

Regular meeting of the mayor and council was held May 18, 2020, 5:30 p.m., at City Hall. Mayor John Bisnette presided. Council members present: Jane VanDonge, Evan Joy, Charlie Stevens, Joyce Hake, and Devin Renken. Others present: Bruce Berkley, Kent Sullivan, Harry Colburn, Miranda Robinson, Sherry Knouf, Kelli Hennes, Doug Lantz, Will Bramblett, Ron Duran.

Mayor Bisnette called the meeting to order and led in the flag salute.

Jane moved, seconded by Joyce to approve the minutes from May 4, 2020 meeting. Discussion was held. Approving the 5 alternates for the water treatment plant construction needed to added; during the 7:40 executive session Avery Berkley was also in attendance; the date of the meeting needed to be change. Motion was approved with changes to the minutes.

Sherry Knouf presented council with the library report. Council mentioned they would like the general ledger for the library from the last five years. Knouf mentioned that the summer reading program will be held outside in the yard; and a few game nights will be planned for families to attend with social distancing.

Will Bramblett and Doug Lantz with Scoular Grain Company presented to council a letter from Downs Enterprises supporting the new proposed grain storage building. The new building could hold between 2.5 and 3 million bushels and will help eliminate grain storage on the ground.

Joyce moved to approve building permit #20-11. Jane seconded. Motion carried.

Kelli Hennes was in attendance clarify with council questions about the pool. The city will open the pool when the governor's orders allow it to be open. Pool hours and price of admission were kept the same as last year. Discussion was held on wages for lifeguards.

Jane moved to pay returning lifeguards \$8.10 per hour and new lifeguards \$7.75 per hour. Evan seconded. Motion carried.

Jane moved to reimburse Cooper Brown half of his certification due to only working part-time as lifeguard. Evan seconded. Motion carried.

Code enforcement officer Harry Colburn stated he had contacted fourteen residents about over grown yards and twelve of them have been mowed. He will be sending certified letters to those who have not complied.

Colburn also would like to remind residents that it is against city code to blow grass clippings into the streets.

City Attorney Bruce Berkley stated he will be sending out gentle reminder letters to those who have not registered special use vehicles for 2020, but are using them.

City Superintendent Kent Sullivan stated new hire Avery Berkley was doing a great job and working with Dave Goheen on mowing city properties. Kent questioned if they need to continue to prepare the ball fields if no softball was being played this summer. It was mentioned that peewee baseball was still going to play, but Kent would get ahold of someone to check.

Kent stated they would be installing the pool motor and pump this week so the pool can be up and running when it is possible to open. Street work will begin after they finish. Kent inspected all playground equipment at both city parks and deemed them safe.

Kansas Department of Labor returned the report from the safety inspection. Work will start on making corrections that need to be made based on recommendations.

The fire hydrant at Railroad and Kansas Ave was replaced last week.

Kent asked the council if they knew of any grants that would help cover expenses to fix street gutters and curbs as many are in disrepair. City Clerk will inquire if any are available.

Kent would like the public to be aware they will be sweeping the streets every other Wednesday and it would be appreciated if vehicles could be moved off the street.

City Clerk reported the city received a letter from the auditors regarding the start of the 2019 audit. A CDBG-CV grant was made available by the governor and if there is a need for assistance from local businesses, the Osborne County Commissioners will apply. The survey was either emailed or hand delivered to businesses within Downs.

Joyce mentioned the State Bank would like to close out a city account that has had no activity for years. The money was to be used for downtown street lighting. Kent mentioned he would check with the local sorority if they could use funds to help purchase new Christmas lights.

Joyce moved to waive the fees for the Memorial Hall used by Downs Chamber for Celebration July 2-5, 2020. Evan seconded. Motion carried.

Evan moved to approve the CMB Licenses for Downs Chamber. Devin seconded. Motion carried.

Mayor Bisnette appointed Melanie Schreiner as Deputy Treasurer.

Devin moved to approve the Mayor's appointment of Melanie Schreiner for Deputy Treasurer. Evan seconded. Motion carried.

Evan moved to approve the Emergency Water Supply Plan. Jane seconded. Motion carried.

Evan moved to approve vouchers and payroll. Jane seconded. Motion carried.

At 7:38 p.m., Evan moved to recess into executive session with the council, mayor, and city attorney for 15 minutes to discuss non-elected personnel. Jane seconded. Carried.

(Remaining minutes taken by Joyce Hake.)

Evan moved, seconded by Joyce, to approve a salary increase for City Superintendent Kent Sullivan retroactive to January 1, 2020. Motion carried.

At 7:52 p.m., Evan moved, seconded by Jane, to adjourn. Carried. Meeting adjourned.

John L. Bisnette, Mayor

Miranda Robinson, Clerk