

City Council Meeting Minutes
City of Larned
September 6, 2022
6:30 PM

Mayor William Nusser called the regular session to order with the following Councilmembers present: Councilmember Kim Barnes, Councilmember Jason Murray, Councilmember Sharon McGinness, Councilmember Gary Rainbolt, Councilmember Carroll Bennett, Councilmember Josh Riedel, and Councilmember George Elmore.

Councilmember Terry Clark was absent.

City Manager Bradley Eilts, Finance Director Monica Steiner, City Clerk Kara Rath, Building Inspector Will Tice and City Attorney Ron Smith were also present.

Visitors: Josh Taylor, Jason Zink, Judi Tabler, Mike Gilmore, Dale Vanderhoof, Rick Reason, Matt Reason, Kevin Cook, Ralph Streit, Rita Kurtz, Jamie Giles, Lucas Giles, Tony Boor, Dody Burke

Approval of Agenda

City Manager Brad Eilts notified the Council Greg Wright would not be present and will have to reschedule. Councilmember Murray motioned to approve the amended agenda; Councilmember McGinness seconded.

Motion passed.

Public Hearing on the intent to exceed the Revenue Neutral Rate

Councilmember Barnes motioned to open the Public Hearing on the intent to exceed the Revenue Neutral Rate. Councilmember McGinness seconded the motion.

Motion passed.

Public hearing notices were published in the newspaper on August 11, 2022.

City Manager Eilts proposed Resolution 2022-08 "A resolution of the City of Larned, Kansas to Levy a Property Tax Rate exceeding the Revenue Neutral Rate.

Public comment was made by Jason Zink regarding inflation.

No further public comments were made.

On a roll call vote, Resolution number 2022-08 passed. 7 aye, 0 nay.

Councilmember Elmore motioned to close the Public Hearing; Councilmember Bennett seconded.

Motion passed.

2023 Municipal Budget-Public Hearing

Councilmember Murray motioned to open the Public Hearing; Councilmember Riedel seconded.

Motion passed.

No public comments were made.

Councilmember Elmore motioned to close the Public Hearing; Councilmember Rainbolt seconded.

Motion passed.

2023 Larned Municipal Budget

A motion to approve the 2023 budget was made by Councilmember Barnes and seconded by Councilmember Rainbolt.

Motion passed.

Approval of Consent Agenda

Councilmember Murray motioned to approve the consent agenda. Councilmember Riedel seconded.

Motioned passed.

Appropriation Ordinance #8

Finance Director Monica Steiner reported on the expenses listed on the financial report. On a motion by Councilmember Murray and seconded by Councilmember Bennett and carried for Appropriation Ordinance #8 in the amount of \$1,100,037.76 and transfers more or less were approved for payment.

Motion passed.

Public Comments

Rick Reason 1921 Toles Ave.

New Business

Assistance to the Ministerial Alliance

The City has worked with the Ministerial Alliance for years to assist people in paying their delinquent utility bills. The Director, Tonya Andrews, has requested another donation to replenish their account.

Councilmember McGinness motioned to approve the funding for the Ministerial Alliance for \$4,000 to come from the Electric fund. Councilmember Elmore seconded.

Motioned passed.

Clean Water Drinking Fee

In 2004, the Legislature adopted Senate Bill 147, which provided municipal water systems the option of adopting a three cent per 1,000-gallon fee called the Clean Water Drinking (CWD) Fee on all retail water sales. Communities could, instead of paying the fee, choose to pay sales tax on water distribution activities which would include materials, contracted labor, and other related items. The vast majority of communities elected to adopt and pay the fee. Larned did not.

Staff has asked Council to revisit this decision. Key considerations include: once a Governing Body opts in to start paying the clean drinking water fee it is irrevocable. The Water Protection Fee (3.2 center per 1,000-gallons) is in addition to the Clean Water Drinking Fee (3 cents per 1,000-gallons) and sales tax. The fee cannot be billed to a systems water customer; it must be paid for by the water system. A Governing Body can only elect to start paying the Fee at the beginning of a quarter. The application to start paying the clean drinking water fee must be received by the Department of Revenue at least 30 days prior to the beginning of a quarter.

After discussion it was asked that the topic be brought back to Council at the October meeting for a decision.

Dry Sludge Storage Building

Earlier this year, the Wastewater Plant was inspected by KDHE. They were pleased to see the multitude of improvements at the plant compared to what it looked like in 2018. There were a couple of issues that required attention.

Staff contacted Chad Lawson with Lockner. He reviewed the information from KDHE and visited with Dale at the Plant. His research concluded that: A 60'x100' storage shed would provide enough space for a year's worth of storage and allow room to move sludge around as it is in various stages of drying. A three-wall and one-long side open building with a roof and with concrete retaining walls is the most cost-effective configuration for effective drying of the sludge.

Two bids were received on the building. Titan Building Systems, Larned at \$244,123. Roofmasters Roofing, Hays at \$349,138. Funding for the project would come from the Electric Reserve Fund.

Councilmember Elmore motioned to approve the bid from Titan Building Systems at \$244,123. Lucas Giles of Titan Building was in the audience and indicated that they are 12 weeks out before construction would begin. Councilmember McGinness seconded.

Motion passed.

Street Department Truck Acquisition

Recently, the transfer case on the Street Departments 2009 Ford F-250 4X4 Pickup exploded. The estimate for repair is around \$10,000 with additional repairs likely.

Staff is requesting the replacement of the truck with either a new or used pickup from Morris Smith Ford. Allen Taylor requested only a few features that he feels are essential to the operation of the Street Department and their assistance to all the various departments. Features include crew cab, long bed and four-wheel drive. He will transfer as many features from the current truck to the new one as possible.

Morris Smith Ford quoted a Ford F-250 XL (2013) with 68,600 miles at \$27,650.98 and an F-150 XLT (2022) at \$56,546.98. Morris Smith is also giving the current truck a \$4,000 trade-in value.

Councilmember Riedel motioned to approve the F-250 XL (2013) at \$27,650, Councilmember McGinness seconded.

Motion passed.

Councilmember Riedel on Streets

Council held discussion on streets in Larned. The Council directed staff to create a five-year plan to address street sealing.

No motion made.

Staff Presentations

Sgt. Tony Boor-Electric Bike and Scooter Laws

Sgt. Boor discussed with Council the different classifications of Electric Bikes and Scooters and the laws in the state of Kansas. Council asked that he and Sgt. Hearn meet with the City Attorney and come back with suggestions on adopting certain electric bikes and scooters.


Josh Taylor-Update on CDBG Waterline project

The last tie-in has been completed. The contractors will be doing dirt, concrete and grass work and should be finishing up in the next two-three weeks.

Adjournment



City Clerk, Kara Rath



Mayor, William Nusser