

City of Larned, KS
Regular Session Meeting Minutes

City Council Chambers

Monday July 2, 2018

6:30 P.M.

Mayor William Nusser called the regular session to order with the following Councilmembers present: Councilmember Kim Barnes, Councilmember Dennis Wilson, Councilmember Carroll Bennett, Councilmember Terry Clark, Councilmember Gary Rainbolt and Councilmember George Elmore.

Councilmember Sharon McGinness and Councilmember Jason Murray were absent.

City Attorney Ron Smith, City Manager Bradley Eilts, and City Clerk Kara Rath were also present.

Visitors: Cris Naegele, Rick Reason, Bryce Wachs, Larry Kleeman, Dale Meadows, Craig Schartz, Sheryl White, Deborah Factor, Daryl Riffel, Cherie Riffel, Dru Dougan, Jim Forrest, Morgan Kelty, Allen Taylor, BethAnn Black, Burt Frisbe, and Pete Russell.

Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved.

No discussion took place.

Approval of Consent Agenda:

The 2018 Audit was presented at the work session that was held on June 18th 2018 by Aaron Koehn of Vonfeldt, Bauer & Vonfeldt Chtd. The Audit was approved and no further discussion took place.

Regular Session Council Meeting Minutes from June 4th, 2018 were reviewed and no further discussion took place.

Councilmember Barnes motioned that the Audit and the Minutes be accepted, the motion was seconded by Councilmember Wilson.

Motion Passes.

Appropriation Ordinance #6:

City Manager Bradley Eilts reported on the expenses listed on the financial report. On a motion by Councilmember Elmore seconded by Councilmember Rainbolt and carried for Appropriation Ordinance #6 in the amount of \$440,719.63 and transfers more or less were approved for payment.

Public Comments:

Bryce Wachs, the new superintendent of USD 495, came to introduce himself, he is looking forward to collaborating with the City and all the entities of Pawnee County.

Dale Meadows lives in the Prairie Vista Duplexes and wanted to discuss a couple of issues. He would like to store his RV in the parking lot and a car. In the bylaws it does state that tenants are not allowed to use that as storage. He wanted to ask to have storm/screen doors on the units. Mayor Nusser indicated that the storm door has come before council and it was not passed by council. At the next regular session meeting Council will discuss the above mentioned items.

Lyle Erway would like Council to consider the ordinance regarding farm animals in the City Limits. At a future meeting there will be a discussion regarding the ordinance of farm animals.

Old Business:

Circles

At the June 18th, 2018 work session, Youth Core Ministries made a presentation to the Council seeking support for the circles program formation in Larned. Circles is a non-profit organization and program of work designed to decrease the rate of poverty. Circles offers a longer-term three-phase support system to build capacity rather than providing short-term support and subsidies for basic needs.

Circles chapters work with local communities-governments, schools, businesses, churches, and agencies in a comprehensive manner to coordinate integrated services.

Youth Core Ministries is seeking \$500 per month to assist their efforts to implement the Circles program in Larned.

Councilmember Barnes motioned that the City make a contribution for a year, in the amount of \$500 per month. Councilmember Elmore seconded. This will be half from the 2018 budget and half from the 2019 budget.

Motion Passes.

The Mayor would like to know how this will encumbrance the budget.

New Business:

Marketing and Communication Consultants

As part of a collaborative effort by the City, County, and others to promote Larned/Pawnee County and the opportunities here as well as to support the Larned State Hospital and the Correctional Facility, we are seeking the assistance of a professional marketing and communications consultant.

Requests for Proposal were originally sent to 17 advertising agencies. The proposals were to include recommendations on services that may include: video, print, digital advertising, graphic design, branding promotion, marketing and media support.

From the initial set of requested proposals, eight proposals were received and four firms were selected for interviews. Based on a number of factors that included alignment with our goals, an understanding and appreciated for rural living, past work/projects, and the processes recommended, the Committee is recommending that the City Council and County Commissioners sign a contract with Bajillion Agency in Topeka.

