

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
October 17, 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, Chris Evans, Clint Bass, Ben Anderson, Gina Gregory, Dale Kerstetter and Robert Wilson.

Members Absent: Ronald Colbert

Staff Present: Ryan Shrack, Community Development Director
Matthew Vogt, Public Safety Director
Rodney Eggleston, Public Works Director
Neal Owings, Parks and Public Buildings Director
Barry Arbuckle, City Attorney
Gage Scheer, City Engineer
Desirae Womack, City Treasurer
Barry Smith, Assistant 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 Aye: unanimous. Motion carried.

ADMINISTRATION AGENDA –
OCTOBER 3, 2023, CITY COUNCIL MINUTES-

Evans moved to approve the minutes of the October 3, 2023, City Council meeting as presented, seconded by Bass. Vote Aye: Unanimous Motion Carried.

PRESENTATIONS/PROCLAMATIONS –
FIRST RESPONDERS’ DAY PROCLAMATION

Mayor Cicirello read a proclamation to recognize October 28, 2023, as First Responders’ Day.

PUBLIC FORUM –

Jeremy Johnson, 748 N Wakefield Ave. addressed Council requesting a review of the speed limit in the Ridgefield HOA. He explained that too many people are speeding through the neighborhood. He suggested speedbumps be installed that would break the trend of people speeding through the neighborhood that has lots of children.

James Janzen, president of the Ridgefield HOA also expressed his concerns. He reminded Council that he requested a lowering of speed limit last year. He requested more patrols and radar usage to write more tickets. He is afraid another child will be hit.

Mayor responded that he personally wasn’t in favor of speed bumps, but maybe speed humps. Mayor also encouraged Janzen to gather resident signatures to petition the city to lower the speed limit.

Councilmember Bass commented that he noticed many vehicles parked in the streets, that could hinder sightlines.

APPOINTMENTS – None

OLD BUSINESS – None

NEW BUSINESS-

A. REQUEST FOR STREET CLOSURE – CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Allison Club, Chamber of Commerce Director requested closure of the 100-200 blocks W Main Street for the annual Trick or Treat event.

Kerstetter moved to approve of closure of 100-200 W. Main St. on October 30, 2023, from 3:00pm to 8:00pm for annual Trick or Treat Event, seconded by Wilson. Vote Aye: unanimous. Motion carried.

B. VALLEY CENTER MUNICIPAL UTILITY FEASIBILITY STUDY

Scott Burnham with NewGen Strategies & Solutions, LLC presented the Municipal Utility Feasibility Study for Valley Center. He reported on the project strategy and tasks. He showed the financial model that considers Municipal Electric Utility costs (MEU) over a 10-year period. Burnham acknowledged that retail rates would be slightly higher than estimated Evergy rates in the early years but would be slightly lower in later years.

John Coyle, legal subconsultant with Duncan & Allen then gave legal analysis moving forward. He stated the establishment of municipal electric utility is feasible under existing Kansas and federal law, but to expect strong opposition from incumbent. Coyle explained his four elements of successful municipalization are “spread”, “head”, “bread” and “lead”

Bass moved to accept and file the Municipal Utility Feasibility Study. Motion seconded by Kerstetter. Vote Aye: unanimous. Motion carried.

CONSENT AGENDA

A. APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE – OCTOBER 17, 2023

B. DELINQUENT ACCOUNT REPORT-JULY 2023

C. TREASURER’S REPORT – SEPTEMBER 2023

D. REVENUE AND EXPENSE REPORT – SEPTEMBER 2023

E. CHECK RECONCILIATION – SEPTEMBER 2023

F. PLANNING AND ZONING BOARD MINUTES – SEPTEMBER 26, 2023

G. STORMWATER CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES – SEPTEMBER 26, 2023

H. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BOARD MINUTES – OCTOBER 4, 2023

Stamm moved, seconded by Evans to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Vote Aye: Unanimous. Motion carried.

STAFF REPORTS

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR SHRACK

The final Farmer’s Market of the season will be this Thursday evening Hours will be from 4:00-7:00pm

POLICE CAPTAIN VOGT

The department will be assisting with the Trick or Treat event on Main Street.

Reported that the new fire truck has been delivered and is being outfitted.

The Public Safety department continues to interview for open positions. Vogt anticipated that the Brazos ticketing system would be on-line within thirty days.

In response to the bike/truck collision occurring last week. He hopes more education for all citizens for bicycles and speeding will help. Kerstetter asked if there are any programs currently in place in schools.

PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR EGGLESTON

Thanked Council for attending the special-called City Council meeting on the 12th. He reported that everything has been completed and filed with the KDHE.

He has had numerous inquiries regarding the bids for the Meridian project.

CITY ENGINEER SCHEER

Confirmed that the bids for the Meridian project will be opened tomorrow at the KDHE headquarters.

GOVERNING BODY REPORTS-

COUNCILMEMBER STAMM

Announced that he will be switching to Ideatek later this week to take advantage of fiberoptic lines. Mayor and Wilson stated they have made the switch and find it much faster and more reliable.

Wilson moved to adjourn, second by Kerstetter. Vote Aye: Unanimous.

ADJOURN -

The meeting adjourned at 7:56 PM.

Kristi Carrithers, City Clerk