

BOOK 26
August 21, 2024

BURLINGTON CITY COUNCIL REGULAR SESSION 8-21-2024

City of Burlington Governing Body met in Regular Session at City Hall's address, 1013 N. 4th Street, Burlington, Kansas, at 6:00 p.m. Wednesday, August 21, 2024. Mayor Luke called the meeting to order.

THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL: Stan Luke, Mayor

Council Members present:

Jerilyn Curtiss (President of Council)

Maxi Berryman

Cara Mays

Lila Van Horn

Nathan Strawder

Martin Ernst

Superintendents Present:

Kevin Boyce (Parks)

Alan Schneider (Electric)

Mark Davidson (Street)

Doug Jones (Chief of Police)

Danny Hawkins (Water/Wastewater)

Also Present:

Anne Brown (City Clerk)

Mary Mader (Administrative Assistant)

Philip Wright (City Attorney)

Jimmy Hugunin (Zoning/Grants Clerk)

Kerri Weltha (Deputy City Clerk)

Media Present: Mark Petterson (Coffey County Republican)

VISITORS: Paul Abendroth, Jay Hale, Becky Petterson, Mark Waterstreet

AGENDA:

Council Member Ernst, "I move to approve the agenda as amended." Council Member Mays, "Second." Motion unanimously carried, 6:0.

MINUTES 8/7/2024: Mayor Luke, "You have before you the draft minutes of our regular session of August 7, 2024. Are there any additions or corrections?"

Council Member Curtiss, "I move to approve the draft minutes of August 7, 2024, as presented." Council Member Ernst, "Second." Motion unanimously carried, 6:0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: (1)

Paul Abendroth, "I am still against the mill levy going up two mils. I do not think there is any need for it. If you think you're running behind on giving the retirement people their money, take it out of what you have in reserve already. I am sure a lot of the interest that you are collecting on that will cover part of this. Also, I am against the code enforcer because if the code --there are certain codes the people that are taking care of this --if they do their job then there won't be any problems. Don't be scared to do their job. Also, over on 11th and Merrimac the fellow is wanting to put in a shed over there, a 30 by 40 shed. Has this been approved by whoever is supposed to check setbacks and everything?"

Zoning Clerk Hugunin, "Yep." Paul Abendroth, "He's got plenty of room? He's got 15 feet on--?" Zoning Clerk Hugunin, "He's got five on that backside and five from the alley." Paul Abendroth, "I thought it was supposed to be 15 feet?" Zoning Clerk Hugunin, "That's on a primary structure, this is an accessory structure." Paul Abendroth, "The way I read the paperwork it says it's supposed to be both 15 at the least on both sides if they have it." Zoning Clerk Hugunin, "That's showing on a true corner lot depending on where it's going to go. I'll look at it again. If it's wrong, he hasn't committed to anything, it can be moved." Paul Abendroth, "Well, they already put the tubing in over there." Zoning Clerk Hugunin, "That's not going to affect the placement of the garage." Paul Abendroth, "Well, he won't have enough space to get 15 feet between that and the garage, property line." Zoning Clerk Hugunin, "When I measured it was pretty darn close to that, 10, 11, 13 feet just judging with where he is going with his property line was. I can go look at it again." Paul Abendroth, "You haven't checked the property line itself?" Zoning Clerk Hugunin, "I am not a surveyor. They show me a pin and that is what I go off of." Paul Abendroth, "Okay, that's what I was going to ask you if there was a pin over there." Zoning Clerk Hugunin, "That doesn't mean the pin is right." Paul Abendroth, "Well, you know looking for a pin on a property

BOOK 26

August 21, 2024

to the south of him, it doesn't look like he has it setback enough." Zoning Clerk Hugunin, "I'll double check it. Like I said, if they show me where it's at, that's what I have to go off of." Paul Abendroth, "Right or wrong." Zoning Clerk Hugunin, "Yeah, I am not a surveyor."

