

CITY OF SEVERY
REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING

JUNE 3, 2024

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

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

Absent: Council members Ron Robert and Kevin Klepper

Guest: Levi Vinson, Greenwood County Emergency Management and Brandi Clark, Elk County Community Foundation

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

Levi Vinson addressed the council with the memorandum of understanding and a Resolution for the Region H Hazard Mitigation Plan. Vinson stated the siren will sound on Tuesdays at 1:00 p.m. starting in August. Warren moved to accept the memorandum of understanding. Kraft 2nd. Motion passed 3-0. Riggs moved to approve Resolution 2024-06. Warren 2nd. Motion passed 3-0.

Brandi Mast discussed the Elk County Community Foundation and how it could benefit the area of Severy. Currently, Mast is working with the local 4-H groups doing community service projects. The foundation works in a variety of capacities to try to improve the local communities.

Warren moved to approve the May 17, 2024 special meeting minutes regarding refuse contract rate increases. Riggs 2nd. Motion passed 3-0.

Riggs moved to approve the May 17, 2024 special meeting minutes regarding ordinance violations. Kraft 2nd. Motion passed 3-0.

Kraft moved to approve the May 2024 regular council meeting minutes. Warren 2nd. Motion passed 3-0.

Clerk Riggs explained that in the month of May, the City had an excessive amount of bills due to several issues with sewer. A couple of sewer pumps had to be purchased. Clerk Riggs plans to use the ARPA funds to pay for the sewer problems due to not having enough funds in the account. Clerk Riggs noted last year, the City used \$7,800 on a city pump for the water plant and after applying May's extra bills there will be approximately \$15,927.00 left of ARPA funds. Councilman Riggs stated that the City is looking at \$26,000 in normal monthly expenditures which is usually around \$12,000.00. Riggs stated with everything increasing he doesn't see it getting any better. Riggs concern is that at this moment the City does have ARPA funds to use for certain things like water and sewer but when something fails in the future and the City doesn't have a backup to pay for these items, where will the money come from. Riggs stated there are certain things in the operation of the city that must function and when you're at the point the bills double, Riggs said it's concerning. VanBebber noted you have to plan ahead; it hasn't been done in the past and the City is doing a better job now than 2-3 years ago. Riggs feels that things are running better, but at the point when the City gets hit with a situation like a new trash contract, you have to make a difficult decision.

Kraft moved to approve the May 2024 bills. Riggs 2nd. Motion passed 3-0.

Riggs moved to approve the May 2024 Treasurer's report as presented. Warren 2nd. Motion passed 3-0.

Water Superintendent Paul Schmidt noted the cemeteries looked nice over Memorial weekend. Road work has been getting done as weather permits. The water plant raw water line has been fixed. Signs have been installed at the lake for lake rules. Schmidt reported since the signs were installed two people have been on the lake with gas engines. Schmidt made contact with the authorities. Schmidt stated that the sewers have been an issue this month and he ordered an extra pump to keep on hand due to availability.

Warren moved to go into executive session at 8:31 p.m. for 10 minutes to consult with the city attorney for the City on matters subject to the attorney-client privilege. Kraft 2nd. Motion passed 3-0.

Regular meeting reconvened at 8:41 p.m. No action was taken.

Warren moved to approve its draft applications for animal permits and registration forms for up to three pet dogs and/or cats per residence, with the requirement that all dogs over six months old must show a current rabies certificate from a veterinarian. Kraft 2nd. Motion passed 3-0.

New Business. Patriot Ball Club is requesting a donation. Item was tabled.

Weight limit areas for semi-trailer trucks were discussed. Code Enforcement Officer Plonka will need to visit with a citizen regarding weight limit.

Clerk Riggs stated the handheld device she uses to prepare utility bills was purchased in 2017 and the software is needing an update. The company is expected to see an increase in July 2024. Kraft moved to approve Clerk Riggs to order the Trimble software update. Warren 2nd. Motion passed 3-0.

Clerk Riggs and Council member Ron Robert requested assistance from City Attorney VanBebber with unclaimed cemetery plots. VanBebber stated that when an owner of a plot passes away and no one has presented either a transfer deed or letters appointing a probate administrator or executor, the remaining family members must prove ownership of the plot before a burial takes place.

Clerk Riggs addressed the council regarding a potential temporary adjustment of her working hours. There was no objection.

Warren moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:10 p.m. Riggs 2nd. Motion passed 3-0.

/s/ Donna Wiss, Mayor

/s/ Tessa C. Riggs, City Clerk