

Westmoreland City Council  
September 14, 2023 minutes

The Westmoreland City Council met on September 14, 2023 at the Westmoreland Community Center for its monthly meeting.

**Governing Body members present:** Councilmembers, Jim Smith, Waide Purvis, John Coleman, Bruce Meininger and Ashley Rice.

**Governing Body member absent:** Mayor, Mark S. Jack

**City Staff present:** Maintenance Supervisor, Robert Krohn; City Attorney, Summer Dierks; City Treasurer, Amanda (Mandi) Reese; and City Clerk, Julie Wren

**Others present:** Residents- Michelle Campbell, John Blessing with Waste Management; Christi Hitch with Tri-County Waste, Ethan Karnes- Pool Manager, and Reporter of The Times; Cale Prater.

***There being a quorum and Mayor Jack being absent, President of Council; Waide Purvis, called the RNR Public Hearing to order at 6:30 PM.***

There were no public comments regarding the exceeding of the revenue neutral rate.

Councilmember Rice moved to approve Resolution #02-23 Intention to Exceed the Revenue Neutral Rate. Councilmember Meininger seconded the motion. The motion passed five (5) ayes to zero (0) nays.

Councilmember Purvis took the Roll Call Vote as required by State HB 2239. The Roll Call vote was as follows:

Ashley Rice- Yes  
James Smith- Yes  
Waide Purvis- Yes  
John Coleman- Yes  
Bruce Meininger- Yes

The Roll Call Vote Form was attested by the City Clerk.

Next- the proposed 2023 city budget as prepared.

There being no further comments, questions or discussion, Councilmember Meininger moved to adopt the 2024 proposed budget as presented. Councilmember Coleman seconded the motion. The motion passed five (5) ayes to zero (0) nays.

**There being a quorum present, President Council; Purvis called the regular meeting to order at 6:31 p.m.**

**Agenda:** Councilmember Rice moved to approve the agenda. Councilmember Meininger seconded the motion. The motion passed five (5) ayes to zero (0) nays.

**Consent Items:** There being no corrections or discussion, Councilmember Meininger moved to approve the consent items. Councilmember Smith seconded the motion. The motion passed five (5) ayes to zero (0) nays.

**Public comments on non-agenda items:** None.

**Opening of bids for Waste Management contract:** Maintenance Supervisor, Robert Krohn, opened the bids received from Tri-County Waste and Waste Management, for the city's trash service effective November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023.

*The bids were as follows:*

**Tri-County Waste:** \$21 per month per resident with complimentary container

**Waste Management:** 2-year contract- \$21.00 per month per household.

3-year contract- \$20.75 per month per household

5-year contract- \$20.40 per month per household

Plus, complimentary container per household.

After some brief discussion, Councilmember Meininger moved to accept and award the bid from Tri-County Waste for one year, \$21 per month per resident with complimentary container per household. Councilmember Rice seconded the motion. The motion passed five (5) ayes to zero (0) nays.

(Christie and John exited the meeting @ 6:40 pm)

**Approval of Ord. 595- Annexing cemetery area into the city:** It was brought to the City's attention that most of the cemetery had not been annexed into the City. After looking further into it, when Ordinance 578 was passed the description of the land listed was **not** the cemetery, therefore a new Ordinance is needing to be made with the correct description of land. Councilmember Smith moved to approve Ordinance 595 annexing the cemetery area into the city. Councilmember Rice seconded the motion. The motion passed five (5) ayes to zero (0) nays.

**Approval of Ord. 596- Repealing Ordinance 578 annexing residential land into the city:** Due to Ordinance 578 being passed with Council thinking it was the cemetery, City Attorney Dierks said it would be a good idea to repeal it and pass again with Council

knowing what it is. The land description is the ball diamond, part of property at 4<sup>th</sup> and Main and part of City Park. Councilmember Smith moved to approve Ordinance 565 annexing residential areas into the city. Councilmember Rice seconded the motion. The motion passed five (5) ayes to zero (0) nays.

