CITY OF OSKALOOSA, KS

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

212 W WASHINGTON STREET

MAY 21, 2025 \* 7:00PM

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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

Patty Hamm, City Clerk

Paul Bolinger, Chief of Police

Todd Luckman, City Attorney

PUBLIC PRESENT

Vernon Sparks, 302 Cherokee Street

Dorothy Malsbury, 904 Westview Street

CALL TO ORDER

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

PUBLIC

Vernon Sparks was present at the meeting to request an extension on the restoration permit of his 2004 Chevy Blazer. Mr. Sparks advised that a true restoration takes a very long time and he estimates 2 to 3 years before his is complete. John Norman noted that the carport that has been put up is in violation of the setbacks under the zoning regulations. Mr. Sparks replied the frame and engine are under the carport while the body is in the garage being restored. Mr. Sparks believed his property setbacks to be grandfathered in since the house itself does not meet setbacks. John replied any new construction is not considered to be grandfathered in; all new construction must abide by the current zoning regulations. Mr. Sparks stated he is moving the carport to the back side of the garage but he first needs to rework his driveway. Mr. Sparks advised that he is on a limited income with limited physical ability so anything he does is going to take time. John asked Mr. Sparks if he can have the carport relocated by the end of June and Mr. Sparks responded that he should be able to do it within that timeframe. Council agreed to a relocation deadline of July 16, 2025 at which time Mr. Sparks is to return to the Council to discuss the reissuance of the restoration permit.

MAINTENANCE

John Norman reported that the lift station upgrades will be tabled until next month since Nathaniel Copp is absent.

John Norman reported the pool is ready to open and that some renovation had to be made to the showers.

John Norman reported there was some sewer backup on Kansas Street.

John Norman reported that Bettis is working on a proposal for the summer street improvement project.

Ken Newell made a motion to approve the cost estimate from Boyd’s Heating & Air Conditioning for the replacement of a compressor unit for City Hall. Mike Smith seconded the motion. Vote: Yes=5, No=0; Motion Carried.

John Metzger made a motion to approve the contract with Central Tank Coatings, Inc. for the maintenance inspections of the two City water towers as presented. Chauncey Young seconded the motion. Vote: Yes=5, No=0; Motion Carried.

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PARK & POOL

John Norman reported that two trees were planted in the park by the Oskaloosa Tree Board for long-standing members Bob O’Shea and Art Johnson.

Council reviewed the cost estimate from Farmer Excavating Inc for the construction of a pickleball court in the amount of $25,800. Ken Newell noted that the Oskaloosa Recreation Commission will be donating some funds to the City for construction. Council action pending the cost estimate of remaining items to complete the project.

LEGAL COUNSEL

Todd Luckman reported the contract with RWD #7 is still pending.

Council agreed to take no action on the Brightspeed agreement due to the vagueness of the agreement. Todd Luckman recommended their attorney contact him to discuss it further.

CORRESPONDENCE

Council received the letter from Karl Swoyer regarding the mowing of the vacant lot at the intersection of Elm Street and Washington Street. Patty Hamm advised one of the lots is coming up for tax auction next week.

Council reviewed the correspondence from the Oskaloosa High School FCCLA organization. No action taken.

Council reviewed the correspondence regarding the McCreight-Morrow Building Historical Society submission. For informational purposes only.

Council reviewed the correspondence regarding the First United Methodist Church Historical Society Approval. For informational purposes only.

Council reviewed the correspondence from the Oskaloosa Public Library regarding the Mayor’s involvement in the library board. John Norman stated his involvement in the Board is new information and he will mitigate some issues between the Library Board and the FOOLS Board but will otherwise not be involved on a regular basis.

NEW BUSINESS

Ken Newell made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2025-02 Old Settler’s Reunion Event street closings as presented. John Metzger seconded the motion. Vote: Yes=5, No=0; Motion Carried.

John Metzger made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2025-03 Old Settler’s Reunion Event wine and beer garden as presented. Chauncey Young seconded the motion. Vote: Yes=5, No=0; Motion Carried.

Mike Smith made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2025-04 First Presbyterian Church Event street closing as presented. Chauncey Young seconded the motion. Vote: Yes=5, No=0; Motion Carried.

Ken Newell made a motion to approve the fireworks stand application submitted by T-Town Fireworks as presented. Aron Boyce seconded the motion. Vote: Yes=5, No=0; Motion Carried.

MEETING MINUTES

John Metzger made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 16, 2025 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 Finance Report and Vouches as presented. John Metzger seconded the motion. Vote: Yes=5, No=0; Motion Carried.

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POLICE / CODE ENFORCEMENT / ANIMAL CONTROL

Paul Bolinger reported on work that was done to the 2014 Tahoe and that he still needs to schedule an alignment. In response to inquiry at the last Council meeting Paul will obtain cost estimates for a replacement vehicle for the police department to stay within the rotation schedule.

Paul Bolinger requested permission to pay the City of Oskaloosa Police Department staff the same that the Jefferson County employees are paid to work during the Old Settler’s Reunion event at a rate of $25 per hour. Council agreed to the pay rate for the event and John Metzger noted the employees should not work any overtime hours if at all possible.

Council discussed the non-compliance of code enforcement at 902 Westview Street and the daily fine that is to be incurred for continued violation. Todd Luckman stated he will proceed with a long-form complaint and bring charges in municipal court.

Patty Hamm reported there are still no applications for the position of animal control officer. John Norman suggested the Council consider an interlocal agreement with other cities in the surrounding area. Patty will call and see if other cities have a need for animal control.

Ken Newell noted that areas of brush need to be abated under the City’s weed and grass ordinance. Aron Boyce questioned whether brush piles and fence lines would be included in the abatement process by the City, noting that according to the City’s ordinance it would be included. Aron stated that he received notice on property 308 Herkimer Street, however, he does not own the property. Patty Hamm replied she would double check the ownership records but that is what she was told when he activated utility service at the property.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

John Metzger made a motion to adjourn to Executive Session at 9:00pm for 15 minutes for attorney-client privilege to discuss Municipal Court activity. Ken Newell seconded the motion. Vote: Yes=5, No=0; Motion Carried. Public Session resumed at 9:15pm. John Norman announced no binding action taken.

OLD BUSINESS

Ken Newell made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 25-15-523 Solid Waste Rates as presented. Mike Smith seconded the motion. Vote: Yes=5, No=0; Motion Carried.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss, John Metzger made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:20pm. Ken Newell seconded the motion. Vote: Yes=5, No=0 Motion Carried.

John Norman, Mayor

ATTEST:

Patty A. Hamm, City Clerk

Minutes Approved: June 18, 2025