CITY OF OSKALOOSA, KS

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

212 W WASHINGTON STREET

OCTOBER 18, 2023 \* 7:00PM

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

GOVERNING BODY MEMBERS PRESENT

John Norman, Mayor

Ken Newell, Council President

Mike Smith, Council

John Metzger, Council

Aron Boyce, Council

Chauncey Young, Council

OFFICIALS PRESENT

Lee Hendricks, City Attorney

Patty Hamm, City Clerk

Paul Bolinger, Chief of Police

Nathaniel Copp, City Superintendent

PUBLIC PRESENT

Mary Smith: Willow Domestic Violence Center

Debbie Hunt & Kelley Rockhold: The Center Place

Deanna Lyon: 707 Liberty Street

CALL TO ORDER

John Norman, Mayor, called the regular meeting of the Oskaloosa City Council to order at 7:00pm.

PUBLIC

Willow Domestic Violence Center

Mary Smith presented the Council with statistics of domestic violence throughout Jefferson, Douglas and Franklin counties. Ken Newell made a motion to authorize the Mayor’s Signature on the Proclamation declaring October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month in the City of Oskaloosa. John Metzger seconded the motion. Vote: Yes=5, No=0; Motion Carried.

Sidewalks

Deanna Lyon expressed her interest in building sidewalks throughout the City at the City’s expense. Council replied it is the homeowner’s responsibility to build and maintain sidewalks across their own property; not the City. Ms. Lyon asked the Council to use tax dollars to construct the sidewalks. Lee Hendricks advised that City funds do not allow for work on private property and it would be bad business to suggest doing so. John Norman advised that the Council has worked hard to not increase the mill levy and put the burden of higher taxes on the citizens. Ken Newell noted once the City gets involved in such a project the City is then required to include engineers, meet ADA guidelines and other costly overhead expenses. Lee Hendricks added that the Council cannot pick and choose when to enforce the law and City ordinances; the City ordinance is very clear that sidewalks are the homeowners’ responsibility. John Norman suggested to Ms. Lyon that she make contact with the residents and have them get their own bids to see if it is feasible for them to build and/or upgrade their own sidewalks. Lee Hendricks advised Ms. Lyon that the request she is making is very costly and not something that the City will get involved in. John Norman stated that the City is not willing to pull funds from the streets in order to do sidewalks. Council agreed no action will be taken by the City.

The Center Place

Debbie Hunt reported she and Kelley Rockhold are part of a group that is going to take over the Christmas lighting and decorations in the downtown area. Ms. Hunt asked the City for use of the electricity and for the ability to close Liberty Street for the lighting event. Ms. Rockhold stated it is their goal to include the school and various organizations in an effort to get younger individuals involved in the community. John Norman advised the electricity is available for use. Ken Newell made a motion to donate $1000 to The Center Place for the Christmas Holiday Lighting Event. Mike Smith seconded the motion. Vote: Yes=5, No=0; Motion Carried. The final date of the event is not yet known.

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

PAGE 2 OF 3 10/18/23

POLICE / CODE ENFORCEMENT / ANIMAL CONTROL

Paul Bolinger reported the grant funds for the purchase and programming of the department radios has been approved by the Drug Enforcement Task Force.

Lee Hendricks reported there are twelve Code Enforcement lawsuits on the docket for court next month.

UTILITIES

Nathaniel Copp reported he is still waiting on Bettis Asphalt for the street improvement project.

Nathaniel Copp reported that they are in the process of winterizing facilities and getting equipment ready for the winter season. Mike Smith will lock the park bathrooms at the end of the month.

LEGAL COUNSEL

Council agreed to have legal counsel draft a recommendation for penalties for curfew violations with the officers having full discretion on a case-by-case basis.

Patty Hamm reported that the Jefferson County Register of Deeds office has the ownership of the library building as the “Board of Directors of Oskaloosa Library.” Lee Hendricks will investigate the matter.

OLD BUSINESS

Patty Hamm reported the security cameras are scheduled for installation next month by Wirenuts, LLC.

MEETING MINUTES

John Metzger made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 20, 2023 regular Council meeting as written. Chauncey Young seconded the motion. Vote: Yes=5, No=0; Motion Carried.

FINANCE

Ken Newell made a motion to approve the financial report and vouchers as presented. Mike Smith seconded the motion. Vote: Yes=5, No=0; Motion Carried. Ken Newell asked about the status of the lawnmower. Nathaniel Copp replied the injection system is no longer being made for that mower so the City will need to look at replacing the mower at some point.

ZONING

Lee Hendricks reported the issue with the sign permit by Darrell Mooney has been resolved.

NEW BUSINESS

Ken Newell made a motion to approve Resolution No. 23-06 Halloween Event Street Closings. Chauncey Young seconded the motion. Vote: Yes=5, No=0; Motion Carried.

John Metzger made a motion to proceed with the Christmas Lighting Contest as follows: 1st Place $100, 2nd Place $75, 3rd Place $50, and four honorable mentions at $25 each. Aron Boyce seconded the motion. Vote: Yes=5, No=0; Motion Carried.

Council agreed to contact other local sanitation companies for bids on services for the City of Oskaloosa.

Patty Hamm reported on the BCBS renewal policy and a comparative proposal from United Healthcare. Patty is currently waiting on notification as to if the City is eligible for the State Health Program through KMIT.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Ken Newell made a motion to adjourn to Executive Session at 8:00pm for ten minutes for attorney-client privilege to discuss litigation. Mike Smith seconded the motion. Vote: Yes=5, No=0; Motion Carried. Public Session resumed at 8:10pm. John Norman announced no binding action taken.

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

PAGE 3 OF 3 10/18/23

Ken Newelll made a motion to authorize the Mayor’s signature on the Release of All Claims settlement agreement with Donna Huffman as written and signed by Ms. Huffman. Aron Boyce seconded the motion. Vote: Yes=5, No=0; Motion Carried.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss, Aron Boyce made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:15pm. Mike Smith seconded the motion. Vote: Yes=5, No=0 Motion Carried.

John Norman, Mayor

ATTEST:

Patty A. Hamm, City Clerk

Minutes Approved: NOVEMBER 15, 2023