

Westmoreland City Council meeting
January 14, 2021 minutes

The Westmoreland City Council met for its monthly meeting on January 14, 2021 at the Westmoreland Community Center.

Governing Body members present: Mayor, Mark Goodenow; Councilmembers, Jim Smith, Waide Purvis, Jeff Rosell and Mark Jack.

Governing Body members absent: Councilmember Ashley Rice.

City Staff present: Maintenance Supervisor, Robert Krohn; City Treasurer, Teri Varriale, City Clerk, Vicki Zentner and City Attorney, Summer Dierks.

Others present: Cale Prater with *The Smoke Signal*.

There being a quorum present, Mayor Goodenow called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Additions/Deletions to agenda: City Agent's report and the executive session were deleted from the prepared agenda.

There being no further additions or deletions to the prepared agenda, Councilmember Jack moved to approve the amended agenda. Councilmember Purvis seconded the motion. The motion passed four (4) ayes to zero (0) nays with Councilmember Rice being absent.

Approval of December 10, 2020 minutes: Councilmember Jack moved to approve the minutes of the December 10, 2020 meeting as presented. Councilmember Purvis seconded the motion. The motion passed four (4) ayes to zero (0) nays with Councilmember Rice being absent.

Payment of monthly bills: Councilmember Jack moved to approve the payment of the monthly bills as presented. Councilmember Purvis seconded the motion. The motion passed four (4) ayes to zero (0) nays with Councilmember Rice being absent.

Public Comments: There were no comments from the public.

Approval of agreement with Flint Hills Regional Council: Although the councilmembers present were all for approving the agreement with Flint Hills Regional Council, none were interested in serving as the city's representative due to conflicts with meeting times.

Councilmember Jack moved to approved the signing of the agreement with Flint Hills Regional Council and nominated Councilmember Rice as the city's representative on the board. Councilmember Rosell seconded the motion. The motion passed four (4) ayes to zero (0) nays with Councilmember Rice being absent.

Passage of Ordinance #577 re:..."the liability of unpaid charges for unpaid utility bills...": Councilmember Jack stated he was not in favor of the language in the ordinance regarding a \$50.00 transfer fee for those moving from one residence to another within the city. He felt that the city was already charging \$100.00 non-refundable hookup fee and just felt the transfer fee was not needed.

Councilmember Rosell stated that in the past there had been an abundance of residents moving from one residence to another every other month, and the council at the time felt that having a transfer fee would possibly curb this issue or at least cover for the time staff had to spend in making changes in the billing program and maintenance staff time to read out the previous meter and read in the new meter.

There being no further discussion, Councilmember Rosell moved for the approval of Ordinance #577. Councilmember Smith seconded the motion. The motion passed four (4) ayes to zero (0) nays with Councilmember Rice being absent.

Discussion on fire department personnel: Councilmember Rosell stated that this discussion needed to be postponed until the April 8, 2021 council meeting.

Decision on re-opening of the community center for rentals/meetings of the general public: Councilmember Purvis asked if this decision including the re-opening of City Hall. Mayor Goodenow stated he was not authorizing City Hall to be re-opened to the general public at this time.

There being no further discussion, Councilmember Jack moved to re-open the community center for rentals/meetings of the general public as long as patrons follow the rules and regulations of the CDC (Centers of Disease Control and Prevention) and the city. Councilmember Smith seconded the motion. The motion passed four (4) ayes to zero (0) nays with Councilmember Rice being absent.

Future agenda items: Councilmember Rosell requested that a discussion regarding abandoned rental houses be placed on the February 11, 2021 agenda.

Councilmember Rosell requested that a special meeting held in executive session regarding non-elected personnel evaluations be set within the next two (2) weeks if possible.

Staff Reports:

Treasurer: Councilmember Jack moved to approve the treasurer's report for the month of December, 2020 as presented. Councilmember Purvis seconded the motion. The motion passed four (4) ayes to zero (0) nays with Councilmember Rice being absent.

Maintenance: Maintenance Supervisor Krohn reported the following:

UTILITIES-

- Hamm Inc. has planned to start work on the lagoon erosion project January 18, 2021. An online pre-construction meeting was scheduled for January 12, 2021.
- Requested a time extension for the project because the first extension would end on February 15, 2021. The request had to be turned in 30 days before the project end date. Still waiting for confirmation of the extension.
- Replaced and sent an invoice to the owner of the property at 409 E. State due to the water meter lid in the yard being ran over repeatedly, damaging the sensor in the lid.
- Repaired the weir gates in the influent inlet box at the lagoon so they could be easily removed for monthly maintenance.
- Collected and sent monthly water bacteria samples to KDHE (Kansas Department of Health and Environment), with both samples coming back absent for bacteria.

STREETS-

- Spread salt on the streets and ice melt on city property sidewalks on December 29, 2020.