Paul Abendroth, "One other thing I had a question on. Anne, I came up with a check register all the time, how come the checks going through Kansas Payment Center, and a Treasurer of Virginia is being included in on that." City Clerk Brown, "I told you before you were not getting all of them. I didn't realize you weren't. So, now you're getting those." Paul Abendroth, "But it's on the same account. The account number that I have here is right before the rest of the checks. I know you have a wire transfer also. What is the Treasurer of Virginia?" City Clerk Brown, "It is a vendor. It is a withholding." Paul Abendroth, "Okay. I just question what it is. The Kansas Payment Center I'm assuming that is on...well I can't say for sure, maybe you're writing checks for something, I don't know." City Clerk Brown, "That's the payroll side of it." Paul Abendroth, "Okay, I'm just questioning what some of these are. That's all for now."

ELECTRIC DEPARTMENT: DISTRIBUTION Update

General: Electric personnel have been doing many line locates, customer service requests, tree trimming, shop maintenance, preventative line maintenance, street light maintenance, and vehicle and equipment maintenance.

Outage: Superintendent Schneider, "I'll start with the obvious Monday afternoon. It was roughly 4:45 p.m. Everybody who lives in the city limits of Burlington experienced a power outage. Looking at my call logs with the phone calls I had it was approximately six minutes. What had occurred, a squirrel had entered our power plant substation and climbed up into the grid infrastructure ahead of our circuit feeders but behind the tiebreaker to the main feed that isolates us from our transmission service. So, that's what happened that knocked everybody out is our main tie feed opened up; which it's designed to do that for safety and equipment and anybody else. So, the system did what it was supposed to. It didn't take us long to find the squirrel lying by the substation. Luckily, when he got in contact with one of the 7,200-volt phase, the tiebreaker popped open really quickly and there was no damage. Once we were able to make sure that the infrastructure was in good shape we did reenergize and feed service back to the citizens."

Tree Trimming: Superintendent Schneider, "We are still very active trimming trees."

Maintenance: Superintendent Schneider, "We have been doing some equipment maintenance."

Callout: Superintendent Schneider, "We did work one other call out on August 11th. It was isolated to one block of customers in the area of 16th and Housatonic. You're never going to guess what it was, but it was on one of our arms. It was a metal structure that basically burnt the jumper wire off of our phase off of our main line between it and the transformer switch so that burnt that too. We were able to fix that relatively quickly and got them back in service."

ELECTRIC DEPARTMENT: PRODUCTION Update

General: Power plant personnel have been performing normal power plant and equipment maintenance, over current relay maintenance, plant reports, DC power supply, and substation maintenance.

Painting: Superintendent Schneider, "They are still painting and it is starting to look a whole lot better in the plant. They have started painting outside by the cooling towers as well. So, it's looking a whole lot better over there."

Maintenance: Superintendent Schneider, "The men did some DC power supply maintenance."

WATER AND WASTEWATER: Distribution Update

General: Personnel have been doing the normal duties: line locates, work orders, reading meters, meter rereads, cleaning sewer lift stations, maintenance on trucks and equipment, attending safety meetings, customer call-outs, and concerns.

Leak: Superintendent Hawkins, "We repaired a leak over on St. Lawrence between 9th and 10th. That one is fixed. We also had another leak that we repaired over on the cul-de-sac of Conger. We have that one completed."

BOOK 26

August 21, 2024

River Intake Pump Maintenance: Superintendent Hawkins, “We did have MIDCO Diving Services, who we have hired before in years past, come out. They dived into our river intake and cleaned out all of the silt and mussels and different shells that were in there. They also replaced the screening that is on the intake itself. So that was taken care of.”

AMI Meters: Superintendent Hawkins, “We are still out installing water meters. We are still working on that as well.”

WATER AND WASTEWATER: Production Update

General: Normal duties. The plant is running well.

Tonka System Maintenance: Superintendent Hawkins, “We did have a glitch in the Tonka system. The touchscreen bulb went out and we had some panel issues with it. We talked and reached out to Dave Milkey with Tonka. They got us up and going so we are still able to backwash and stuff. We have a replacement touchscreen panel that will be here on Monday. We got that done. I want to thank them for that.”

