

Council Meeting

February 11th 2025

Mayor Pat Walden called the meeting to order
Pledge

Roll Call: TJ Duncan, Darvin Weaver, and Lindy Rhodes were present. Debra Rice was absent.

Approval of the bills in the amount of \$94,070.31

Darvin had a question regarding the Police Chief's Visa charges. Chief Joey Adelman explained that the 2 charges were to restaurants that were made when his daughter mistook his city card for his personal card. He has since reimbursed the city for the 2 charges. Darvin says he needs to be more careful with his card or else it needs pulled. Lindy stated maybe the cards should be kept at the office. Pat suggests that with Joey not turning in receipts that he keep a folder or make copies. Joey says that he has since gotten a new personal card that looks

different than his city card so that they won't get mixed up.

Darvin motioned to pay the bills, TJ 2nd, motion carried.

Approval of the minutes of the regular January meeting, and the special meeting

Pat wants the minutes amended to say that he manned the office while the girls went to the grant class and that it was not closed.

Darvin motioned to approve both sets of minutes with the amendment, Lindy 2nd, motion carried.

Treasurers report was given by Liz Hart in Brenda Howards absence.

TJ motioned to approve the report, Darvin 2nd, motion carried.

Accountant remarks: Liz Hart says they received the first property tax payment from the county. They made the sewer bond interest, and water tower

inspection payments. Everything is right on track. They met with the representative from Kansas Rural Water Association about water rates. It was great. He will be at the next meeting to go over the numbers. They can make an educated decision on what the rate needs to be. They will be looking into the sewer as well. Lindy and Darvin ask about profit margin. Liz says when the KRWA rep. comes back he can put it into the computer and see if they want to create a reserve fund for water, like they already have for the sewer.

Agenda: Mike Gebelin with USDI was present as the gas liaison. He asked if anyone had any questions about the gas system. Mike says they have a lot of old risers sticking up out of the ground. He tries to remove a few each year, because people hit them and cause leaks. The cost keeps increasing. They may want to start passing that cost onto the customer. He will mainly go after the worst ones, mostly in Burgess, there's probably no one to bill.

Cherokee Pelican city clerk asked about the people that request that they be removed. Currently, the city is eating that cost. It ranges from around \$300 to \$500. It varies. Darvin and Lindy think whoever is requesting the removal should pay. The city can't afford it, someone should pay. Lindy suggests setting a fee and then the city could pay part, maybe that would help. Pat thinks it's wrong to charge someone after they paid a gas bill for years.

Darvin made a motion to charge customers to remove the gas line. TJ says he is not for it. There was no second and the motion died. Pat says table it until Debra is present, think on it a bit, bring it up again next month.

Agenda: Becky Walden. She was not present but sent a note for Pat to read. She wants everyone to know that some of the walls, and ceiling at the Museum were fixed. New carpet has also been laid in the main room. It was paid for by the Clayton Spencer and Wayne Lehman memorial funds, and

the money donated by the Presbyterian Church, and Mulberry Legion. The Homecoming Committee will hold a Chicken and Noodle Dinner fundraiser on March 1st from 11 to 2. Proceeds will go to the Mulberry Park and fishing dock, if anyone wants to donate their time or money to help out. Police Chief Joey made the Morning Sun Newspaper. Emma Ales from Arma read it and sent a \$50 donation for the park. Stephanie Peternell gave a gift basket they are going to raffle. Pat says he went out and measured the base path and outfield. The infield is too low. He has a volunteer to grade it, but they need dirt hauled in. He's going to talk to Matt Blessant. Pat says he may have to spend a little money. He is going talk to some people, but probably can't get everything for free. He did get another floating device for the dock donated. He will talk to his welder.

Unfinished Business: Ron Ragan with UGM says still gas discount program still a work in progress, no

new updates. Gus Brunetti the county grant writer says they still do not have the money they were awarded for storm sirens, it may be a few months before it comes. The Tahoe transmission repair and landscape tiller are still on hold. Still no bids on the lean too at the plant. Ernie is still looking for a trailer to haul the excavator. He is also replacing street lights with LED. The updating of the Handbook is not complete. Pat says they may have to have a special meeting to work on that. Cherokee asks if there is anything she should pull out of the unfinished business. Pat says take out the lights, and tiller, keep the other things so they don't forget.