Once published, City Clerk Wren will then take to County to get it recorded.

***Westmoreland Area Chamber- donation towards billboards:*** President Purvis filled in the Council who had been absent on what he had proposed last meeting with the donation towards the billboards. Attorney Dierks confirmed as long as donation comes from general funds, she's fine with it. President Purvis motioned the City donate \$1,350.00 towards the first billboard for the first year, funds coming from the general budget. Councilmember Coleman seconded the motion. The motion passed four (4) ayes to zero (0) nays, with Councilmember Meininger abstained from voting.

***Discuss dates to go over pool manual:*** Councilmember Rice asked that this gets done sooner rather than later. After brief discussion, a Special Meeting to go over pool manual will be held November 16<sup>th</sup> @ 6:00 PM, Community Center.

***Refuse Service and an extra 25 cent charge applied to bills:*** Council asked that this be tabled by the next meeting.

***Future agenda items:*** Refuse Service and extra 25 cent charge applied to bills,

### **Reports:**

***Treasurer:*** City Treasurer Reese pointed out that the Pool was around -26,700 dollars in 2022 and for this year 2023 numbers was around -19,700 dollars. Otherwise, there is nothing to report other than getting used to QuickBooks Online.

### ***Maintenance Report:***

### **UTILITIES**

- Completed 7 work orders for water meter read in/turn on and/or read out/shut off.
- Completed 9 Kansas One Call locate tickets.
- Replaced and sent invoices for AMR-water meter sensors damaged by mowing and/or ran over at 402 W. Skene, 308 Cochran, 310 N. 1<sup>st</sup>, 205 N. 6<sup>th</sup>, and 408 N. Walnut.
- Collected yearly TTHM and HAA5 drinking water samples and sent them to KDHE.
- September KDHE water samples came back negative for E.coli and/or Coliform.
- Attended three days of online KRWA training to renew my KDHE water and wastewater operator licenses.
- Assisted with and put together second mailing of lead/copper surveys, required by KDHE, to the property owners that had not returned them when sent at the first of the year.

- Completed one work order for a sanitary sewer tap replacement inspection at 206 Armer.

## **STREETS**

- Hall Bothers Inc. will be in town towards the end of the September to Onyx seal the streets proposed for 2023.

## **PARKS**

- Picked up trash and tree limbs at city properties.
- Mowed, trimmed, and sprayed weeds.
- Repaired chain link fence at the north and south ball diamonds.

## **CEMETERY**

- Mowed, trimmed, and sprayed weeds.
- Removed sapling trees around monuments.
- Opened/closed one cremation burial (9/13).
- Opened one cremation burial (9/16)

## **POOL**

- Mowed, trimmed, and sprayed weeds.
- Pumped water out of the pool and began winterizing equipment.
- Removed dead pine tree along the east side of the pool.

## **BUILDINGS**

- Mowed, trimmed, and sprayed weeds.
- Received and installed one Zoll AED unit to be shared at the Community Center/Pool and one Zoll AED unit at City Hall.

## **PLANNING AND ZONING**

- Issued a building permit for an accessory use building at 100 Armer.
- Issued a demolition permit for a house at 202 E. Campbell.

## **Misc.**

- For the households that do not turn in the lead/copper surveys and/or fill every question on the survey with unknown, required by KDHE, by October 2024, household may be a test site from then on out.
- Reminder when mowing, residents are responsible for intersections and ditches on their property.

**Clerks Report:** Clerk Wren let Council know she had sent a letter to Terry Force and had Mayor Jack sign it. We gave him until November's Meeting to get cemetery information presented to us. Spoke with the manager, Jason, of Dollar General about applying for a grant to help cover costs of repairs needed for pool and he said applying for a grant would be a good idea since they are new and are also stated their store is sitting at #17 in the Midwest now. Clerk Sarah McKinsey of Onaga, reached out to Wren and asked if the city was interested in looking for a Code Enforcement officer due to the

gentleman they had hired, is looking to pick up a couple more cities around the area. Councilmember Purvis asked that he turn in a resume.