Water Usage: Superintendent Hawkins, “Water usage has kind of slowed down a little bit. We are still averaging around 650,000 a day. It is slowly starting to slow down a little bit since the rain has come.”

APPOINTMENT: Mark Waterstreet – Senior Center

Mark Waterstreet, “I’m Mark Waterstreet. I am the new president of the Burlington Senior Center. I asked Anne here to come in and do a presentation to talk to the city council and all of you all. So, thank you for being here. First of all, I want to thank the people who did show up at the open house, we really appreciate you coming in and showing your support for our endeavor to bring more attention to the senior center and what we are trying to do with it. We had the Coffey County Health come in, the Sheriffs, the Police, Hometown, Transportation, Good Finds, Meadows, and the Housing Authority. We are trying to do this in an effort to be kind of the middleman for the senior citizens and adults of Burlington and Coffey County and for the services that are provided by the local, state, and federal businesses. So, they come in and go what do I do or who do I see? We are trying to get everything together to provide them that type of information. With that, I would like to ask the council here if they could have maybe some type of welcoming committee or something that they can work through with the local realtors so if somebody does move in, we can provide them this type of information so they don’t come in here blind and saying what do I do, who do I see, and where do I go. Just a thought.

“Also with the council, your website, we are not under departments of services, there is nothing under the community guide for the senior center, no listing in the pages, and nothing under economic development. We are under clubs and organizations but I don’t recognize the phone number they have there. We are also under lodging and conventions, but there is no capacity listed and again it’s a different phone number. I’m sorry I don’t know where all of these came from so if I could work with somebody in here, then we can get this straightened out. I’ll talk to the Fire Marshal to get our capacity straightened out also. Then, under community guide, there is nothing there also.

“My understanding is we get all of our funding through the Council of Aging which is the East Central Kansas Area Agency for Aging nutrition programs. So, we have to present our requirements to them I guess once a year and then they provide us funding the following year. We are trying to forecast what we want to do in the coming year; so we are talking about putting in a wheelchair access ramp on the front of the building because the side of the building is basically a service entrance only. I am also looking to do other improvements. Painting the outside, ramp, we are going to expand the parking lot on the west side. I’m still trying to get my directions figured out here. And other things within the facility also to keep it from looking like a drab hall with nothing in there.

“Now for the open house my wife sitting back here is the secretary for our council also brought all of our own stuff in, all of our fall decorations. Somebody said well it’s not fall yet. We looked around and said well nobody celebrates Labor Day so we are going with fall. All of that was provided by ourselves. The center doesn’t have the funding to purchase that type of items to decorate it for the holidays, Christmas, Easter, Valentine’s, and New Year’s, so we are trying to find all of that ourselves. I asked somebody for a donation the other day and they said no, okay, I’ll go ask somebody else. In all of that, we are trying to provide a center that speaks that we are available for you, your family, your conventions, your fellowship, whatever. Come in here and use the facility. It’s only

BOOK 26
August 21, 2024

\$35 a day and that is the whole day. Now there is a caveat with that that says the Meals on Wheels uses that facility from about 9:00 in the morning to about 1:00 in the afternoon. They provide about 35 meals a day. Most of those are delivered to the elderly's address but they do offer meals in-house for lunch.

"A gentleman came in here the other day and walked around trying to look for somebody, myself, I wasn't there, I could eat there I'm old enough. He said it's just like walking into the mausoleum. There are four people eating there, no music, no conversation. So, we are trying to get more people in. We are trying to expand that, trying to make it more enjoyable to go in there. So, we are looking for donations. We are looking for possible types of furniture to put in there where we could store our pamphlets but people could come in there and not feel that oh it's a plastic table and I don't want to be here. So, we are looking at doing that. Our funding as we said earlier comes from the Council on Aging. They have a rental agreement with us which they provide for trash pickup, liability insurance, cleaning supplies for themselves because they use the kitchen to prepare the meals after coming in from Ottawa, and a telephone. Now I don't know if the telephone is theirs or the Senior Centers'. I think the current person in charge of the Senior Center, Becky, is using her cell phone to do all of that. We do have a phone in there and I do have an answering machine. But again, that is one of the upgrades I want to do so in case someone calls in and wants to leave a message I can pick up my cell phone, dial the number, punch in a code, and listen to it without having to actually go in there if I don't need to. If I need to that's great, everything is five minutes away here in town.

