

City Council Meeting Minutes
City of Larned
October 2, 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 Gary Rainbolt, Councilmember Carroll Bennett, and Councilmember Jack Molleker, Councilmember Jason Murray and Councilmember Josh Riedel.

City Manager Bradley Eilts and Councilmember Sharon McGinness were absent.

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

Approval of Agenda

Mayor Nusser announced that the executive session would be postponed until City Manager Eilts was present. Councilmember Bennett motioned to approve the agenda; Councilmember Riedel seconded.

Motion passed.

Approval of Consent Agenda

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

Motioned passed.

Appropriation Ordinance #9

Finance Director Monica Steiner reported on the expenses listed on the financial report. On a motion by Councilmember Murray and seconded by Councilmember Riedel and carried for Appropriation Ordinance #9 in the amount of \$854,173.63 and transfers more or less were approved for payment.

Motion passed.

Public Comments

Councilmember Barnes spoke regarding a letter that the Council received from Sen. Marshall.

Presentations

EMC Dividend Check

Cassiday Smith, Alliance Insurance presented the Council a dividend check for \$22,297.97.

First Impressions

K-State Research and Extension's Community Vitality program helps communities assess and develop opportunities and strategies for community improvement. Over the summer, Larned Chamber representatives participated in the First Impressions program and visited the city of Anthony, and at the same time citizens of Anthony visited Larned.

A representative from the K-State program presented the findings to the Council. The results can be found at <https://www.ksre.k-state.edu/community/civic-engagement/first-impressions/index.html>

New Business

KDOT FY 2025 CCLIP

In March of 2023, the Council approved submitting another application to the CCLIP Program. The FY 2025 CCLIP application is for a surface preservation project on Broadway between 8th street and the general mid-point between 12th and 13th streets. The City has been awarded the project.

KDOT will pay 95% of the construction and construction engineering costs. The estimated costs for this project are \$447,298.13 and the City's share is \$48,236.26. This project has a maximum KDOT match of \$400,000. Staff asked that Council accept the award and allow the signing of the 1302 Form.

Councilmember Riedel motioned to accept the award and allow staff to execute the 1302 form. Councilmember Clark seconded.

Motion passed.

Mobile Dispatch Unit

After receiving a letter from Christy Davis, State Director of USDA Rural Development, in August staff was able to complete the contract with Hays Fire and rescue for the two fire trucks from the federal appropriation funds. The remaining funds from the appropriation have been in the works for a Mobile Dispatch Unit.

Vanessa Feldman provided a request to the Council, the total cost for the unit is \$119,303.98 and the appropriation funding allocated to the unit is \$102,780, leaving \$16,523.98 to be paid through Dispatch's budget. The County would be responsible for 40%.

Councilmember Riedel motioned to approve the Mobile Dispatch Unit as presented. Councilmember Molleker seconded.

Motion passed.

Police Squad Car

The purchase of a Police squad car was included in the 2024 budget at \$60,000. Morris Smith-Ford was not able to give a price on a 2024 Ford Interceptor and could not guarantee that an order would be fulfilled, and possibly not built until 2025.

Two other bids from JR Audio included a 2024 V6 Dodge Durango at \$56,640 and V8 2024 Dodge Durango at \$59,090. The new Police car would replace the 2016 Ford Police Interceptor with 65,845 miles. It will be unmarked and become the department's travel and training car. The 2015 Ford Interceptor's engine is out and will be scrapped. The current travel and training car is a 2014 Ford Interceptor. It will be transferred to the Water Department for the use by the meter reader.

Councilmember Murray motioned to approve the bid by JR Audio on the 2024 V6 Dodge Durango at \$56,640. Councilmember Clark seconded.

Motion passed.

Lift Larned Renewal

Lift Larned has been through two cycles, each being allocated \$50,000. This year, Council decided not to renew the program but asked staff to bring the item back during the last quarter of the year.

Councilmember Murray motioned that the funds that were given from EMC insurance, that are un-budgeted, be used as a first come first serve basis for those citizens who have never used the program before. Any other citizens who have used the program would have a six-month waiting period. Councilmember Clark seconded.

Motion passed.

Electric Production Truck

The current truck that Ralph Striet and his department are using is a 2002 GMC Sierra regular bed, it has 87,162 miles. Due to age and concerns about reliability, they are seeking the replacement. The old truck would roll to the Sanitation department.

The low bid that was received is for a GMC Sierra from Marmies of Great Bend for \$54,250. The bid received from Morris Smith-Ford was \$57,125.

Councilmember Clark motioned to accept the bid from Marmies, Councilmember Riedel seconded.

Motion passed.

Bids for Demolition

Building Inspector Tice has identified two structures that are uninhabitable/unsanitary at 910 Park and 116 South State Street. These structures have followed the legal avenue for demolishing through the court system, and the Judge has ordered their demolition.

Requests for demo was asked by Eakin Construction, Titan Building and Stone Sand Co. Sealed bids were taken at City Hall and due on 10/2/2023 by 12:00PM. Eakin Construction

was the only company who met the deadline. Stone Sand emailed a bid to the Building Inspector at 4:00 PM on 10/2/23.

Mayor Nusser opened the sealed bid turned in by Eakin Construction. Their bid for 116 South State was \$4,000 and for 910 Park was \$3,100. The Mayor did read the bids from Stone Sand. For 116 South State \$8,400 and for 910 Park was \$7,900.

Councilmember Murray motioned to accept the bid from Eakin Construction for both addresses. Councilmember Riedel seconded.

Motion passed.

Electric Reserve Fund Cap

In April of 2013 the Council made a motion and voted to cap the Electric Utility Reserve at \$3.5 million. In that same year electric rate increases were adopted and effective in 2014, 2015 and 2016.

Councilmember Barnes lead the discussion regarding the fund cap and cost of electric rates. Mayor Nusser asked Electric Production Supervisor, Ralph Striet, about the current project upgrades at the Power Plant. He indicated that he was able to test equipment, but had to have computer software updated, and it is constantly changing. Rusty McClendon, Midwest Energy linemen based out of Larned spoke about outstanding supplies for system upgrades for the current year that have not been paid for.

After discussion Councilmember Barnes motioned to roll back all electrical rates to the 12/31/2014 values. This would be a 6% reduction in current rates. This motion would effect ordinances 13.20.020-13.20.120 most rates will see one penny per 100 weight each month. The Mayor asked for a fiscal cost for this and Councilmember Barnes feels that this would result in a \$60,000 reduction in gross revenue.


Mayor Nusser asked for a second and heard none.

Motion died.

Meeting adjourned.



City Clerk, Kara Rath



Mayor, William Nusser