Clerk Wren asked Council if the number of days to respond to Returned Check letters be extended to ten (10) days instead of five (5) due to mail now going to KC and back. In the office we are seeing mail taking longer to get to Residents with changes going on in the Post Office. Councilmember Rice moved to give the customers ten (10) days to pay their bill when payment is returned. Councilmember Smith seconded the motion. The motion passed five (5) ayes to zero (0) nays.

Clerk Wren received an e-mail from the County requesting our certification for special assessments. Treasurer Reese and Clerk Wren were not familiar with this request and Tabitha Caudill was kind enough to walk us through what we needed to do. We also were told this is where some cities turn in any outstanding bills from the residents. The city did have one for mowing and turned it in right away. Thank you, Pottawatomie County Staff, for being so kind and helping us get this completed.

**Streets-** Councilmember Meininger asked Krohn how the progress is on replacing culvert due to the top of metal culvert rotting out and exposing a hole along the street/driveway. Krohn said he's hoping to get the tube replaced in a couple weeks.

**Utilities-** Councilmember Coleman had nothing to report.

**Animal Control-** Councilmember Smith had nothing to report.

**Planning & Zoning-** Councilmember Smith had nothing to report.

**Pool-** Councilmember Rice said the pool was drained. Pool Manager, Ethan Karnes, reported that this year was a learning curve for him, and they had a very young group for lifeguards. He's hoping to get the opportunity to manage again next year due to having ideas already and excited that most of the lifeguards are interested in coming back, all but three (3).

Maintenance Supervisor, Robert Krohn mentioned it would be good to have an on-site meeting for repairs that's needing to be done before next year to reopen. Council requested to meet Thursday, September 21<sup>st</sup> at 6:00 PM at the City Pool.

**Cemetery-** Councilmember Purvis had nothing to report.

**Parks-** Councilmember Purvis had nothing to report. Clerk Wren informed the Council there have been a lot of calls for long-term stays for the RV Park. We have four spots currently for long term and they are filled, was wondering if we could add a couple more spots. Councilmember Purvis said he doesn't see a problem with adding a couple more spots and had asked that Krohn and Wren get together to discuss the two spots to add to the long-term list.

**Fire Department-** Councilmember Smith informed Council, Fire Engine 1 is back and fixed.

**Flint Hills Regional Council-** Council member Meininger and Resident Campbell said the retreat in Manhattan was good and that their next meeting will be held this Friday in Onaga.

**Mayor-** Mayor Jack was absent.

**City Attorney-** Attorney Dierks said there's one case for two (2) inoperable vehicles.

(All others present left @ 7:39 PM)

**Executive Session:** Councilmember Rice moved to enter executive session at 7:40 PM for no more than fifteen (15) minutes with the Councilmembers, City Clerk, City Treasurer, and Utility Maintenance Supervisor in attendance for personnel matters of non-elected personnel and to protect their privacy. Councilmember Smith seconded the motion. The motion passed five (5) ayes to zero (0) nays.

Councilmember Rice moved to exit the executive session at 7:47 PM. Councilmember Smith seconded the motion. The motion passed five (5) ayes to zero (0) nays.

Councilmember Purvis moved for Utility Maintenance Supervisor Krohn to switch to salary at \$85,000 a year and to allow back pay due to not having all of Council present last meeting before passing. Councilmember Rice seconded the motion. The motion passed five (5) ayes to zero (0) nays.

There being no further business, Councilmember Smith moved to adjourn the meeting. Councilmember Coleman seconded the motion. The motion passed five (5) ayes to zero (0) nays.

President Purvis declared the meeting adjourned at 7:48 PM.  
Approved by the Governing Body on October 12, 2023.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Mark S. Jack, Mayor

ATTEST

  
Julie Wren, City Clerk