"When I took over because I was volunteered to be secretary and then the president, I'm done I want to get out of here, so I took over the presidency. He kind of just not physically but kind of literally walked away so now I have to go through everything in there and find out what is going on. What rental agreements we have with Meals on Wheels, what financial statements there are, how have we been spending the money, where is the money going, and where is it coming from? We are also doing the potlucks every Thursday every month, 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Please come in and join us. If you don't want to bring any food because you don't want to go home and fix anything, that's okay, come in and enjoy the music. We have music every time after the meal is served. We would also like to.... there it is, lighting, painting, access, music, and things to improve the center so it doesn't look like you're walking into an empty space with plastic tables. That's why we put the table clothes on it so okay let's make it look a little bit better.

"We are also looking to get instructors in there for the senior citizens so they can come in and do a health check, maybe blood pressure. Maybe someone can come in and talk to them about finances or their financial situation and how they can get a free tax return. Maybe someone can show them a tax center. A lawyer, somebody can come in for legal and say here are the things that you may need in your retirement and at your untimely passing. You don't just want to leave everything to whoever because then the government is going to step in and take what they want and you may be in that legal battle for years to come if it goes into probate. So, we are looking to do that. We are also asking for volunteers to come in and help us with all of this. Especially the potluck but can you schedule time to be here to where we can send out a notification through a Facebook page or through a local newspaper that says this person or these people will be available on this date and this time to come in and help you with information, questions, that you have. With that being that we can provide that information or try to provide that type of information to the community as a whole, like I said earlier, kind of like a middleman.

"We don't know, my understanding is that all of our funding, as I said before multiple times, comes from the council on aging. We don't know if the county and or city has possible avenues of funding for us or directions or insights that we can go and get additional funding because what we have right now is just enough to keep the doors open. We get X amount of dollars and we pay all of our monthly bills and if we have some charges that we go up to Hoover's to charge something for potluck, bag of ice, paper cups, or Chrisman's for maintenance then we pay that bill when it comes due. We need more funding so we can do more for the community. I know that this may not be the place but I'm asking anyway so if anybody has any ideas, please talk to me, come see me, talk to my wife, and let us know if you have ideas and what we can do or how we can do it or people we can talk to to improve the community center.

"That's the other thing. We want to get away from the senior center. Because everyone has a connotation, image, seniors, well I can't be 65 before I have to go in there. We play cards there. We have a young man probably in his late 20's come in there and playing cards with them. We want to get it to a community/ senior center so it's open to everybody. Since our article in the paper for our open house we have had a few additional reservations

BOOK 26

August 21, 2024

for the holidays. Oh, I didn't know we had that let me call them and find out. So, we are actually getting some – a little bit of revenue, it's only \$35 a day. I think that is kind of competitive around here. It seems to be pretty good for what the people want. The kitchen is available for a \$35 deposit. If you clean it up afterwards you get your money back, kind of like their own house.

“I think that's about it; I went through it really fast. Oh, what will help me and some of the people, our finance person for the committee is looking to get Toastmasters chapter started down here at the community center. Now, if you are not familiar with Toastmasters, it's a group of businessmen, marketing, sales salespeople, they get together once a month and they have a little meeting like this but they are all sitting around tables and they have roundtable. You have two minutes to get your thoughts together and do a two-minute speech on whatever topic is tossed out. I think I was eight or nine years old and I went with my father to one of his Toastmasters and the topic for roundtable at that time was the Kennedy-Nixon election. Of course, they were all older, they all voted one way or the other and they talked about that issue and those points in life. It was just an open topic you got two minutes to come up with a speech. Additionally, there are speeches that you can work on which will go regional, state, even national, you can get trophies and bring them back to your own charter and say hey look what we did here. It's also really good networking for individuals within that charter. Any questions?”

