

Westmoreland City Council
October 13, 2022 minutes

The Westmoreland City Council met on October 13, 2022 at the Westmoreland Community Center for its monthly meeting.

Governing Body members present: Mayor, Mark S. Jack; Councilmembers, Jim Smith, Waide Purvis, Ashley Rice, and Bruce Meininger.

Governing Body members absent: Councilmembers John Coleman.

City Staff present: Maintenance Supervisor, Robert Krohn; City Treasurer, Amanda "Mandi" Reese; and City Clerk, Julie Wren.

Others present: Michelle Campbell, resident, Judy Hinrichsen, resident, Vicki and Marty Zentner, residents, William Burns, resident, John Blessing, Waste Management, Parker Smith, R&S Services, Tyler Reese, R&S Services, Jenni Moore, Scott Schwinn, Phyllis Hupe and Rita Newell with Rock Creek Historical Society, Christie Hitch Johnson, Tri County Waste, Cale Prater, reporter for The Times and Smoke Signal, Dean Cape with Cox Communications, and Megan Bottenberg (via phone) with Cox Communications.

There being a quorum present, Mayor Jack called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

Consent Items: Additions to the agenda C.3.- Rural Water District Water Rates. There being no further additions or deletions to the consent items, Councilmember Rice moved to approve the consent items. Councilmember Smith seconded the motion. The motion passed four (4) ayes to zero (0) nays with Councilmember Coleman being absent.

Public comments on non-agenda items: There were no comments on non-agenda items from the public in attendance.

New Museum and Wizarde Barn Water Bill: The Council had reached out wanting documentation stating why the New Museum and Wizarde Barn were on the Do not bill list. Jenni Moore, newly voted President of Rock Creek Historical Society spoke on their behalf. Jenni stated the RCVHS is a non-for-profit and bring lots of people to the town of Westmoreland. In the January 11, 2001 minutes, "The City to waive the monthly minimum water and sewer bill for the Historical Society at 507 Burkman St, to be reviewed annually. Historical Society will be responsible for water usage over the minimum." Jenni stated at the end having a museum complex is a Quality-of-Life addition to Westmoreland, like the swimming pool, ball fields and parks, but very little cost to the City.

Councilmember Purvis moved to waive the monthly minimum water and sewer bill for the New Museum AND Wizarde Barn for the Historical Society at 507 Burkman Street, to be reviewed annually. Historical Society will be responsible for water usage over the minimum. Councilmember Smith seconded the motion. The motion passed four (4) ayes to zero (0) nays with Councilmembers Coleman being absent.

Opening of bids for Waste Management contract: Treasurer Reese, opened the bids received from R&S Services, Tri County and Waste Management, for the city's trash service effective November 1st, 2022.

The bids were as follows:

R&S Services: \$17.75 per month per dwelling with one person, \$19.75 per month per dwelling with two or more persons. Rental of 96-gallon container \$5 per month. Special Collection fee \$10.

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

Waste Management: 2-year contract- \$23.09 per month per dwelling with one person, \$25.65 per month per dwelling with two or more persons.

3-year contract- \$22.41 per month per dwelling with one person, \$24.90 per month per dwelling with two or more persons.

5-year contract- \$21.38 per month per dwelling with one person, \$23.75 per month per dwelling with two or more persons.
Plus, complimentary container per household.

After some brief discussion, Councilmember Purvis moved to accept and award the bid from Tri-County Waste for one year, \$21 per month per resident with complimentary container. Councilmember Meininger seconded the motion. The motion passed four (4) ayes to zero (0) nays with Councilmembers Coleman being absent.

(Parker, Tyler, Christie, and John exited the meeting @ 6:35 pm)

Rural Water District Water Rates: The City received a letter from Rural Water District #4 stating they will be raising the rate by \$.25 per 1,000 gallons and the Board of Directors is contemplating a \$.25/1000 gallons increase per year for the next few years.

Councilmember Purvis moved to raise the city water rate to its customers \$.25 per 1,000 gallons usage effective January 1, 2023, as Rural Water District is doing to us. Councilmember Rice seconded the motion. The motion passed four (4) ayes to zero (0) nays with Councilmembers Coleman being absent.

Megan Bottenberg with Cox Communications: Megan joined via phone to speak on behalf of Cox Communications. Megan pushed customers and employees are always

first, they strive to be great. Cox (for the first time) will be providing Westmoreland with 2 gig internet access to nearly all homes in footprint (in city limits). They will provide fiber to every home within the entire town and will stay within the easement until homes sign up for their product. Cox said they will send out mailers and door hangers to let residents know they are coming and then again right before construction starts. Residents began to question about outages due to the outages we have been experiencing here lately. Megan stated they thrive to limit any outages; they are always monitoring their network and technology is not magic, but they are always monitoring to prevent anything like that to happen and always ready to respond. Megan hangs up at 7:28 PM.

(Zentners exited the meeting @ 7:19 pm)

Dean said he will be the one we will see here in Westmoreland and to never hesitate to reach out to him when there are questions or concerns.

