

CITY OF OSAGE CITY

COUNCIL MEETING

April 27, 2021

ROLL CALL: Now on this 27th day of April, 2021 the Governing Body of the City of Osage City, Kansas, met at the Osage City Council Chamber in said City. The following members being present and participating to wit were: Mayor: Becky Brewer. Council Members: Jim Peterson, Bruce Schoepflin, Dale Schwieger, Karey Heiserman, Mike Gilliland, Sharon Larson and Jeanette Swarts. Council Member Cathryn Houghton excused. Officials present: Rick Godderz, City Attorney; Rod Willis, City Manager; Katie Hodge, City Treasurer; Terri Fultz, City Clerk; Sadie Boos, Deputy City Clerk; Director of Utilities, Kris Kline. Other present: Kyle Spielbusch, Mark Hanks, Mike Hanks and Quintin Robert.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:

Motion made by Schwieger, second by Schoepflin to approve the amended agenda. The motion was declared carried.

RECOGNITION OF VISTORS: Mark & Mike Hanks introduced themselves to the Governing Body. They bought the old Sonic Building on Market Street, demolished the building and cleaned up the property. Their plans are to put in a self-serve, coin operated ice vending machine and rental storage buildings.

APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA:

1. Approval of April 13, 2021 Regular Meeting Minutes.

Motion made by Schoepflin, second by Schwieger to approve the Consent Agenda. The motion was declared carried.

BUSINESS BEFORE THE COUNCIL:

1. Presentation of the City of Osage City 2020 Annual Audit by Jarred, Gilmore & Phillips, PA of Chanute, Kansas – Kyle Spielbusch, CPA:

Kyle Spielbusch, CPA with Jarred, Gilmore & Phillips, PA presented the annual audit report and financial statement for the year ending December 31, 2020.

2. Approval of Ordinance No. 1654 Amending Central Business District C-3 Zoning to allow Airbnb/apartments/dwellings on the first floor of downtown buildings as unanimously recommended by Planning and Zoning Committee following the March 18, 2021 Public Hearing. No objections during the 14-day protest period:

Motion made by Schwieger, second by Schoepflin to adopt Ordinance No. 1654 Amending Zoning and Subdivision Regulations as adopted by Ordinance No. 1523 by Amending Table 9-1 of Article 9 Commercial Zoned Districts (C-1; C-3) Permitted and Conditional Uses. Permitted uses to allow Airbnb apartments or dwellings on the first floor of downtown buildings located in the Central Business District while preserving retail space on the first floor at the front of the building. The motion was declared carried.

3. Approval to amend 2021 Pay Matrix adding Internship PT-F classification to expand potential pool of employees to fill job openings due to retirements, career and job changes, etc. – Utilities Director Kris Kline, City Treasurer Katie Hodge:

Utility Director Kris Kline explained there are two positions open at this time. One position being the Power Plant Operator and the other in the Electric Distribution Department for either a journeyman or apprentice lineman. There was interest by a student from Manhattan Tech School for the lineman position but asked if the City hired interns. This gave the idea to possibly add an internship position on the Pay Matrix. The intern would only work the few months while out of school in the summer knowing that they would have to return back to classes in the fall to finish their study. As employees retire in the future, adding Intern classification on the Pay Matrix would give the City opportunity to hire interns with the future possibility of them returning to the City for full employment after finishing school.

Mayor Brewer asked that the Pay Matrix be brought back to a future meeting to be discussed.

Motion made by Schwieger, second by Schoepflin to approve the amendment to the 2021 Pay Matrix adding Internship PT-F classification at the wage of \$12.00 per hour. The motion was declared carried.

4. Approval of Ordinance No. 1655 Amending Gas Utility User Charge per Month to \$22.25 within corporate boundaries and \$22.81 outside corporate boundaries, due to the \$2,391,295.30 February Gas Bill paid from the \$1,650,000.00 low-interest Kansas State Treasurer loan and \$741,295.30 Gas Fund reserves:

Motion made by Larson, second by Gilliland to adopt Ordinance No. 1655 amending the Natural Gas Utility User charge to \$22.25 per month for within corporate boundaries and \$22.81 for outside corporate boundaries in order to pay the Low-Interest Loan through the Kansas State Treasurer in the amount of \$1,650,000.00 due to the extreme weather event in February causing the high cost natural gas invoice. The motion was declared carried.

5. Information – Senator Jerry Moran and Senator Roger Marshall, M.D. inquiry letter regarding: Status of FERC’s Investigation into February’s High Natural Gas Prices:

City Manager Rod Willis provided the letter received from Senator Jerry Moran and Senator Roger Marshall, M.D. stating the status of the investigation into the wholesale high cost natural gas prices and electricity market activity during the severe weather event to determine if there was any wrongdoing.

6. Discussion on elections for Mayor and City Council At-Large or by Wards with actual example from City of Beloit, Kansas, population 3,793. Beloit originally transitioned from a Mayor and eight Council Members (4 Wards) to a Mayor and six Council Members (2 Wards) in 2016, then further transitioned to a Mayor and five City Council Members elected at-large in 2020:

City Manager Rod Willis explained that this discussion to change from Wards to At-Large and reducing the number of Council Members is due to it becoming increasing difficult to find citizens to run for the open positions.

The Governing Body thought that before this would be put on the ballot in November for public vote it would be a good idea to get consensus from the citizens on their thoughts of whether this would be something they would like to see done. There are concerns that going to At-Large elections will result in certain Wards not being fairly represented.

Motion made by Schoepflin, second by Schwieger to table this item for more discussion and to hear from the public their thoughts on whether this is something that should be put to a public vote. The motion was declared carried.

7. Executive session for financial affairs of second parties to include Mayor and City Council, City Attorney, Consultant Quintin Robert, City Treasurer, City Clerk, Utilities Director, and City Manager:

Motion made by Schwieger, second by Heiserman at 8:09 p.m. to recess to Executive Session for a period of 5 minutes for the purpose of discussion for Financial Affairs of Second Parties to include Mayor, City Council, City Attorney, Consultant Quintin Robert, City Treasurer, City Clerk, Utilities Director and City Manager. The motion was declared carried.

At 8:14 p.m. Mayor Brewer declared the meeting back into open session.

Motion made by Peterson, second by Schwieger at 8:19 p.m. to recess to Executive Session for a period of 5 minutes for the purpose of discussion for Financial Affairs of Second Parties to include Mayor, City Council, City Attorney, Consultant Quintin Robert, City Treasurer, City Clerk, Utilities Director and City Manager. The motion was declared carried.

At 8:24 p.m. Mayor Brewer declared the meeting back into open session. No formal action to be taken.

8. Approval of the Airport Layout Plan (ALP) Agreement between consulting firm Kirkham, Michael & Associates, Inc. and the City of Osage City:

Motion made by Schwieger, second by Peterson to approve the final agreement for the Airport Layout Plan (ALP) and authorize the Mayor to sign the agreement once the City Attorney has reviewed the agreement and not to exceed \$330,000.00. The motion was declared carried.

ADJOURNMENT: *At the request of Council Member Schwieger at 8:35 p.m., and on his motion, seconded by Council Member Heiserman and carried unanimously, the meeting adjourned.*

APPROVED: _____ ATTESTED: _____
Rebecca Brewer **Teresa Fultz**
Mayor **City Clerk**