Council Member Van Horn, “Do you have a Facebook page?” Mark Waterstreet, “I do. Last week I posted on it to the Burlington Community Facebook page about our open house. There is obviously some more work that we need to do to that Facebook page. I'm working on that as long as I can because we all have multiple things that we are doing in our lives. I went up to Ottawa today to get my son's identification for living here in Kansas and I forgot his social security card so I get to go back for the fourth time. My wife got her driver's license today as I said she is my secretary, anything you want to talk to me about you can talk to her about because she yells at me every night about it. No, not really. I talked with the Coffey County Council and kind of told them the same thing about their website. We are not there. We are not a presence on their website. My understanding, talking to Matt Harmon down here at Integrity Insurance, they are actually working on getting a permanent position for the Chamber of Commerce for Burlington. So, I think when all of that gets up and running then I'll be down there talking to him and or that new person in charge of the Chamber of Commerce about getting information out there on our website for them also on their website for us.”

Mayor Luke, “Okay, thank you for being here.” Council Member Strawder, “I'd just like to say it's been years since I've been there. It's good to see there is actually stuff trying to happen there. We used to go there all the time with my grandma, great-grandma, and stuff. I hope you leave your information; I'll reach out to you on some stuff.” Mark Waterstreet, “Yeah, I can do that. I am actually getting business cards printed up then on the back of it whoever you talk to you can put their name and number on it so we have a generic card and not just a special person because if I get hit on the road tomorrow then we have to order new ones. But yeah, I'd love to come and talk to you at the same time trying to –(inaudible).” Council Member Strawder, “But is the number on the pamphlet that is included on here yours?” Mark Waterstreet, “That pamphlet, 1939 that is the actual Senior Center, that is the phone I have in there and the voicemail you leave in there and that is one of the things that we want to upgrade, leave a message, then I go in there and push a button and I can hear it and listen to it and give you a callback.” Council Member Strawder, “Sounds good.” Mayor Luke, “Thank you.”

STREET DEPARTMENT: Update

General: Personnel have been doing the normal duties: cleaning ditches, sweeping curb and gutter, fixing potholes and ruts, blading rock roads, repairing and re-rocking alleys, tree trimming, fixing and replacing street signs, and truck and equipment maintenance.

Culverts: Superintendent Davidson, “We have installed some new drive culverts.”

Spraying Weeds: Superintendent Davidson, “We have been spraying for bindweed.”

Equipment Maintenance: Superintendent Davidson, “We serviced equipment.”

Hauling Rock: Superintendent Davidson, “We hauled in rock from the quarry.”

Street Maintenance: Superintendent Davidson, “We picked up some oil and started patching up in the northwest part of town.”

BOOK 26
August 21, 2024

Tree Trimming: Superintendent Davidson, “We have been trimming street trees.”

STREET DEPARTMENT: 2024 Street Improvements Project

Superintendent Davidson, “The last item I had is for the 2024 street improvement. We had a change order on that. We had an overrun on asphalt on Cross Street and then also when we bid the project towards the end I also included one extra block which was Alleghany Street from 5th to 6th. We did 4th to 5th and then we did the intersection so I just went ahead and included that extra block and that is where the change order comes in. The change order is for \$26,792.00”

Council Member Curtiss, “I move to accept change order #1 for the 2024 street improvements project – asphalt overlay for an increase of \$26,792.00.” Council Member Van Horn, “I second the motion.”

Council Member Strawder, “I just had a general question. So, this work has already been done?” Superintendent Davidson, “Yes.” Council Member Strawder, “Okay.”

Hearing no further discussion, Mayor Luke called for a vote. Motion unanimously carried, 6:0.

POLICE DEPARTMENT: Update

General: Chief Jones, “Normal duties.”

Personal: Chief Jones, “Obviously, I have been out for a little bit. Thank you for the card.”

Activities/Cases: Chief Jones, “Officers have been staying busy working noninjury accidents, made some arrests on city warrants, arrests for DUI, juvenile calls, scams, welfare checks, harassment reports. Today was interesting as in it was wacky Wednesday. I think the officers were probably mumbling under their breath that they were wishing that I had not come to work today, because I am the one answering the phones and sending them on calls. We had enough calls that we had pending calls. We had people having to wait for the officers to get there because they were already tied up on something else. It was interesting.”

