

Westmoreland City Council
April 11, 2024 minutes

The Westmoreland City Council met on April 11, 2024 at the Westmoreland Community Center for its monthly meeting.

Mayor Jack, all City Staff, City Attorney, and all Council except Councilmember Waide Purvis were present.

Others present: Residents- Michelle Campbell, Barrie Toburen, Leslie Campbell, Darla Allen, Vicki Holt, Jeremy Lehning, Jim Moore, Scott Garman, Sheila Zabel, Kendra Breiner, Hadley Rempe, Natalie Gordon, Jessica Kincaid, Brian Hornkohl, Jessica, and Tommy Flickie; *Westmoreland Chamber*- Rita Newell, *Adams Brown*- Alex Mittie; *Fire Chief*- Kevin Umscheid; *Reporter of The Times*- Cale Prater; Officer Torres.

There being a quorum present, Mayor, Mark S. Jack called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Agenda: Councilmember Rice asked to add Alex with Adams Brown to go over 2023 Audit to the agenda. Councilmember Meininger moved to approve the agenda with an amended item added. Councilmember Coleman seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-0.

Consent Items: Councilmember Rice moved to approve the consent items. Councilmember Smith seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-0.

Public comments on non-agenda items: Rita Newell representing the Westmoreland Chamber suggested we go to travelks.com and get our free Kansas magazine which has the city of Westmoreland in there. Also, she shared exciting news that the Chamber found a landowner willing to let them put their sign up. Rita said she's waiting to hear back from Gregg Webster to be sure all is good to go and notified Layton Thomas. Rita will supply the invoice once received in the City so we can pay our portion.

Scott Garman-Resident- voiced his concerns once again for the speeding happening on Main Street. He did thank the city for putting up the 20 mph ahead sign at the west entrance property coming into town from Flush Rd. He's wondering if there's a way to install some sort of flashing sign. He believes the sign that had been there for a couple months that flashed had helped, but now they're speeding again without it. Krohn thought a flashing 20 mph sign would cost 3,500-4,500 dollars. Nothing was decided.

Leslie Campbell-Resident- Leslie asked who is responsible for the repair of sidewalks? Krohn stated after the sidewalk is installed it is then the landowner's responsibility to maintain. Her concerns are the sidewalks that are used every day by students walking to school and how can we change it so that they have to be

cleared/cleaned up. Mayor asked Attorney Dierks to look at the current Ordinance and see what we can revise knowing that it is a very old Ordinance.

NEW BUSINESS-

2023 Audit with Adams Brown: Alex Mitte with Adams Brown presented the 2023 Internal Audit. Alex is pleased to report that no such disagreements arose during the course of the audit. If you would like to see a copy of the Audit please get hold of City Hall and fill out a Request for copies form. There being no questions regarding the 2023 city audit, Councilmember Rice moved to accept the 2023 city audit findings as presented. Councilmember Coleman seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-0.

Pool Condition for 2024 Season: Due to the current condition of the pool, councilmembers decided to close for the 2023 Season at the last meeting. This meeting is to further discuss what the next step will be. Lots of Residents from outside of town attended the meeting with concerns of the pool not opening. Mayor informed everyone it is for the safety of the people and employees that the pool be closed so that it can be fixed properly. Natilie with the Department of commerce encouraged the city to look into grants through them or to have Holly with FHRC help on the grant writing portion. Mr. Moore stated that he had remembered in the past that the city did try for a grant through the department of commerce and Westmoreland did not qualify. To submit a grant, it isn't just typing something up and/or filling out forms. There is information to be gathered, numbers to be entered and to be sure every word is worded correctly. One wrong word can make or break you in a grant opportunity. Council appreciated seeing all those who had came out in support of the pool. Mr. Lehning had mentioned helping to get something started up with the Caring Community Foundation out of Onaga. Mr. Lehning had suggested having a structural engineer look at the pool so we will know if putting money into it is worth it and then move forward. Mayor Jack asked Krohn to get an engineer lined up so it can be done right away, and we can move onto the next step.

While the pool is closed, there was discussion as to what else there is to do in town. One suggestion was to make the tennis court into a pickle ball court and to add basketball goals. Council and Mayor said they would investigate this further to see what can be done.

The council and Mayor insured the public that we will do our best to keep everyone in the loop by putting it in the upcoming newsletter and will be talked about again next meeting.

Hadley Rempe- Rock Creek Exit Project: Hadley asked the Council for an idea of what she could do for her Exit Project. Due to her being so far into it she was hoping to stick to painting something in town. Those who were still at this meeting, we were all able to brainstorm with Hadley. An idea they came up with is to have Hadley paint the bathrooms and/or concession stand building at the ballfield next to the school. Hadley

agreed and liked that idea. Councilmember Smith moved to allow Hadley Rempe to paint the bathrooms and/or the concession stand at the Ball Field for her High School Exit Project. Councilmember Rice seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-0.

Abandoned property 208 Fulton: There was a complaint turned into City Hall regarding that property at 208 Fulton trash and debris and structure is collapsing. This property had partially caught fire a while ago and nothing has been done since. According to Krohn it is in the process of foreclosure and Dierks said there's not much the City can do while it's in that process.

Future agenda items: Updates on the pool, look into updating the sidewalk ordinance(s).

