

March 11th 2025

Condemnation hearing for 208 E Alfred And Regular Meeting

Mayor Pat Walden called the meeting to order

Pledge

Roll Call: TJ Duncan, Darvin Weaver, Lindy Rhodes were present. Debra was absent during roll call, but arrived at 6:45PM

City Attorney Marshall Blinzler was present to begin the condemnation hearing.

The owner of 208 E Alfred, Lisa Long, was present via telephone. Marshall asked her if there was a reason why it should not be condemned. The property has been vacant and without utilities since 2023. The taxes have not been paid since 2021. Marshall stated that the city enforcement officers have confirmed that it is not habitable. Marshall asks if she can make it habitable in 30 days. Lisa

stated that no, it was not possible. She does not have the money it would take to fix it. She states that she cannot present a plan to make it habitable. She does not have the money to work on it.

Darvin motioned to approve Resolution 2025-03 to condemn the structures at 208 E Alfred, Lindy 2nd, motion carried.

Marshall stated to note in the minutes that Lisa was asked for a feasible plan, she didn't have one, and she stated she did not have the money to fix it.

Cherokee opened the two bids: Jake Jones \$6,000, Tim Foxwell \$4,200.

Marshall left the proceedings.

Agenda:

Quentin Parsons was present to introduce himself as Crawford County's new emergency manager. He left his contact information.

Becky Walden was present to report that Homecoming is giving \$1,500 for the ball park renovations, \$1,000 for the floating dock, \$150 or more for Easter baskets for the Fire Dept. Egg hunt, and at least \$100 for the tractor pull and \$400 for the 4th of July. The Legion money that was donated to the Museum was used for the new carpet.

Approval of the bills in the amount of \$83,188.61. TJ asks what the Pizza Hut charge was. Cherokee stated that it was Joey's charge and he was not there to say. Darvin thinks he should reimburse the city. Lindy says they should find out what it was for first.

TJ motions that the city only pay for meals when it's for training held outside of the county, Darvin 2nd, motion carried.

TJ motioned to approve the bills, Lindy 2nd, motion carried.

Approval of the minutes: Darvin motioned to approve the minutes, Debra 2nd, motion carried.

Brenda Howard gave the treasurer's report.

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

Accountant remarks: Liz Hart stated that everything is running about the same as last year at this time. The General fund has about \$3,000 more than this time last year though. All funds are right where they should be. Kris Kline with Kansas Rural Water Association will be coming down to discuss the water rates. Bone Creek announced they will go up another 25 cents in June.

Unfinished business: Ron Ragan with Utility Gas Management hopes to have an update on the discount program next month. Gus Brunetti still does not have an update on the storm sirens. Pat says last month they discussed whether or not to make the customer pay for removal of a gas line.

TJ motions to make the customer pay whatever USDI charges, plus \$125 an hour for use of the city excavator (this includes the wage of the operator), Lindy 2nd, motion carried. Ernie is still looking for a trailer for the excavator. They are still talking with Ken Collins about a sign for the Military Highway.

Pat wants a 10 minute executive session for non-elect personnel, to include Liz Hart.

TJ motioned to go into executive session, Darvin 2nd, motion carried.

Darvin motioned to go back into regular session, Debra 2nd, motion carried.

City Clerk Cherokee Pelican announced that they would be getting \$500 from the county for the Historic Church (Museum) and \$240 for each park.

Fire Dept: Fire Chief Ernie Chase stated he took 7 of the air pack bottles to Joplin. They tested good. He will take 8 more next month. The dept. still had some money left from the Presbyterian Church

donation, so he used it to get flashlights for everyone and every truck. They had 4 mutual aid grass fire calls, and 1 mutual aid house fire. The SCBA masks are all old and rotting. He will need to get new ones. He will get prices. He still needs to get to Springfield and get the new hoses. The Easter Egg hunt will be held Saturday, April 19th at 10am in the ballpark.

Darvin motions to give \$100 for the Easter Egg hunt, Debra 2nd, motion carried.

The Tractor Pull will be July 27th.

City Plant: Mason Harrison has been working about a month now. He is working out well. His hours for right now are 9 to 3:30. Dwayne Willey started yesterday. He has been trimming trees. Mason hauls and stacks the brush. Darvin asks if they work at the same time. Ernie says for right now they do. Grass mowing will be coming up soon. Lindy stated that he probably needs them both. Mason has also been helping Greg at the cemetery. They need to

put rock out on the outer road around the pit at the ballpark. He thinks it will take 4 loads. Pat is going to talk to the County about it. Ernie says he will need to get rock for the cemetery back roads. Ernie had discussed getting apoxy for the floor in the chapel. They have some donation money left. It will make it look nicer and will seal it as well.

They had over 2 ½ inches of rain so the pumps overflowed. They are pumping like they are supposed to, but they have a problem still with ground water infiltration. He has tried to get prices for the pump at the station out South. He will see suppliers at the conference in Wichita. An electric pole blew over from the high winds. Arcadia came over and helped set a new pole. He needs to order more electrical supplies, like wire and pole top stuff. He put in a disconnect where the new trailer is going in on Highland. They have trimmed a lot of trees as well. Tommy Wheeler on E 1st will need to

move all the cars out of the way before he can trim there.

TJ thanks Ernie for getting out and plowing snow. He used his own vehicle and plow. Ernie said the city office and he had a discussion about putting a plow in next year's budget that would go on the city truck. TJ and Darwin think it's a good idea since Ernie won't be around forever.

Debra motions to give Ernie \$300 for plowing, TJ 2nd, motion carried.

Council Remarks: TJ had nothing else

Darvin: He asks when the city usually does clean up. Amy stated that the Ordinance says to publish a notice in March. The City no longer gets dumpsters. Darwin asks if the city can afford to straighten more stones at the cemetery. Cherokee stated that that is what Greg has been doing over fall and winter.

Darvin asks when they plan on working on the handbook again. Pat says they need to set a date for

a special meeting for it, try to set something up next week.

Police Dept: Chief Joey Adelman was absent but left a report for the council.

Pat says to ask Joey to send a letter to Larry Johnson's family about what they plan to do with all his properties. Some of them are getting dangerous.

Lindy: Nothing else

Debra: She asks when people sit at the cemetery to collect donations. Cherokee had the list of dates and times. Cherokee asks if anyone else wants to sit. Darwin asks if they have to commit tonight. Pat says no, but they need volunteers. He thinks the council and employees should if they could. Pat asks Amy if she would be able to. Amy said she did not know yet.

Mayor remarks: They already discussed some of the things on his list. He is trying to get things going out at the ballpark. Amy is working on grants. Darwin

asks if they will out in new light poles. Pat says hopefully. Arma had some but they already got rid of them. The floating fishing dock is almost done. Ernie is going to test the floats. Pat hopes to get a gazebo type structure to put picnic tables under, They will need concrete. Lots of donations have made the things happen. He thinks the city could put in a little money to help.

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:10PM

Cherone Pelican
4-8-25

Pat Walder