

City of Great Bend
May 3, 2021

REGULAR SESSION

The Governing Body met in Regular Session in the remodeled southwest room of the Events Center. Mayor Cody Schmidt called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. with the following present: Councilmembers Junior Welsch, Lindsey Krom-Craven, Davis Jimenez, Jolene Biggs, Kevyn Soupiset, Cory Urban, and Alan Moeder. Absent was Councilmember Brock McPherson. Also in attendance were City Administrator Kendal Francis, City Attorney Robert Suelter, City Clerk/Finance Director Shawna Schafer.

OPENING: PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

A. CONSENT AGENDA

- a) **Minutes:** Minutes of the Regular Session held on April 19, 2021.
- b) **Claim's Warrant Register 4-19-21:** Covering 2021 bills to date in the amount of \$1,186,475.45.
- c) **Payroll Register P/R 4-23-21:** Covering payroll ending April 17, 2021 in the amount of \$427,128.35.
- d) **Appointments:** Mayor Schmidt made the following appointments:
 - Airport Advisory Board:***
 - Reappoint Sean Stoskopf
 - Reappoint Brock McPherson
 - Humane Society Board:***
 - Reappoint Ken Roberts
 - Great Bend Public Library Board:***
 - Reappoint Pat Cale
 - Central KS Advisory Board:***
 - Appoint Judge Hannelore Kitts
- e) **Independence Day Fireworks Show & Batcats Fireworks Shows:** Authorize the Fireworks Display at Expo Grounds on July 3, 2021. Authorize the fireworks display at the Great Bend Bat Cats home games on June 4 or June 5, 2021 and July 2, 2021.
- f) **Agenda:** Mayor Schmidt amended the agenda to remove item #4 Economic Development Report. Sara was unable to attend the meeting.

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

B. OLD BUSINESS: There were no old business.

C. RECOGNITION OF VISITORS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The public is free to comment on items not listed on the agenda. Please address comments to the City Council as a body and be mindful of others who may also wish to speak by limiting comments to 3 minutes.

1. **Great Bend Housing Authority:** Lynn Fleming with Great Bend Housing Authority gave an update on the renovation of the Great Bend High Rise.

D. NEW BUSINESS

2. **Councilmember Reports:** There were no councilmember reports.

3. **Administrators Update:** City Administrator Kendal Francis presented an update on what is happening within the City organization.

4. **Abatements:** Property Maintenance Enforcement Manager Austin LaViolette presented the following abatements to the Governing Body:

- a. **2522 6th Street:** Trash and refuse including, but not limited to; appliances, pallets, and general refuse that needs to be removed located at 2522 6th Street constituting an unlawful accumulation. This real estate is the subject of Resolution Number 050321-A.
- b. **1814 Adams Street:** Trash and refuse including, but not limited to; trash and other plastic bags, loose garbage, and general refuse that needs to be removed located at 1814 Adams Street constituting an unlawful accumulation. This real estate is the subject of Resolution Number 050321-B.
- c. **1202 Morphy Street:** Trash and refuse including, but not limited to; trash and other plastic bags, pallets, tires, appliances, construction debris, and general refuse that needs to be removed located at 1202 Morphy Street constituting an unlawful accumulation. This real estate is the subject of Resolution Number 050321-C.
- d. **1206 Odell Street:** Trash and refuse including, but not limited to; a fallen tree, branches, and general refuse that needs to be removed located at 1206 Odell Street constituting an unlawful accumulation. This real estate is subject of Resolution Number 050321-D.
- e. **2525 12th Street:** Trash and refuse including, but not limited to; a mattress and general refuse that needs to be removed located at 2525 12th Street constituting an unlawful accumulation. This real estate is subject of Resolution Number 050321-E.

Mr. Moeder made a motion to approve Resolution Numbers 050321A-E. The motion was seconded by Mr. Soupiset and passed with all voting in favor.

5. **Unsafe and Dangerous Structure 1205 Odell:** City Attorney Robert Suelter and Property Maintenance Enforcement Manager Austin LaViolette reported that the structure at 1205 Odell has deteriorated and is in unsafe and dangerous condition. In

order to deal with the structure and cause it to be repaired or removed by the owner, a hearing must be held in the matter. Austin LaViolette has prepared the attached document outlining his findings and the reasons he believes make the structure unsafe and dangerous. The attached resolution sets the hearing in this matter for July 6, 2021, at 6:30pm. Notice will be mailed to all owners and interest holders and will also be published two time in the official city newspaper. Mr. Moeder made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 050321-F. The motion was seconded by Mr. Welsch and passed with all voting in favor.

