

The Moran City Council met in special session on Tuesday, July 18, 2023. Mayor Jerry Wallis called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

ELECTED OFFICIALS PRESENT

Mayor

Jerry D. Wallis

Council Members Present

Warren L. Johnson
Kenneth D. Kale
Corliss E. Lynes
James A. Mueller
Kris R. Smith

Council Members Absent

City Staff Present: Bret Heim, City Attorney; Michael Stodgell, City Superintendent; Shane Smith, Police Chief; Craig Miller, Fire Chief, Jerad Maley, and Lori Evans, City Clerk

Visitors Present: Lee Roberts Gerry Bieker, Tom Saitta, and Joe Carr

FIRE DEPARTMENT GRANT

Chief Miller informed the Council that Joe Carr has applied for a matching funds grant with the Kansas Forestry Department. The grant is a 50/50 match to purchase two communication stations and four headsets. The fire department was awarded the grant and will receive \$3200 from the Forestry Department as long as the Council approves the spending \$3200 in matching funds. Chief Miller requested approval to purchase communication equipment for the department consisting of 2 station radios and 4 wireless headsets. The matching funds would be a \$2500 grant from EDP Renewables that was received earlier in the year and \$700 local funds. Council member Mueller moved to approve the equipment purchase and to accept the grant award. Johnson seconded the motion, motion passed with all approving.

KMEA/ELECTRIC SUBSTATION

Gerry Bieker and Tom Saitta representing Kansas Municipal Electric Agency (KMEA) presented the Council a proposal for the City to build an electric substation with generation capabilities. Gerry Bieker said the proposed project would total \$2,000,000 with \$450,000 spent on the substation and \$1,550,000 to purchase and install three 500 kW generators. The Council was informed the generators would not be available for 18 months after ordering and the city would not incur any costs until the generators are delivered. By incorporating generation with the substation, Moran should be protected from the exorbitant energy costs the City incurred during the 2021 winter weather event. KMEA would negotiate equipment prices and financing for the proposed project. The City would need to purchase land near Evergy’s 34kV line to avoid incurring transmission costs from Evergy. Operating and maintenance needs were discussed following which Council member Johnson moved to work with KMEA to build an electric substation with generation capability. Kale seconded the motion. Motion passed with Johnson, Kale, and Smith approving. Mueller and Lynes abstained from the vote.

WATER PROJECT GRANT/LOAN ADMINISTRATION

The Council discussed terminating the grant/loan administration agreement with Thrive due to the ongoing issues with the City's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG). Clerk Evans reported Southeast Kansas Regional Planning Commission (SEKRPC) has agreed to take over all administration at a cost of \$6,000 for loan administration and \$17,000 for grant administration. Council member Kale moved to terminate the agreement with Thrive and to enter into an agreement with SEKRPC. Johnson seconded the motion, motion passed with all approving.

TINY HOME REGULATIONS

The Council discussed minimum sizing and other regulations regarding tiny homes. Concern was also raised about the possibility of conex/containers and train cars being modified for use as tiny homes. Attorney Heim said he would review the City of Humboldt's building code regulations for discussion at the August meeting. Council member Mueller moved the City place a moratorium on issuing building permits until the August meeting. Lynes seconded the motion, motion passed with all approving.

There being no further business to discuss, Council member Mueller moved, seconded by Smith, to adjourn the regular meeting at 8:45 PM. Motion passed with unanimous approval.