Cherokee says there is a study about the 69 Hwy. She has the dates available if anyone wants to attend. GreenWing LLC has agreed to keep his rate the same for mowing the cemetery. He always comes in under budget. Ron Ragan said the city had

enough gas stored that they didn't have to buy any at the higher prices during the cold snap.

Pat thinks that the council should look at the water conference booklet. They may want to go to some classes. Darwin said he would not have time. Pat says they may not be able to find hotel rooms this late. It should have been brought up sooner.

Cherokee stated that was why she had brought it up last month. Amy Tucker assistant clerk said she is working on a grant for the park from the KS Dept. of Commerce.

Fire Dept: They had mostly medical calls, nothing major. He got prices on a ceiling mount furnace for the dept. The utility bills at the Dept. are very high. The heater they have is not efficient, but no sense doing anything right now, just something to think about and put in budget. It is time to check the air pack bottles. He will take 8 to Joplin and have them pressure tested. He is taking the oldest ones first.

Lindy asked if he had gotten the new hoses yet. He has not had a chance to get to Springfield.

City Plant: Ernie got the new tires for the City Dodge. The house on at 213 S Highland was demolished and removed. The owners are preparing the land for a new trailer house. He will be putting in a new transformer. The one there is really old with really small wire. He hopes to have Arma come over to help next week. They fixed a water leak on South Military. It was an old vacant line. A valve came off. The water was going down into the sewer. His water use came down by 8,000 gallons once it was fixed. He also had a leak on 1st street. He had to put in a new meter setter, can and lid. The new hire Mason Harrison is doing really well. He picks up on things quick. He pays close attention and is good hands on. In April he is supposed to attend a class on electric switches and controls, and how to use a volt meter. He thinks it would be good for Mason to go with him. It would

be all day in Parsons. He took a class in Fredonia, it was very informative. The backhoe is broke down. He spoke to Darwin and the Mayor about it already. He has got one cylinder rebuilt, the other one is seized up. He had to order a new one. He has a Dr. appointment in the morning about his eyes.

Police Dept: Joey handed out his monthly report. He sent some certified letters out to the mortgage company that owns 110 N Kansas about its condition, and the owner of 201 S Elm as well. The doors are open all the time. He can't secure it. He needs to know what their plan is. The new Sheriff has been going after the trash trucks and giving out citations. They will be finding a way around, may start coming thru town. They will tear up our roads. They need to do something like buy a city license, or permit to do business in town. They will ask the attorney about it. Joey received two scoreboards donated from Parsons Parks and recreation. Darwin asks what the Hometown Village meeting was

about. The board meets a couple times a year with management, that way they can go over any issues. One resident that was giving problems has been evicted. Dogs were an issue, but it is being addressed. County has dropped the amount of the yearly tech fee. It is now \$350 instead of \$500.

So that it will be on record, Lindy makes a motion to approve the purchase of the cylinder for the backhoe, TJ 2nd, motion carried.

Council remarks: TJ nothing else

Darvin stated that they spoke before about making a handicap ramp at the post office, maybe it could be a project for the Spring. He asked if the pump on #2 get fixed. Ernie said they haven't tried it yet, but he did re-wire it. Darvin rode around, there are a lot of yards in the West end that need cleaned up. Joey said he has sent letters. They have requested more time. Darvin noticed that the alley way between Walnut and Sycamore has cars and a little building in it. Joey said they have made some headway. As

long as they are making progress , he won't cite them. Ernie said they shouldn't use the alley as a driveway. Darwin says there is an old fence falling down, by the house at 202 W. Alfred. He thinks it is on the alleyway.

Lindy had nothing else

Mayor: He wants to talk with the attorney about the gas line removal, maybe they could assess to the taxes. He and Joey watched a webinar about free speech. It was very interesting. He didn't like that people can say whatever to you and you can't do anything about it. He says any training any of them can take to help make them better, it would benefit them and the city.

TJ motioned to adjourn, Lindy 2nd, motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 PM

Pat Walden

Cherokee Pelican
3-11-25