- 6. Unsafe and Dangerous Structure 1714 Adams:** City Attorney Robert Suelter and Property Maintenance Enforcement Manager Austin LaViolette reported that the structure at 1714 Adams has deteriorated and is in unsafe and dangerous condition. In order to deal with the structure and cause it to be repaired or removed by the owner, a hearing must be held in the matter. Austin LaViolette has prepared the attached document outlining his findings and the reasons he believes make the structure unsafe and dangerous. The attached resolution sets the hearing in this matter for July 6, 2021, at 6:30pm. Notice will be mailed to all owners and interest holders and will also be published two time in the official city newspaper. Mr. Soupiset made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 050321-G. The motion was seconded by Mr. Moeder and passed with all voting in favor.
- 7. Police Department Body Armor:** Police Chief Steve Haulmark reported that the Police Department needs to replace the body armor that is issued to its employees. The body armor is only warrantied by the manufacturer for 5 years and will be out of warranty soon. We have been budgeting \$7,500 dollars each year for this purpose during years 2019, 2020 and 2021 for a balance of \$22,500. Additionally, We have a balance of \$28,735.14 in the vest grant fund, and there exists a possibility that we will receive partial reimbursement through the Patrick Leahy Bulletproof Vest Partnership, as we have in the past, but those monies have not been made available as of yet. The vests and vest carriers are from Baysinger's Uniform and Supply and cost \$44,550. The pouches are from Zero 9 Holsters and the cost will be \$4,613.40. Ms. Krom-Craven made a motion to approve the purchase of the vests and vest carriers from Baysinger's Uniform and Supply for \$44,550 and to purchase the pouches from Zero 9 Holsters for \$4,613.40. The motion was seconded by Mr. Welsch and passed with all voting in favor.
- 8. Pothole Patcher Truck:** Public Works Director Jason Cauley reported that we are looking to acquire a new patcher truck to replace our 1995 Ford ProPatch. Currently, the truck is out of service and will be going to the welding shop to have a patch that was placed in the hopper 2 to 3 years ago redone. We received 3 bids and the low bid was from H D Industries for \$162,622.96. The equipment was budgeted for and will be paid from the Special Street Fund. Mr. Soupiset made a motion to approve the low bid for the pothole patcher truck from H D Industries for \$162,622.96. The motion was seconded by Mr. Urban and passed with all voting in favor.
- 9. Ambulance Service Fees:** Fire Chief Luke McCormick reported that City Ordinance Chapter 13, Section 13.12.020 establishes the fee schedule for service provided. The current fees were established on 4/21/2014. Staff has conducted a survey of the surrounding Ambulance Service Charges as well as the allowable charges from Blue Cross and Blue Shield and Medicare. The results are shown on the attached chart. Ms.

Biggs made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 4368 establishing the fees for ambulance services. The motion was seconded by Mr. Urban and passed with all voting in favor.

10. Automated Meter Reading (AMR): City Administrator Kendal Francis reported that reading meters at a fast enough pace to read the entire route within the billing cycle leads to errors in data entry, which in turn leads to re-reads and billing errors. An analysis of meter reads since April 2018 shows the average monthly billing estimations to be 17%, which equates to approximately 1037 estimations. We added another position in March 2019. That helped alleviate estimations, but accuracy did not improve. Hiring and retaining quality employees who are able to both quickly and accurately read meters has been a challenge. It is a stressful job that requires working in the elements for low pay. We have had utilized 8 different meter readers since adding the 2nd reader. Technology provides the answer to these recurring issues. Automated Meter Reading systems record the usage and send the readings via radio waves to a collector & computer system mounted in a vehicle. Those are then downloaded into the City's billing software. The entire town could be read in less than 1 day. The original plan was to utilize the American Rescue Plan (ARP) funding to purchase the system. However, as the ARP funds were to be distributed in two tranches, we had already been preparing for an application to the Kansas Public Water Supply Loan Fund knowing that it would be necessary in order to initially cover costs. The loan would be a 20-year term with a fixed interest rate of 1.3% as of March 2021. Mr. Moeder expressed that for a price tag of \$2,000,000, could we charge a meter fee of \$2 per month. Mr. Welsch said citizens would be extremely unhappy with that after we already raised rates last year. Mr. Francis said that when we did the utility rate review, projects like this was factored into the rates. Mayor Schmidt thought if we purchased a gator, that would help speed up the process. Public works Director Jason Cauley said that would work in some areas like the industrial park but not residential as the gator would not be allowed to access easements and driving in citizens yards would not go over well. Mr. Welsch said these meter reader positions are jobs and people will need jobs again and that \$2,000,000 is way too much. Mr. Urban made a Motion to set the public hearing for June 21, 2021 at 6:30pm at 3111 10th Street with the hopes that citizens will attend to voice their opinion. The motion was seconded by Ms. Krom-Craven and passed by a vote of 4-3, with Mr. Welsch, Ms. Biggs, and Mr. Moeder voting no.

11. Request for Executive Session: Mr. Moeder made a motion to recess into executive session for a period of 20 minutes to discuss purchasing property for a new Law Enforcement Center pursuant to the preliminary discussion of the acquisition of real property exception, K.S.A. 75-431(b)(6). The open meeting will resume at 7:53 p.m. The motion was seconded by Mr. Soupiset and passed with all voting in favor.

There regular meeting resumed at 7:53p.m. No action was taken.

ADJOURNMENT: Mr. Welsch made a motion that the meeting be adjourned. Mr. Moeder seconded this motion and passed with all voting in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 7:53pm.