PARKS-

- Work at the Frank Memorial Shelter at the RV Park is on hold due to weather until the fire place has been completed and the electrical has been installed, in order for the installation of the ceiling and the contractor to finish the exterior and the roof.
- Took down Christmas lights and banners.
- Picked up trash and tree limbs.
- Removed the pedestrian bridge lodged in the creek bank due to heavy rains, between the shop and Dechairo Park.

CEMETERY-

- Repaired grave settlement.
- Opened/closed one (1) full burial.

BUILDINGS-

- Nick Cooper assisted with removing two (2) large trees behind the shop that kept dropping large branches on the shop roof and propane tank.

PLANNING AND ZONING-

- The house at 702 N. 1st has been torn down and site work has been completed as required in the demolition ordinance.
- Issued a building permit for a fence at 407 N. 2nd.
- Issued a chicken permit for 408 E. State Street.

EQUIPMENT-

- Installed new batteries in the F650 dump truck
- REED company rebuilt/installed new seal kits for the bucket tilt cylinders on the backhoe that were leaking a large amount of hydraulic fluid.

MISC-

- Have been working on miscellaneous projects/maintenance on equipment and properties the last month to keep busy. Needing input on other ideas or projects that the council would like done until spring. Projects would like to see completed or just general maintenance for 2021 are:
 1. Replace the storm water culverts at 4th and State Street. There are two (2) culverts and they would need to be replaced when school is out for the summer at an estimated cost of \$4,000.
 2. Replace the storm water culvert at 5th and State Street. Estimated cost at \$1,500.
 3. Replace the storm water culvert at 6th and State Street. Estimated cost at \$1,500.
 4. Begin sewer main cleaning for 2021. This is just general maintenance and can be done once there is better weather this spring.
 5. Purchase a storage container to be placed at the lagoons to store water and sewer line pipe/fittings to keep them out of the sun and weather. All of the water line pipe we currently have can no longer be used for repairs due to it being out in the elements for too long. There has never been a way to keep the materials out of the elements for storage. The estimated cost for the container and to build shelving for it is estimated to cost \$3,500.

Councilmember Jack moved to allow the maintenance supervisor spend up to \$4,000 to purchase a storage container for the water and sewer line pipe/fittings to be placed at the lagoons. Councilmember Rosell seconded the motion. The motion passed four (4) ayes to zero (0) nays with Councilmember Rice being absent.

When asked what the cost of the stone work of the fireplace and the electrical cost at the Frank Memorial Shelter at the RV Park would be, Krohn responded the cost of the stone work was between \$12,000 and \$13,000 and the electrical cost was \$9,000. Both figures had been relayed to Mr. Frank and he indicated he was fine with the additional costs.

Councilmember Rosell asked Krohn to look into designating more space for parking at the shelter and bring his findings back to the February 8, 2021 meeting.

(Cale Prater exited the meeting at 7:15 PM).

Clerk: Clerk Zentner asked the council if they wished for advertisements to be placed in The Manhattan Mercury and Smoke Signal for pool manager and lifeguards. Councilmember Rosell asked if the previous pool manager was returning. Zentner informed the council that neither she, the city treasurer nor Councilmember Rice had been informed whether the previous pool manager was returning or not.

Councilmember Purvis stated that the previous assistant manager would not be returning due to another summer job opportunity this year.

The council instructed Zentner to place the advertisements in the two (2) mentioned newspapers as well as the Onaga Herald.

Zentner reminded the council that there would be three (3) positions on the council to be filed for by noon on June 1, 2021 with the county clerk; the Mayor and two (2) council member seats.

Councilmembers' Reports-

Streets-Councilmember Rosell had nothing more to report.

Utilities-Councilmember Jack had nothing more to report.

Planning and Zoning-Councilmember Smith informed the council the planning and zoning commission would be meeting on Tuesday, January 19, 2021.

Fire Department-Councilmember Jack had nothing to report.

Cemetery-Councilmember Purvis asked about the annexation of the cemetery into the city limits. Zentner replied she had not received any paperwork from the city attorney regarding the annexation. Attorney Dierks will provide the paperwork to the city clerk as soon as possible.

Parks-Councilmember Purvis had nothing more to report.

Mayor-Mayor Goodenow had nothing to report.

City Attorney-Attorney Dierks stated there would be a court hearing on Tuesday, January 19, 2021 regarding violations of a non-tagged vehicle and trash and debris issues.

She also stated she was working on the vacating of the alley at 308 Quail Dr.

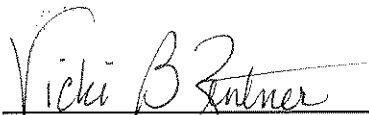
There being no further business brought before the governing body, Councilmember Purvis moved to adjourn the meeting. Councilmember Jack seconded the motion. The motion passed four (4) ayes to zero (0) nays with Councilmember Rice being absent.

Mayor Goodenow declared the meeting adjourned at 7:38 PM.

Approved by the Governing Body on February 14, 2021.

Signed: 
Mark A. Goodenow, Mayor




Vicki B. Zentner, City Clerk