

CITY OF SEVERY
REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING
JULY 1, 2024
7:00 P.M. AT CITY HALL, SEVERY KS

Present: Council Members Marc Warren, Lyle Riggs, Rodger Kraft, Ron Robert (via zoom), Clerk Tessa Riggs, Treasurer William McClendon and City Attorney Alleen VanBebber (via zoom)

Absent: Mayor Donna Wiss

Council President Marc Warren called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Pledge of Allegiance was recited, and roll was called.

Kraft moved to approve the June 2024 minutes. Riggs 2nd. Motion passed 5-0.

Klepper moved to approve the June 2024 bills. Kraft 2nd. Motion passed 5-0.

Riggs moved to approve the June 2024 treasurer's report as presented. Kraft 2nd. Motion passed 5-0.

Water Superintendent Paul Schmidt complimented part time city employees John Plonka and Gareld Rollings for all the road work. Schmidt reported that there was a major sewer issue on the south end of town. The City has a portable sewer machine that was repaired, and the sewer issue has been fixed. Schmidt also reported that each month more residential water meters are failing. The meters are under warranty. Clerk Riggs sent in 29 meters in April and the company reported all the batteries had quit working. The company is scheduled to ship new meters towards the end of July. Schmidt noted that the Kansas Department of Health and Environment will be doing an inspection on July 2nd. Schmidt stated there has been a citizen complaint regarding a situation with the tree brush dumping at the lake. Council members had no objection.

Code Enforcement Officer John Plonka noted 5 grass/vegetation letters were sent out in June. Plonka went to mow a vacant lot and had a complaint about a foul odor and Plonka also noticed the odor coming from 401 N. Hobart Avenue. Clerk Riggs stated violation letters have been sent to this property for Ordinance 431. Plonka also mentioned there is an issue with a citizen using a deceased property owners' vacant home to store a tractor and fencing. The City has mowed this property for the past two years and Plonka will try to mow the best he can. Clerk Riggs did contact the county and the property owners are deceased and taxes haven't been paid for a few years. Clerk Riggs has been applying the mowing as a special tax assessment for the last two years. Warren moved to authorize Plonka to determine who the violator is and send a courtesy letter to them. Robert 2nd. Motion passed 5-0.

Old Business. Mayor Wiss approved to donate \$100 to the Elk County Community Foundation. The foundation is seeking a volunteer to represent Severy. Klepper moved to allow Clerk Riggs and Mayor Wiss to appoint an individual in the community. Warren 2nd. Motion passed 5-0.

Clerk Riggs noted after June's meeting, she checked further into the utility billing software upgrade. After many phone calls and reaching out to other small cities, Clerk Riggs will no longer be needing an upgrade due to how the City is entering meter read consumptions. Clerk Riggs stated this probably saved the city approximately \$2,500.00 - \$3,000.00.

New Business. Budget meeting will be held on Tuesday, July 16, 2024, at 7:00 p.m.

VanBebber suggested a letter be sent out in the July utility bills regarding registrations for dogs and cats.

Guest, Karen Wunderlich addressed the council concerning which numbers on the water meters they use to determine consumption. Wunderlich also questioned when the meter failed at her former hair salon. Clerk Riggs explained that when the city employees read the meter there were no numbers to read, so therefore the meter was changed out.

Warren moved to go into executive session for 10 minutes with legal counsel for attorney-client privileged matter, to include Clerk Riggs. Kraft 2nd. Motion passed 5-0.

Regular meeting was reconvened. No action was taken.

Riggs moved to go into executive session for 40 minutes for non-elected personnel to include Clerk Riggs and Treasurer McClendon.

Regular meeting was reconvened at 9:12 p.m. No action was taken.

Klepper moved to adjourn at 9:35 p.m. Riggs 2nd. Motion passed 5-0.

/s/ Donna Wiss, Mayor

Attest:

/s/ Tessa C. Riggs, City Clerk