Nuisance: Properties/Vehicles Update: Chief Jones, “Officers have worked a bunch of nuisance properties. At least four were abated and several others are in progress, work in progress, and there were twelve citations issued for city court. There will be at least twelve properties showing up in front of Judge Campbell.”

Personal: Chief Jones, “I go back for the 2nd knee replacement next Monday and so far so good. We will see how I get along with that one.”

PARKS DEPARTMENT: Update

General: Personnel have been doing the normal duties: cleaning public restrooms and buildings, and building and equipment maintenance.

Mowing and Spraying: Superintendent Boyce, “Since the rain, the mowing has picked back up quite a bit. Spraying weeds in gravel areas and sidewalks downtown.”

Watering: Superintendent Boyce, “We are still watering flowers and trees.”

Hazardous Trees: Superintendent Boyce, “I am working on a list of hazard trees for contract removal.”

FINANCE: Claims Ordinance & Payroll Ordinance

a. Claims Ordinance	2024-16	\$	<u>1,287,000.11</u>
b. Payroll Ordinance	2024-17	\$	<u>113,923.71</u>
	TOTAL	\$	<u>1,400,923.82</u>

CLAIMS 2024-16: Council Member Curtiss moved to approve City of Burlington Claims Ordinance 2024-16 for the amount of \$1,287,000.11 for payment of city bills. Council Member Ernst gave the second. City Clerk Brown, “The larger expenses we have tonight are CB Equipment DBA Douglass Pump Service \$10,658.61, Kansas Power Pool \$229,273.56, Killough Construction \$376,676.60, Power Plant Compliance \$7,500.00, SEK COOP \$19,043.40, and Kansas State Treasurer for a bond payment \$512,862.50.”

Council Member Mays, “I think we talked about it last time, how often do we pay the bond?” City Clerk Brown, “Some of them we pay once a year, some of them we pay interest early in the year, and then we make the

BOOK 26

August 21, 2024

interest and principal second time a year.” **Hearing no discussion, Mayor Luke instructed City Clerk Brown to poll Council for a vote. Mayor Luke declared, “Claims Ordinance 2024-16 passed, 6:0.”**

PAYROLL 2024-17: Council Member Curtiss moved to approve City of Burlington Payroll Ordinance 2024-17 in the amount of \$113,923.71, as presented. Council Member Ernst gave the second. Hearing no discussion, Mayor Luke instructed City Clerk Brown to poll Council for a vote. Mayor Luke declared, “Payroll Ordinance 2024-17 passed, 6:0.”

Letter from Citizen:

Mayor Luke, “Marty received a letter that he would like to discuss at this point.” Council Member Ernst, “I received a letter last week from a citizen and I just want to read it since we are in the finance portion of the meeting.” This is in regards to the mill levy and revenue-neutral rate. The letter reads as follows:

“I am a widow, retired with a fixed income and I understand inflation and taxes may be increased a little each year. But this increased amount that is proposed seems somewhat a little excessive to my way of thinking. I know that my income hopefully increases a little each year as well. However, my income increase will not begin to suffice to cover the proposed amount you are asking for. I not only think of myself but also of the people in our community who are on a fixed income as well be they retired, disabled, or senior citizens, and it makes my heart hurt for them. I see how financially tight it is for them. I respectfully ask you will also allow my voice to speak for this percentage of our population group in Burlington, Kansas in Coffey County. Again, respectfully I am in opposition to the 2024 proposed mill levy increase. Thank you for hearing my concerns and allowing me to express them.”

PLANNING & ZONING: Update

General: Zoning Clerk Hugunin, “Normal duties.”

FEMA Survey: Zoning Clerk Hugunin, “This week has been kind of crazy with surveys from FEMA. Anne came in and I’m still working on it. The big question and answer that they want to know is they want to know a bunch of stuff about the community.”

Tree City U.S.A.: Zoning Clerk Hugunin, “I also did a Tree City U.S.A question and answer.”

