

City Council Meeting Minutes
City of Larned
September 5, 2023
6:30 PM

Mayor William Nusser called the regular session to order with the following Councilmembers present: Councilmember Kim Barnes, Councilmember Terry Clark, Councilmember Sharon McGinness, Councilmember Gary Rainbolt, Councilmember Carroll Bennett, and Councilmember Jack Molleker.

Councilmember Jason Murray and Councilmember Josh Riedel were absent.

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

Approval of Agenda

Councilmember Barnes motioned to approve the agenda; Councilmember Rainbolt 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 Rainbolt seconded the motion.

Motion passed.

Public hearing notices were published in the newspaper on August 17, 2023.

City Manager Eilts proposed Resolution 2023-02 "A resolution of the City of Larned, Kansas to Levy a Property Tax Rate exceeding the Revenue Neutral Rate".

Councilmember Barnes motioned to approve the resolution, Councilmember Molleker seconded.

On a roll call vote, Resolution number 2023-02 passed. 6 aye, 0 nay.

Resolution passed.

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

Motion passed.

2023 Municipal Budget-Public Hearing

Councilmember Barnes motioned to open the Public Hearing; Councilmember Clark seconded.

Motion passed.

No public comments were made.

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

Motion passed.

2023 Larned Municipal Budget

A motion to approve the 2024 budget was made by Councilmember Barnes and seconded by Councilmember Molleker.

Motion passed.

Approval of Consent Agenda

Councilmember McGinness motioned to approve the consent agenda. Councilmember Molleker seconded.

Motioned passed.

Appropriation Ordinance #8

Finance Director Monica Steiner reported on the expenses listed on the financial report. On a motion by Councilmember Bennett and seconded by Councilmember Molleker and carried for Appropriation Ordinance #8 in the amount of \$1,534,646.12 and transfers more or less were approved for payment.

Motion passed.

Presentation

JR Robl presented information to the Council regarding a Moderate-Income Housing Grant.

Special Recognition

The Larned Police Department recently received a Community Traffic Safety Award from the Kansas Department of Transportation for the 2022 Traffic Safety Program.

New Business

Emotional Support Animals

At the July City Council meeting two concerned citizens spoke to the Council regarding Emotional Support Animals (ESA). At that time the Council directed the City Attorney to draft an Ordinance for ESA.

Councilmember McGinness motioned to approve the Ordinance for ESA, Councilmember Rainbolt seconded.

On a roll call vote 6 aye, 0 nay.

Ordinance passed.

New School Crosswalk

The Larned Middle School Principal contacted the City Manager about adding a crosswalk in the front of the Middle School across Corse Street to the High School. The purpose is to increase safety for students traveling between buildings.

The Standard Traffic Ordinance discusses the Designation of Crosswalks and Safety Zones in Section 19. The Police Chief, subject to the approval by the Governing Body, may designate crosswalks, if it protects pedestrians.

Councilmember McGinness motioned to approve the crosswalk, Councilmember Molleker seconded.

Motion passed.

Vacation of Alley-Morris Smith Ford

Morris Smith, owner of Morris Smith Ford, is requesting the closure or vacation of the alley between his properties located at 820 Ft. Larned Ave. and the property just to the north, which he owns. The Ford Corporation asked Mr. Smith to make the dealership "image compliant". This involves investing in the expanding facilities, which is why he is requesting to close the alley, so that he can expand to the north and east. If Mr. Smith does not or is unable to make the facility upgrades, he will lose the franchise, and Ford will close the dealership.

Mr. Smith spoke to the Council about his plans and the drawings Ford had given him. The plans are not final, because Mr. Smith has to complete the vacation of the alley before final plans can be made. Concerned neighbors spoke to the Council and Mr. Smith about the alley and the use of it. Two neighbors said that they use both the east and west entrance to the alley on a daily basis and closing the alley would not allow them enough access for trailers to turn around and back in or out of their property. Mr. Smith indicated that the alley would not technically be closed because he will still have to use it, and would not have a problem with the neighbors also using it.

Mayor Nusser spoke to the concerned citizens about the protest period if the Council were to approve the ordinance and how a hearing would take place with the Governing Body and they would either adopt a resolution confirming the vacation or cancel it.

Councilmember Molleker motioned to approve the Ordinance as presented, Councilmember McGinness seconded.

On a roll call vote 4 aye, 2 nay (Barnes, Rainbolt).

Ordinance passed.

Vacation of Alley-Carlton & Sheri Bert

Carlton and Sheri Bert, 1207 M 5 Road, Larned are requesting the vacation of three streets and an alley along their property. Anne and Deanne streets and west 5th and 6th streets generally border the property. The purpose of the request is to clean up the title. There are no infrastructure or utilities on this property, which the Berts solely own. Future growth or expansion is not dependent on the right of ways in this request.

Councilmember Molleker motioned to approve the ordinance vacating the alley and streets, councilmember McGinness seconded.

On a roll call vote 6 aye, 0 nay.

Ordinance passed.

Alley Reconstruction

Concerns regarding stormwater drainage in the east alley of the 400 block of Broadway have caused flooding in the basement of 412 Broadway. This is the building that Carlton & Sheri Bert are renovating.

Effectively addressing the alley will require excavation and reconstruction of the surface. Inspection of drain pipes, inlets and inlet boxes, and replacement if necessary. New base and backfill and construction of a valley gutter to reroute overflow.

City Manager Eilts had a quote from Eakins with estimated cost of \$68,249; however actual costs will not be known until the surface has been removed. The funds for this could come from the Capital Reserve Fund and or the funds from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA).

Councilmember Mollker motioned to approve the proposal from Eakins and the funds to come from ARPA, Councilmember Rainbolt seconded.

Motion passed.


Staff Presentation

Street Superindendant Allen Taylor spoke about projects and equipment in the street department.

Meeting adjourned.



City Clerk, Kara Rath



Mayor, William Nusser