

**CITY OF OSAGE CITY**  
**COUNCIL MEETING**  
**June 27, 2023**

**ROLL CALL:** Now on this 27th day of June 2023, 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: Mayor Bruce Schoepflin. Council Members: Cathryn Houghton, Brian Stromgren, Mike Gilliland, Shirley Bausman, Jeff Tice, Eric Tincher (online), Sharon Larson. Excused: Jeanette Swarts. Officials present: Rick Godderz, City Attorney; Rod Willis, City Manager; Katie Hodge, Deputy City Manager/City Treasurer; Dale Schwieger, Utilities Director; Sadie Boos, City Clerk; Fred Nech, Chief of Police; and Tom Harm, Assistant Chief of Police. Others: George Meisner, Jr., Merrilee Meisner, Debra Swanson, Bill Latham, Amanda Burton, Jeff Davis, and Nick Burton.

**APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:**

*Motion by Stromgren, second by Gilliland to approve the amended agenda. The motion was declared carried.*

**RECOGNITION OF VISITORS:** None

**APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA:**

1. Approval of June 13, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes

*Motion by Tice, second by Houghton to approve the consent agenda. The motion was declared carried.*

**BUSINESS BEFORE THE COUNCIL:**

1. **Appointment of Assistant Chief of Police Tom Harm to the Fourth Judicial District Community Corrections Advisory Board for a two year term**

Assistant Chief of Police Tom Harm gave background on the Advisory Board and being asked to serve.

*Motion by Larson, second by Gilliland to approve the appointment of Assistant Chief of Police Tom Harm to the Fourth Judicial District Community Corrections Advisory Board for a two year term. The motion was declared carried.*

2. **Appointment of Dale Schwieger, Utilities Director to the Kansas Municipal Gas Agency (KMGA) Board of Directors for a two year term.**

*Motion by Tice, second by Tincher to approve the appointment of Utilities Director Dale Schwieger as a Director to KMGA for a two year term. The motion was declared carried.*

- 3. Appointment of Craig Croucher, Electric Production to the Kansas Municipal Energy Agency (KMEA) Board of Directors for a two year term.**

*Motion by Larson, second by Tice to approve the appointment of Craig Croucher, Electric Power Production as Director-1 to the KMEA Board of Directors. The motion was declared carried.*

- 4. Appointment of Katie Hodge, Deputy City Manager/City Treasurer to the Kansas Municipal Energy Agency (KMEA) Board of Directors as a Permanent Alternate.**

*Motion by Tincher, second by Tice to approve the appointment of Katie Hodge, Deputy City Manager/City Treasurer to KMEA Board of Directors as the Permanent Alternate. The motion was declared carried.*

- 5. Approval of NCS PowerEdge T550 Server Replacement Project Hardware and Software quote in the amount of \$24,942.00 total plus \$270.00 monthly services with funds in the adopted 2023 Annual Budget – Deputy City Manager/City Treasurer Katie Hodge**

Deputy City Manager/City Treasurer Katie Hodge explained the funds for the replacement of the existing server and software is contained in the adopted 2023 annual budget. Replacement periodically occurs due to the age of the server and software support ending on older software program applications. Best practice is to replace the server and software before hardware failure occurs or software support ends.

*Motion by Houghton, second by Gilliland to approve the NCS PowerEdge T550 Server Replacement Project Hardware and Software quote in the amount of \$24,942.00 total plus \$270.00 monthly services. The motion was declared carried.*

- 6. Approval of BG Consultants, Inc. of Emporia, Kansas Agreement Contract to Engage City Engineer for On Call Services – Bruce Boettcher, P.E. Vice President and Emporia Office Manager**

City Manager Rod Willis explained that BG Consultants has been our on-call engineering firm for many years and the contract presented updates the services and rates for providing on-call services. BG Consultants has also been our water plant engineer over the years,

*Motion by Larson, second by Stromgren to approve the BG Consultants, Inc. of Emporia, Kansas Agreement Contract to Engage City Engineer for On Call Services. The motion was declared carried.*

- 7. Discussion on behind the meter generation policy for privately owned solar, generators, wind turbines, etc. due to changes in the industry since the adoption of the interconnection policy and net metering policy several years ago – Utilities Director Dale Schwieger and Greg Wright of Priority Power**

Utilities Director Dale Schwieger explained the City is getting more inquiries about behind the meter generation, primarily solar installed on residences. In reviewing policy documents with Greg Wright of Priority Power, it became obvious the existing interconnection policy and net

metering policy needed updated to address current issues and developments, Greg Wright has reviewed and recommended the policy changes needed, as shown in the redline sections of the existing documents.

*Motion by Houghton, second by Tice to incorporate the recommended changes by Greg Wright into a new ordinance prepared by City Attorney Rick Godderz. The motion was declared carried.*

**8. Discussion on Feline Trap Neuter Return (TNR) ordinance to strengthen existing regulations in the City – City Council Member Sharon Larson, City Attorney Rick Godderz, Chief of Police Fred Nech**

Council Member Sharon Larson described the changes needed to the existing regulations concerning treatment of cats and the TNR program, Chief of Police Fred Nech described additional provisions from a law enforcement perspective and City Attorney Rick Godderz prepared a draft ordinance in relation to existing laws.

Amanda Burton spoke on her concerns and problems at 2<sup>nd</sup> Street & Lakin Street with the feral cat situation, i.e. a neighbor leaving food out on porches at night attracting lots of wildlife (supplied photos) besides feral cats, with dangers to children, potential diseases, pets being hurt or killed, etc. Amanda Burton has 4 kids, 3 dogs and 1 cat with the cat already attacked. Amanda Burton does not feel it is fair to make this a Police Department problem, as they have more serious issues to deal with in Osage City.

Chief Nech stated he is not opposed to TNR, but programs do not always work as they should and advised to be a good neighbor and be willing to move feeding stations when causing multiple problems.

Merrilee Meisner would like protection for TNR cats, plus domestic pets that are being trapped and disposed of by individuals in the City. TNR has already spayed 74 cats by the end of June and some of the TNR cats have disappeared along with some indoor/outdoor pets. Information was presented on Disney Land's feral cat TNR stable population that provides rodent control for the theme park in an area similar to Osage City in size.

*Motion by Larson to approve Ordinance No. 1678 with recommended changes. The motion died for a lack of a second with consensus for further study of the concerns.*

**9. Preliminary 2024 Budget Review on State Budget Forms – Deputy City Manager/ City Treasurer Katie Hodge**

Deputy City Manager/City Treasurer Katie Hodge gave a review of the preliminary 2024 Budget on the State Budget Forms and stated the Public Hearing for the Final 2024 Budget will be set for August 8<sup>th</sup> by the City Council at the next meeting on July 11<sup>th</sup>.

**10. Information – Fireworks allowed June 27<sup>th</sup> – July 3<sup>rd</sup> from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. and on July 4<sup>th</sup> from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m.**

**ADJOURNMENT:**

*At the request of Council Member Larson and on her motion, seconded by Council Member Tice and carried unanimously, the meeting adjourned.*

**APPROVED:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Bruce E. Schoepflin, Mayor**

**ATTESTED:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Sadie Boos, City Clerk**