Nuisance: Grass/Weeds Update: Zoning Clerk Hugunin, “I’ve got two letters going out tomorrow morning for two yards. One I hope is going to the right place. I am having a hard time finding the landowner. I was talking to Cara at the end of the day. It has kind of been hard.”

Permits: Zoning Clerk Hugunin, “I have been updating permits.”

Department Assistance: Zoning Clerk Hugunin, “Then also yesterday morning I was helping Kevin at the Parks Department wash out the stadium.”

LEGAL DEPARTMENT: Update

General: Attorney Wright, “Normal duties. I really don’t have anything except for a brief thing for an executive session that we can do at the end of the meeting because no action will be taken.”

CITY CLERK: Update

General: City Hall staff have been busy with customers paying utility bills, many calls and inquiries, preparing work orders, vouchers for bill paying, payroll, and council meeting minutes.

Level Pay: City Clerk Brown, “We will be sending out new level pay agreements in September which we send out every year because it adjusts, and anyone that wants to be on that can sign up for that as well.”

Reports: City Clerk Brown, “You do have a copy of the utility and sales tax revenue report.”

Closed: City Clerk Brown, “We will be closed on Labor Day September 2nd.”

Parks Department - Compliment: City Clerk Brown, “Then I have a kudos for Kevin. We had some people that were driving through town that are from Oklahoma and they were looking around the town. They drove downtown and the highway. They stopped in here and really complimented the flowers on how well they looked.

BOOK 26
August 21, 2024

They were very nice. We also had a gentleman come in here wanting to know what some of the flowers were because he really liked them and wanted some of his own. So, you are doing a great job. So, keep that up. The flowers are being noticed.”

OTHER COMMITTEE OR COUNCIL BUSINESS

REPORT BY CITY OFFICERS:

Council Member Mays, “I have a question. So, on these change orders that we are voting on with work that has already been done, there isn’t a lot we can do about it. What’s the process on--? I mean like Mark has the say to just say we are going to finish it? How does that work?” Mayor Luke, “If the budget is there they can go up to the budget. If it’s going to exceed anything they have to have an okay through either the finance committee or the street committee or whatever.” Council Member Mays, “Okay, perfect.” Council Member Strawder, “So, like this one was under budget?” Mayor Luke, “Yeah and part of the funds was through the ...ARPA funds?” City Clerk Brown, “This was not through the ARPA funds. This was just the 2024 street projects and Mark does have the funds in his budget to cover those expenses. So, with already being in the process of doing that work it’s cheaper in the long run to go ahead and complete that work and do that. They are there and doing it.”

Council Member Strawder, “I’m not disagreeing or whatever. My experience a lot of times with change orders are if it’s up to a certain amount, a department head and this is all based on the organization and how it was set up but they might have the approval to go up to X amount whether that be a dollar amount or the budget amount or whatever. So, then it is just a formality that you know a lot of times doesn’t even take action by the governing body in that instance.” Mayor Luke, “Right.” Council Member Strawder, “But if it’s going to be above and beyond a certain amount or exceeding the budget then typically that gets approved before the work is done. That’s why I asked the question because it was just kind of backward from how I’m used to handling it.” Mayor Luke, “Right and the funds were already there so yeah.” Council Member Van Horn, “In our case I think that Mark is very trustworthy and he is aware of finances and I think it’s a judgment call and I think that his judgment can be trusted because he has been with us for a long time and proven himself.” Superintendent Davidson, “Thank you.”

MAYOR’S COMMENTS:

Council Member Ernst, “I make a motion to enter a 5-minute Executive Session for consultation with an attorney on matters that would be deemed privileged in an attorney-client relationship per K.S.A. 75-4319(b); to render legal opinion on a municipal court case, with the Governing Body, Mayor Luke, City Attorney Wright, and City Clerk Brown present.” Council Member Van Horn, “I second the motion.” Hearing no further discussion, Mayor Luke called for a vote. Motion unanimously carried, 6:0.

Entered 6:43 p.m. Exited 6:48 p.m. No action taken.
Mayor Luke declared the meeting adjourned.

Approved by the Governing Body and signed by Anne C. Brown, City Clerk