Reports:

Treasurer: Reese asked the Council if it would be ok to ask residents of Westmoreland for pictures of the town to use as decoration for the newly remodeled walls in City Hall. The Council was for it. The beginning of May, Reese will be attending a Conference. She's also been using the scheduling option in QuickBooks. This will be a way that Krohn, Wren, and Reese can see each other's upcoming schedules.

Maintenance Report:

UTILITIES

- Completed 4 work orders for water meter read in/turn on and/or read out/shut off.
- Completed 9 Kansas One Call locate tickets.
- Collected and took 1st quarter lagoon samples to Pace Analytical in Salina. Results of sample testing came back under permit limits except for effluent BOD of 31.4 mg/L with a permit limit of 30 mg/L.
- Placed topsoil and grass seed at Quail/Skene from previous water leak repair.
- Sprayed weeds at the lagoons.
- B & B Services replaced faulty speed control open valve at the vault.
- Collected and sent monthly drinking water samples to KDHE. Results come back negative for coliform and/or E.coli.

STREETS

- *Discuss estimate for 2024 Onyx application to streets.*
- *Discuss estimate for 2024 street patching.*
- Repaired areas along streets/intersections that were torn up from snow removal.
- Cleaned culvert tube, regraded drainage ditch, and spread grass seed at Scott Dr. and Campbell St.
- Replaced damaged pedestrian crossing sign at 2nd/Main.

PARKS

- Picked up trash and tree limbs at city properties.
- Trimmed rose bushes.

- Turned in flower order to 5H Greenhouse for flower planters.
- Mowed and trimmed properties.

CEMETERY

- Trimmed rose bushes and cleaned up flower bed at the GAR monument.
- Opened/closed one burial.

POOL

- Parthemer Septic assisted with pumping the leaves and debris out of the deep end of the pool.

BUILDINGS

- City Hall renovations are going well. The front window is on backorder until May.

PLANNING AND ZONING

- Issued a building permit for a deck at 105 Grant St.
- Issued a building permit for a fence at 206 State St.
- Issued a building permit for a duplex at 204 A/B S. Walnut.
- Issued a building permit for an accessory use building at 107 Main St.
- Issued a building permit for a fence at 403 N. 4th.
- Issued a building permit for a garage at 303 W. Rock Creek Dr.

CODE ENFORCEMENT

- *Discuss 208 Fulton property conditions/complaint.*

MISC.

- Discuss 2024 projects:
 - o State St. intersection culvert replacement.
 - o Bulk material storage at the shop.
 - o Shop 20' addition to work bays.
 - o Community Center exterior rotted siding/trim replacement (last painted 2013 due to cost of replacement)- Brought to Council's attention and nothing more discussed.

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Councilmember Coleman moved to apply onyx on Walnut and Rock Creek.

Councilmember Smith seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-0.

Krohn asked if he could approach Hall Brothers to give an estimate for some patching while in town working on another project. Councilmember Rice moved to patch the roads not to exceed \$25,000. Councilmember Smith seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-0.

Clerks Report: There were a couple of complaints turned into City Hall regarding a couple of different things. There was one that concluded with a letter being sent. Wren stated that she will be out of the office on Friday the 19th. City- Wide garage sales for Westmoreland will be held Friday the 19th and Saturday the 20th. City Wide Clean-up will be on Saturday the 27th, 8:30 am to 3:30 pm. The Council and Mayor agreed it would be ok for Wren to be Wheaton's municipal court clerk once they begin court

cases. Judge Campbell said it's a go and the court hearings would be at noon at the justice center. Employee Handbook is ready to go except for the work at home policy. The council said to get one that we liked and to add it and then schedule a special meeting later.

Streets- Councilmember Meininger had nothing to report.

Utilities- Councilmember Coleman has nothing to report.

Animal Control- Councilmember Smith had nothing to report.

Planning & Zoning- Councilmember Smith had nothing to report.

Pool- Councilmember Rice had nothing to report.

Cemetery- Councilmember Purvis was absent.

Parks- Councilmember was absent. Krohn stated that he had found a contract stating that there was an agreement between a Family Trust and the City for the Tennis Court. Also wondering if sand should be put into the Volleyball Pit. The council asked Krohn to get the cost of sand.

Fire Department- Councilmember Smith wanted to thank all volunteer firefighters for helping with all the fires going on in the county lately. Kevin Umscheid stated there was an incident while parking the fire trucks one evening and a ladder had smacked into Engine One's windshield. He said a report was made and he was in the process of getting a hold of the insurance company. He stated things had been very dangerous and scary and for this to be the only thing that had gone wrong during that time, he's thankful. Councilmembers agreed with him and said the windshield can be fixed.

Flint Hills Regional Council- Councilmember Meinger and Resident Michelle Campbell- Nothing to report other than a meeting next week.

Mayor- Mayor Jack had nothing to report.

City Attorney- Dierks said that there are two cases this month. One person had been served as well.

There being no further business, Councilmember Smith moved to adjourn the meeting. Councilmember Coleman seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-0.

Mayor Jack declared the meeting adjourned at 8:29 PM.
Approved by the Governing Body on May 09, 2024.



Signed: 
Mark S. Jack, Mayor

ATTEST


Julie Wren, City Clerk