(Dean exited the meeting @ 7:33 pm)

(Cale exited the meeting @ 7:36 pm)

Michelle Campbell: FHRC- Michelle reached out to the Director of Flint Hills Regional Council, Jerry Lonergan. He said Michelle can attend the meetings but would be considered a non-voting member. For her to be able to vote, she needs to be an employee of the City. She wouldn't be able to be a voice for Westmoreland, which is what's needed. She suggested Julie Wren be the person and to close office during the zoom meetings which would be once a month same day/time. Councilmember Purvis really would like to find a way for Michelle to be the voice of Westmoreland and be able to represent us, but if absolutely nothing then we would have Julie take on the position. Mayor said he will speak with Jerry to see what can be done and will revisit it in November.

Future agenda items: Michelle Campbell with FHRC and return check policy.

Reports:

Treasurer: Amanda asked the Council if it would be ok to have Alex with VonFeldt, Bauer & VonFeldt Chtd. (VB&V) come and assist with completing W-2 and other end of year tax forms. Councilmember Purvis moved to allow VonFeldt, Bauer & VonFeldt to come to the office to assist Amanda with tax forms for this year. Councilmember Smith seconded the motion. The motion passed four (4) ayes to zero (0) nays with Councilmembers Coleman being absent.

Maintenance Report:

UTILITIES

- Collected monthly KDHE drinking water samples. Samples came back absent for Total Coliform and E. coli.
- Collected third quarter lagoon discharge samples. Samples came back below KDHE permit limits.

STREETS

- Set up with SMH the surveying and description of the easement at 308 Quail in order to vacate it.
- Placed ditch liner at 2nd/Campbell and 1st/Campbell for the Campbell St. improvement project.
- Graded ditches on the north side of Campbell St., upstream and downstream of driveway culverts.

PARKS

- Mowed and trimmed all properties.
- Cleaned flower beds and trimmed low hanging tree branches.
- Removed and hauled off dead tree at campsite 7 of the RV Park.

CEMETERY

- Mowed and trimmed.
- Opened/closed one cremation burial.

POOL

- Mowed and trimmed.
- Finished winterizing the pool, pool equipment, and plumbing lines.
- Removed and hauled off dead tree in front of the pool concession building.

BUILDINGS

- Fabricated mailbox post and installed mailbox for the city shop at 5th/Cochrun as per the post office.

PLANNING AND ZONING

- Issued a building permit for a deck at 110 S. 3rd.
- Issued a building permit for a fence at 700 N. 4th.

EQUIPMENT

- KanEquip is making warranty repairs to M2 (carburetor issues).
- REED Equipment finished repairs to the air brake system on T4 and have ordered a replacement parking brake valve to replace the one installed that is leaking air.

CODE ENFORCEMENT

- Attached Chart for inoperable vehicles and mowing/weeds.
- Mowed/trimmed weed violation property at 502 E. Campbell.

Krohn stated there are 3 properties on Campbell St needing trees trimmed due to visibility onto the road. Council advised Krohn to have Attorney Summer Dierks send those residents a letter asking them to trim the trees.

Clerks Report: City Clerk Wren let Council know there will be online training the last week of October that goes with the conference that she signed up for in November. Wren also let Council know she's been doing her best as filling in as "camp host" for the RV Park.

*Streets-*Councilmember Meininger had nothing to report.

*Utilities-*Councilmember Coleman was absent so 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 had nothing to report.

Parks- Councilmember Purvis had nothing to report.

Fire Department- Councilmember Smith asked if the Council would be willing to help pay for nice jackets for the Volunteer firefighters who don't have one. Mayor asked Smith to get numbers and would discuss again next meeting.

Mayor- Mayor Jack asked the Council if they would be willing to allow City Clerk Wren to purchase a stand-up desk converter/riser? Councilmember Purvis moved to purchase a stand-up desk converter/riser for no more than \$500. Councilmember Rice seconded the motion. The motion passed four (4) ayes to zero (0) nays with Councilmembers Coleman being absent.

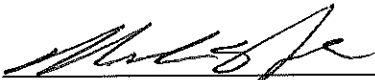
Councilmember Rice moved to enter executive session at 8:17 PM for no more than ten (10) minutes with the Mayor, Councilmembers, Maintenance Supervisor, City Clerk and City Treasurer. Councilmember Purvis seconded the motion. The motion passed four (4) ayes to zero (0) nays with Councilmembers Coleman being absent.

Councilmember Purvis moved to exit the executive session at 8:23 PM. Councilmember Smith seconded the motion. The motion passed four (4) ayes to zero (0) nays with Councilmembers Coleman being absent.

There was no action taken as a result of the executive session.

There being no further business, Councilmember Rice moved to adjourn the meeting. Councilmember Coleman seconded the motion. The motion passed four (4) ayes to zero (0) nays with Councilmembers Coleman being absent.

Mayor Jack declared the meeting adjourned at 8:23 PM.

Signed: 
Mark S. Jack, Mayor

ATTEST


Julie Wren, City Clerk

