

City Council Work Session Minutes  
City of Larned  
Council Chambers  
October 18th, 2021  
6:30 PM

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

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

City Attorney Ron Smith was absent.

Visitors: Josh Taylor, Fred Taylor, Don Augustine, Vicki Gillett, Marilyn McClendon, Barbara Dirks, Ralph Streit, Jon Prescott, Shawna Bates, Ron Arnold, Sharon Arnold, Rod Wheaton, Kris Roberts-Wheaton, Dale Vanderhoof

**Electric Distribution**

Fred Taylor with Midwest Energy spoke to Council regarding our current six-month contract that expires January 15<sup>th</sup> 2022 at midnight. Midwest is willing to have discussions regarding a longer term “partnership” with the City of Larned. Mayor Nusser asked that Kim Barnes and Jason Murray form a committee to further discuss and compare costs with representatives from Midwest Energy.

**Off season improvements to the Swimming Pool**

This off-seasons work is focusing on repairing and sealing seams in the pool, fixing more leaky pipes and the faulty valve in the drain pipe, addressing the kiddie pool area, and exploring shading amenities for the pool deck. Representatives from Power Play attended the meeting via Zoom. Power Play is a recognized leader in Splashpads, Spray Parks and Aquatic Play solutions. After discussion Power Play will meet with City Manager Eilts to present options on ways to address the kiddie pool area.

**Recycling**

Representatives from Sunflower Diversified returned after the discussion that took place at the September Council meeting where Sunflower proposed new fees to the City to collect the recycling material and impose penalties for trash that is intertwined with the recycling. The original monthly cost for picking up recycling at the Larned location, twice a week was \$500, it is now \$800 after recalculating their costs. After discussion the representatives asked that the Council make a decision as to continue with the center and agree to the costs of the recycling by the November 1<sup>st</sup> meeting.

### **Larned Fire Station**

As needed upgrades are made to the Firefighting fleet, the size of the vehicles are getting larger and resulting in the bay doors at the station becoming more difficult to pass through, as well as complicating parking and maneuvering within the Station. The facility will no longer be able to house a new pumper truck when purchased due to the width of the doors and width of a new truck. At the same time, there has been some interest in purchasing the City's Fire Station.

Financing options are available through USDA Rural Development Community Facilities Program and possibly Community Development Block Grant. Council discussed the future of the Station and potential growth options as well as concept design. City Manager Eilts will get with Titan Buildings to develop a concept design and concept of cost and begin the grant process.

### **Prairie Vista Duplexes**

Earlier this year Council approved the Refunding of the 2013 General Obligation Bonds that were used to finance Prairie Vista Duplexes, savings from the refinancing were close to \$50,000 in interest costs. The council has discussed the future of the complex at different meetings throughout the year and the possibility of selling. After discussion it was decided that the Mayor would meet with the reality companies in town regarding the listing of the property and make an announcement at the November 1<sup>st</sup> meeting with asking cost and the fees associated with commission.

### **Water Rights Perfection**

The City of Larned has Senior water perfection water rights. In January of 2019, the City came to an end of its 40-year period to those secure rights. With the assistance of Schwab-Eaton a five-year extension was obtained. The Mayor, City Manager and Code Enforcement Officer met with the Kansas Water office in Stafford and found that under current management the City can continue to apply for extensions on those rights. The current perfection extension is based on economic growth. The Council would like to look at a new water rate for industrial and agricultural use.


### **Wastewater Building**

Dale Vanderhoof, superintendent of Wastewater discussed the challenge of dealing with sludge and its storage. He asked for three bids to build a building to house the sludge and only received one at \$383,000 from Titan building. It was discussed that the City could look at using ARPA funds for this building. The Council asked that financing be reviewed for Wastewater along with cash flow and debt ratio.

### **Winter Natural Gas Concerns**

Councilman Barnes asked that staff educate the public regarding the rise in costs of Natural Gas.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk, Kara Rath

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor, Willaim Nusser