

Regular meeting of the mayor and council was held September 8, 2015, 5:00 p.m., at city hall. Mayor Jennifer Brush presided. Council members present: John Cary, John Bisnette, Teri Cordill, Tonya Kuhn, Devin Renken. Others in attendance: Terry Gradig, Ron Duran, Vickie Oviatt, Dixie Moulding, Connie Ives, Bruce Berkley.

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

John C. moved, seconded by Teri, to approve the regular meeting minutes of August 17, 2015. Carried.

Mayor Brush reviewed the special use regulations with new applicants, Dixie Moulding and Connie Ives. John B. moved to approve the special use permits #15-34 and #15-35. Devin seconded the motion. Carried.

Ron Duran reported on animal control activity. He is still sending out notices for late dog tags. There have been 218 sold this year to date. He has been trapping feral cats. Mayor Brush reported on a volunteer organization in Smith Center that takes in and alters stray cats to help with the population. She suggested this might be something to try here in Downs.

Terry, acting code enforcement officer, reported that he had sent a letter to the owner of 810 Osborne for rats reported on the property. The owner will set traps and bait. Terry is keeping a watch for yards that need mowed.

Terry reported that J&K Contracting will start Wednesday on the new sewer line project to the industrial park. The city crew has finished the new sewer line on west Beale Street. The new bob cat has been delivered. The lease agreement will be reviewed by the city attorney. Terry noted that the new water line has been installed at Scoular Grain.

Terry reported that Johnson Service was called for emergency sewer jetting. He will present some sewer repair options at the next meeting. They have been street sealing and have nine blocks completed. Mayor Brush asked that the intersection of Delay and First Street be put on the list for repairs after they have cleared the city lot of material storage.

Council discussed the Transportation Alternatives (TA) Program administered by KDOT. It provides funding for a project for implementing Safe Routes to School. Mayor Brush will ask Frances Meyeres if she is still interested in applying for this grant, or possibly Wilson & Co. could be involved.

City Clerk reported that Kansas Legislature passed a bill which moved city elections from April of odd-years to November of odd-years. There is an article in the Government Journal which provides guidance on what cities should do to comply with the Act. It was also noted that the League's Annual Conference in Topeka is October 10-12. The council may register one voting delegate. No action was taken.

John C. moved to approve contractor license #15-51. John B. seconded the motion. Carried.

Tonya moved to approve building permit #15-22 and waive the fee, and approve building permit #15-23. Teri seconded the motion. Carried. Devin abstained.

John C. moved, seconded by John B., moved to pass Ordinance #960 and #961 and allow the mayor to sign. Carried.

Ordinance #962, vacating a portion of Clark Street, was introduced. Action was tabled. There was discussion. It was decided to meet with a representative of Scoular. City Superintendent will look into extending Railroad Ave. to the east.

Devin moved, seconded by Tonya, to approve the mayor's appointment of Kabin Henke to the planning commission. Carried.

John C moved, seconded by John B., to approve the mayor's appointment of Don Heiland to the zoning board of appeals. Carried.

Bruce entered. He reported that he is checking on the clinic taxes.

John B. presented quotes for chairs at the clinic. Six chairs are needed for use in the exam rooms. Devin moved, seconded by Teri, to purchase six Lorel Chairs from Central Office & Supply for a cost of \$168.79/each for a total of \$1,012.74. Carried.

Mayor Brush asked that the city crew repair the stone that is falling off of the clinic building.

Mayor Brush reported that she and the city attorney are in contact with John Riggs. A resolution is being prepared for annexation.

Vouchers and payrolls were reviewed. Devin moved, seconded by Tonya, to approve the vouchers and payroll as presented. Carried.

At 6:34 p.m., Teri moved, seconded by John B., to adjourn the meeting. Carried.

Jennifer Brush, Mayor

Vickie Oviatt, Clerk

