

CITY OF SEVERY

REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING

JANUARY 4, 2024

7:00 P.M. AT CITY HALL, SEVERY KS

Present: Mayor Donna Wiss, Council Members Marc Warren, Ron Robert, Lyle Riggs, Rodger Kraft, Kevin Klepper, Clerk Tessa Riggs and City Attorney Alleen VanBebber (via zoom)

Absent: Treasurer Casandra Myers

Guest: Robin Wunderlich via zoom

Mayor Wiss called the regular business meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited, and roll was called.

Mayor Wiss and Councilmembers Marc Warren and Ron Robert took their oath of offices.

Kraft moved to approve the amended budget meeting minutes. Warren 2nd. Motion passed 4-0. Robert abstained due to being absent.

Riggs moved to approve the December 2023 minutes. Robert 2nd. Motion passed 5-0.

Warren moved to approve the December 2023 bills. Kraft 2nd. Motion passed 5-0.

Klepper moved to approve the December 2023 Treasurer's Report as presented. Robert 2nd. Motion passed 5-0.

Water Superintendent Schmidt reported the construction crew hit a raw water line and it caused the water to run slow the last few days. Schmidt requested if the City could purchase a camera for the water plant to see what is plugging the intake in the water and how it needs to be fixed. Schmidt doesn't believe the intake is more than 25 foot deep. Warren stated that he knows someone who is a scuba diver and would be willing to help for approximately \$300. Schmidt noted that the last rain we received has brought the lake water levels up. Part-time employee Plonka has been going around town and trimming trees for the routes the school buses take and will continue to get the rest of the town done. Schmidt has a \$200 tool allowance each month and needs some items that are over his budget. Robert stated he is okay with Schmidt going over the monthly allowance as long as the council is aware so it can be accounted for. Schmidt was able to

get health insurance but is having some issues with his yearly income. Clerk Riggs called to get a status update on the mower. The hydrostat was replaced and a bracket broke off the deck.

Old Business. Clerk Riggs applied for 2 grants through The Kansas Office. The grants had to be completed by December 29, 2023. Riggs submitted 2 different grants for the City. One grant Riggs completed was for the 2007 sewer lagoon project in the amount of \$50,000 and she was able to collect all documents within the office. The second grant was more complicated and took an entire day to complete. Riggs stated she could not have done the second grant without the assistance of engineer Mike Younger with Evans, Bierly and Hutchison. The most the City could apply for was \$8 million and of course the city's project was not that large, but Riggs did apply for \$1.3 million. If the City does not receive any money this round there is another round in 2024. Riggs stated that with the short time she was given to have them completed, she was unable to use 3 days of her vacation before the end of the year. Klepper moved to allow Clerk Riggs to carry 3 days of vacation into the 2024 fiscal year. Warren 2nd. Motion passed 4-0. Councilman L. Riggs abstained.

Code Enforcement Officer Kierl was absent. VanBebber suggested Kierl needs a report on 401 N. Hobart Ave. The issue is still ongoing. As for the property owner, Ms. Vela, she has requested a hearing, and she has obtained an attorney. At this time Ms. Vela's attorney is on vacation and VanBebber has spoken to the attorney and has an agreement that the City would wait until Ms. Vela's attorney returns after the first of the year to conduct a hearing.

New Business. Clerk Riggs explained she did not include the EBH and APAC's invoices in the bills for December due to the fact if the grants would be approved, the Kansas Water Office made it very clear that they would not be paying invoices that were already paid. They are to make an initial decision by the middle of January. The City has 30 days to get invoices paid.

Robert moved to approve the GAAP requirements. Warren 2nd. Motion passed 4-0.

Clerk Riggs and Councilman Riggs attended a Lead & Copper Meeting in Chanute last month that was held by KDHE. Currently, the state is requiring everyone who has an active water service to fill out a survey for inventory. Clerk Riggs mailed all water users a survey several months ago and now has put the survey on the city's website. Riggs stated she has had approximately 60 surveys returned and is still needing approximately 100 more.

Clerk Riggs mentioned that Treasurer's Myers has brought it to her attention that her workload at primary job is getting heavier and the city probably needs to look into finding another treasurer. Myers has offered to train the next person with the reports.

VanBebber sent everyone an email regarding the refuse contract.

Robert questioned how long the City has to use the ARPA (COVID) funds.

Klepper would like the City to check into a few more streets lights throughout town. There are several areas that are very dark and might cut down on crime.

Riggs moved to adjourn at 8:30 p.m. Klepper 2nd. Motion passed 5-0.