

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, Kevyn Soupiset, Jolene Biggs, Davis Jimenez, Lindsey Krom-Craven, and Natalie Towns. Absent was councilmember Cory Urban. Also in attendance were City Administrator Brandon Anderson, Assistant City Administrator Logan Burns, City Attorney Allen Glendenning, and City Clerk Shawna Schafer.

OPENING: PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

A. CONSENT AGENDA

- a) **Minutes:** Minutes of the Regular Session held on August 21, 2023.
- b) **Claim's Warrant Register 9-5-23:** Covering 2023 bills to date in the amount of \$340,090.75.
- c) **Payroll Register P/R 8-25-23:** Covering payroll ending August 19, 2023, in the amount of \$512,176.87.
- d) **Appointments:** Mayor Schmidt made no appointments.
- e) **Adoption of the 2023 version of the Standard Traffic Ordinance #4416:** The City of Great Bend has historically adopted the Standard Traffic Ordinance published by The League of Kansas Municipalities. It is updated annually. This year's changes are clarifying and formatting tweaks. The only substantive change is the addition of regulations regarding trucks and trailers hauling cotton to prevent spills on the roadway. Staff recommends adopting Ordinance Number 4416.
- f) **Adoption of the 2023 version of the Uniform Public Offense Code Ordinance #4417:** The City of Great Bend has historically adopted the Uniform Public Offense Code published by The League of Kansas Municipalities. It is updated annually. This year's changes include clarifying and formatting tweaks. The substantive changes are: Addition of a new offense – battery against a healthcare provider, stalking now includes using an electronic tracking system to obtain location movements or travel patterns of a targeted person, the age at which tobacco can be legally possessed or purchased is raised from 18 to 21 in accordance with the same change made at the state level, addition of a new offense – making or selling counterfeit, non-functional or non-compliant airbag or restraint system, and interference with a law enforcement officer now includes knowingly fleeing from a law enforcement officer other than in a motor vehicle when the officer has lawful reason to stop and has signaled the person to stop. Staff recommends adopting Ordinance Number 4417.
- g) **Tree Trimmers License:** Braden Stevens, DBA MAE's Tree Service, out of Pratt, Kansas, has applied for a tree trimmers license. All requirements of the ordinance have been completed and recommend approval.
- h) **Agenda:** Approval of agenda as submitted or amended.

Mr. Soupiset made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Ms. Biggs seconded the motion 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. Revenue Neutral Rate:** City Clerk/Finance Director Shawna Schafer reported that the Revenue Neutral Rate (RNR) public hearing was passed into law in 2021. The RNR is the tax rate that would generate the same total property tax dollars for the City as the previous year using the current year assessed valuation. The City's RNR that was certified by the County Clerk is 45.202 and the City's proposed rate is 45.202. To protect the amount of revenue we have levied in the budget, it is recommended to hold a RNR hearing regardless of if you exceed RNR or not because the RNR is calculated on estimated valuations and not final valuations. Mayor Schmidt opened for public hearing. Mr. Moeder made a motion to close public hearing. The motion was seconded by Mr. Soupiset and passed with all voting in favor. Ms. Biggs then made a motion to adopt Resolution Number 090523-A, to levy a property tax rate exceeding the revenue neutral rate. The motion was seconded by Mr. Moeder and passed with all voting in favor by roll call conducted by City Clerk/Finance Director Shawna Schafer.
- 2. 2024 Budget Ordinance No. 4418:** City Clerk/Finance Director Shawna Schafer reported that Assistant City Administrator, Logan Burns, presented the 2024 Operating Budget to the Governing Body at the July 10, 2023, budget work session. The budget is funded at a mill levy of 45.202, which is the calculated Revenue Neutral Rate of 45.202 certified by the County Clerk. Mayor Schmidt opened for public hearing. Mr. Soupiset made a motion to close public hearing. The motion was seconded by Mr. Moeder and passed with all voting in favor. Ms. Biggs then made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 4418 as the 2024 Budget Ordinance. The motion was seconded by Mr. Moeder and passed with all voting in favor.
- 3. Councilmember Reports:** There were no council reports.
- 4. Administrators Update:** City Administrator Brandon Anderson presented an update on what is happening within the City organization.
- 5. Ordinance Regarding Sunday Sales of Cereal Malt Beverages and Alcoholic Liquors in the Original Package:** City Attorney Allen Glendenning reported that the State statutes generally prohibit the sale of alcoholic liquors and cereal malt beverages on Sundays. However, there is a statute that allows cities to expand those dates and hours, within prescribed limits, by ordinance. The existing Great Bend Code incorporated the previous version of the statutes and allowed Sunday sales to the maximum allowed by the statutes. The statutes were recently amended to allow expanded hours of sales on Sunday. The attached ordinance amends the two relevant sections of the city code to incorporate the latest version of the statutes. Mr. Soupiset made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 4419, expanding the hours of sale of cereal malt beverages and alcoholic liquors within city limits from 9am until 8pm. The motion was seconded by Mr. Moeder and passed by a vote of 6-1, with Ms. Towns voting no.

- 6. Ordinance Concerning Abatement of Weed, Garbage, Refuse, and Graffiti Nuisances:** City Attorney Allen Glendenning reported that this ordinance codifies recent changes in administration and the organizational chart that moved code enforcement from the Department of Public Works to be supervised directly by the new Assistant City Administrator. The current code provisions dealing with each of these categories of nuisances have subtle differences. This ordinance unifies them all and provides the widest latitude for service of notices provided for in the Kansas statutes and provides for using the municipal court process to enforce the prohibitions. Ms. Biggs made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 4420, regulating certain nuisances within the City of Great Bend. The motion was seconded by Mr. Moeder and passed with all voting in favor.

- 7. Request from Great Bend Economic Development, Inc. for \$100,000 for Demolition costs for the Hotel Property:** City Administrator Brandon Anderson reported that as a follow up to the report given by Board Chairman, Paul Snapp at a previous city council meeting, they are moving forward with the demolition and feel the \$100,000 coupled with other funds available will allow them to complete the demolition and then repay the funds to the account as soon as the property is marketed for re-development. Mr. Soupiset made a motion to approve the request from Economic Development Inc. for \$100,000 from the Economic Development Fund to go towards the demolition of the old hotel, with the understanding that the funds are to be paid back when the property is sold. The motion was seconded by Mr. Moeder and passed with all voting in favor.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Biggs made a motion that the meeting be adjourned. Ms. Krom-Craven seconded the motion and passed with all voting in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 6:51 p.m.