The budget for this project would be initially shared evenly between the City and the County. Total initial costs for this are expected to be \$48,000 split between Pawnee County and the City. Media purchases will be additional costs. Plans for extending our reach out financially for assistance with this part of the marketing and communications effort have been discussed. Bajillion would be able to guide, analyze/evaluate, and purchase media for these marketing efforts.

The second phase is with the state hospital to partner with them on a campaign driven specifically for Larned State Hospital employment, current employees, and direct care staff, to decide what their greatest needs are, and getting their story on why they choose to work there. This campaign will take six weeks to two months to get off the ground, the goal is to get 30 applicants every two weeks in order to stabilize employment at the State Hospital. This campaign would also help future employees to know that there is longevity and a future for them, and also help with retention of employees.

This campaign would have the possibility of State aide and also Chamber aide. This campaign would cost \$12,900, Bajillion has been working with the Human Resources Department at the State to manage this campaign, they are aware that this must be approved before moving forward.

It was discussed that dollars could be taken from the tourism fund to fund our portion of the marketing campaign or to fund the Chamber for a year.

Councilmember Wilson moves that we partner with Pawnee County to use Bajillion marketing company, the motion was seconded by Councilmember Elmore. The Mayor confirmed that this motion includes the specific campaign with the State Hospital. That was confirmed by Councilmember Wilson. There was no discussion. The vote was unanimous.

Motion passes.

Ranson Financial

The City Council contracted with Larkin Aquatics at the June 4th, 2018 City Council meeting to guide the Council, the Pool Advisory Committee, and the General Public through a process to determine a direction of the future of the pool.

As with the Cooper Malone McClain, there is no cost for Larry Kleeman of Ranson Financial Services until bonds are issued. Ultimately if no bonds are issued then the City would not be obligated to pay for services.

Council received the presentation from Larry Kleeman with no discussion and no motion.

ADA Update

In 2007, the City was sued for violations of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The lawsuit and pending settlement required that the City upgrade public facilities to meet standards enacted by the Act, which was designed to prohibit discrimination against people with disabilities in employment, transportation, public accommodations, communications, and governmental activities.

The City was given twenty years to comply with the evaluation and recommendations conducted on each of the City's buildings or facilities, as well as sidewalks, playgrounds, and other public venues. We are still working on addressing these issues and have spent over \$325,000 since the initial law suit.

The City is Planning, in the future, to construct another ADA bathroom at Doer Vernon Park, built by City Staff.

Power Plant Batteries

The Power Plant utilizes a bank of batteries that provide 130 volts of power to operate the Sub-Station's relays and breakers in the event of losing our incoming power. This power source provides DC power to the Colt switchgear during a power outage.

The battery bank consists of sixty 2-volt batteries with a 275 ah rating. It is designed to meet requirements of maximum performance of more than two hours while also maintaining excellent short duration high current performance. A 275 ah rating divided by the current of 130 volts = two hours of discharge time without additional charge.

The existing batteries have been in service for over 25 years. One battery has ruptured and there is concern of possible additional issues due to age.

Cris Naegle, Utility HelpNet, is assisting the City with the replacement of these batteries. Two bids for the battery bank were received. It is the recommendation of Utility HelpNet and Ralph Streit, to award the bid to "Storage Battery Systems" as the replacement is similar to our existing system, which has served us well and is relatively the same price.

Councilmember Bennett motioned that Council awarded the bid to "Storage Battery Systems" the motion was seconded by Councilmember Rainbolt. No discussion took place.

Motion Passes.

Staff Presentation


Larned Sanitation Department, Rick Reason discussed with Council about the Sanitation trucks.

The new truck went down for four days, while the new truck was down, the old truck tried to pick up the slack, but it went down as well. Kenworth of Dodge City has an onsite repair that has helped with recent breakdowns. According to Rick, the old truck has passed it's useful lifetime. He feels it is unfair to the customers and to the employees when trash isn't picked up in a timely manner.

Currently there are 40 customers that are on the rural route, it takes approximately 6 hours to run that route.

Meeting Adjourned.

City Clerk, Kara Rath



Mayor, William Nusser