for \$1,571,756.04.

Anderson moved to approve the appropriation Ordinance. Motion seconded by Kerstetter. Vote Yea: unanimous. Motion carried.

CONSENT AGENDA

A. DELINQUENT ACCOUNT REPORT – JUNE 2023

B. PLANNING AND ZONING BOARD MINUTES – AUGUST 22, 2023

C. ALCOHOL WAIVER REQUEST-VICTORIA STOLL – OCTOBER 7, 2023

D. LIONS PARK SPECIAL USE REQUEST – LIFE POINT CHURCH-KID FEST – SEPTEMBER 23, 2023

E. LIONS PARK SPECIAL USE REQUEST – FAITH AND BLUE EVENT – OCTOBER 7, 2023

F. LIONS PARK SPECIAL USE REQUEST – VC PUBLIC LIBRARY – OCTOBER 10, 2023

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

STAFF REPORTS

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR SHRACK

Announced that the hours for the Farmer's Market will be reduced from 4:00-7:00pm

He also reported that Ideatek has completed the installation of all lines and should begin connecting service.

PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR EGGLESTON

Reported that Steven Johnson has begun in the Streets Department.

ASST CITY ADMINISTRATOR SMITH

Smith thanked the Council and the residents for their comments regarding the RNR and budget.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR CLARK

Farmer's Market will be this Thursday, but stated the second Farmer's Market in September will be cancelled due to Fall Fest.

GOVERNING BODY REPORTS-

COUNCILMEMBER GREGORY

Announced that the Sedgwick Association of Cities will meet Saturday, September 9 in Bentley.

COUNCILMEMBER COLBERT

Colbert reminded everyone of the Lions Club car show scheduled for September 15th. Colbert also recognized his wife and daughter-in-law who were able to attend tonight's meeting.

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

ADJOURN -

The meeting adjourned at 8:33 PM.

Kristi Carrithers, City Clerk