

REGULAR SESSION

The Governing Body met in Regular Session in the City Council Chambers. Mayor Cody Schmidt called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. with the following presents: Councilmembers Rickee Maddox, Alan Moeder, Cory Urban, Kevyn Soupiset, Jolene Biggs, Davis Jimenez, Lindsey Krom-Craven, and Natalie Towns. Also in attendance were City Administrator Brandon Anderson, Assistant City Administrator Logan Burns, and City Clerk Shawna Schafer. Absent was City Attorney Allen Glendenning.

OPENING: PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

A. CONSENT AGENDA

- a) **Minutes:** Minutes of the Regular Session held on December 18, 2023.
- b) **Claim's Warrant Register 1-2-24:** Covering 2023 bills to date in the amount of \$258,808.76.
- c) **Payroll Register P/R 12-29-23:** Covering payroll ending December 23, 2023, in the amount of \$359,654.20.
- d) **Appointments:** Mayor Schmidt made no appointments.
- e) **Agenda:** Approval of agenda as submitted or amended.

Mr. Urban made a motion to approve the consent agenda. The motion was seconded by Ms. Biggs and passed with all voting in favor.

B. OLD BUSINESS: There was no old business.

C. RECOGNITION OF VISITORS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS: There were no visitors or announcements.

D. NEW BUSINESS

1. **Oath of Office:** Mayor Schmidt recognized outgoing councilmember Natalie Towns for her years of service and the newly elected councilmembers were sworn in by City Clerk Shawna Schafer.
2. **Elect President of the Council:** The council president is a serving council member elected by the members of the City Council to serve in the temporary absence of the Mayor. Ms. Biggs made a motion to elect Cory Urban as Council president. Ms. Krom-Craven seconded the motion and passed with all voting in favor.

3. **Councilmember Reports:** Mayor Schmidt announced a vacancy in the 4th ward. Application may be picked up at City Hall or can be found online. Please submit applications to City Clerk/Finance Director Shawna Schafer. Applications will be received until the seat is filled.
4. **Administrators Update:** City Administrator Brandon Anderson presented an update on what is happening within the City organization.
5. **Kestrel Lease:** City Administrator Brandon Anderson reported that as previously discussed in an earlier meeting with the City Council, we present the Kestrel Lease for consideration by the city council. Mr. Chase has approved and signed and with council approval and authority of the Mayor to sign we can fully execute the negotiated lease with Kestrel, Inc. He is finalizing his sub-lease with Eagle Med and when completed will be required to submit a copy to the city as a stipulation of the lease. The escalator clause has been exercised and his new lease rate will be \$1125 per year for the remaining 4 more years on the lease. Mr. Urban made a motion to authorize the Mayor to sign the Kestrel Inc Lease agreement. Mr. Soupiset seconded the motion passed with all voting in favor.
6. **John Deere Motor Grader:** Public Works Director Jason Cauley reported that earlier this year our 1997 770 CH went down with transmission issues that are in the neighborhood of \$70,000 to fix. As such the grader sat out at Murphy Tractor while waiting until the end of the year to see our financial situation. City Clerk/Finance Director Shawna Schafer was able to pull the funds together with us utilizing funds from 2022 levee truck in the amount of \$50,000 that we decided to wait on as this purchase is more crucial, the last 3 years of saving up for a levee tractor in the amount of \$82,554 that was purchased in 2023 from a USDA grant that was for the levee, and 2023 year-end transfers in the amount of \$50,000. Through the available funds we have \$182,554. Luke Fanshier with Murphy Tractor was able to find us a used grader with the same specifications as the one purchased last year. A 2017 John Deere 672G with 5000 hours and the warranty still intact until May 2024 for \$181,500. They were able to give us \$25,000 for trade-in on our 770CH bringing the total for the grader to \$155,500. Ms. Biggs made a motion to approve the purchase of a 2017 John Deere Motor Grader from Murphy Tractor for \$155,500. Mr. Urban seconded the motion and passed with all voting in favor.
7. **Property Insurance General Contractor:** Assistant City Administrator Logan Burns reported that from the July 16, 2023, hailstorm, the City of Great Bend sustained substantial damage to not only our vehicles but as well as our property. We began the process with Traveler's Insurance to submit our claim and Traveler's in turn hired JS Held (building consultant) to come up with scoping and pricing for our loss. JS Held then consulted the services of Roofmaster's Roofing to better aid in scope and pricing. Roofmaster's went along with JS Held on the assessment of properties and conducted Hover reports and Xactimate reports. During that time, we realized how in depth Roofmaster's has been involved in the project and how much City time they have saved, we engaged in talks with them and to partner with Brentwood Builders to general contract the property insurance losses. Given the extenuating circumstances of bidding this project out, we realized we would not get an apples-to-apples comparison by doing so and would also save multiple tours of all properties with City staff. Roofmaster's Roofing and Brentwood Builders are both local contractors and can provide payment and performance bonds for this size of project and conduct the work in a reasonable time as required by FEMA deadlines. Mr. Soupiset made a motion to approve the contract with Roofmaster's Roofing as the General Contractor in partnership with

Brentwood Builders for the repairs to city properties from the hailstorm in the amount authorized and paid by Travelers Insurance Company on the project plus the owner's deductible. Ms. Biggs seconded the motion and passed with all voting in favor.

- 8. SRCA Loan Payment Deferment:** City Administrator Brandon Anderson reported that on April 5, 2021 the Council approved a loan to the SRCA to assist it with the costs of building retaining walls and installing new timing systems at the dragstrip in connection with the City's' rebuild of the track. The terms call for annual payments due on December 31. Since the dragstrip is not operating, the SRCA's ability to generate the funds to make the 2023 payment has been impaired. The SRCA is asking that the council agree to defer this payment during the pendency of the legal actions concerning the dragstrip. Ms. Biggs made a motion to approve the request and defer the SRCA's loan payments during the pendency of the legal actions related to the lawsuit. Mr. Urban seconded the motion and passed with all voting in favor.
- 9. Executive Session:** Ms. Biggs made a motion to recess to executive session for a period of 15 minutes to discuss personnel matters relating to non-elected personnel to conduct the performance review of the City Administrator Brandon Anderson. The motion was seconded by Mr. Soupiset and passed with all voting in favor. The regular meeting will resume at 7:24p.m. The regular meeting resumed at 7:24p.m. and no action was taken.
- 10. Recess to Old Police Department Building:** Mr Urban motioned that the Governing Body will recess for 10 minutes and reconvene over at the old Police Department Building at 1217 Williams at 7:34p.m. to take a tour of the building. The motion was seconded by Ms. Biggs and passed with all voting in favor. The regular meeting reconvened at 7:34p.m. at the old Police Department Building and was given a tour of the building.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Moeder made a motion that the meeting be adjourned. Mr. Soupiset seconded the motion and passed with all voting in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 8:06p.m.