

City of Severy January 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes

CITY OF SEVERY

REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING

JANUARY 2, 2023

7:00 P.M. AT CITY HALL, SEVERY KS

Present: Mayor Donna Wiss, Council President Marc Warren, Council Members Lyle Riggs, Rodger Kraft, and Kevin Klepper, Clerk Tessa Riggs, Treasurer Casandra Myers, Water Superintendent Paul Schmidt, and City Attorney Alleen VanBebber (via zoom)

Absent: Councilman Ron Robert

Guest: Evans, Bierly, Hutchison Engineer Mike Younger, Robin Wunderlich (via zoom), George Gathungu and Andrea Culp

Mayor Wiss called the regular business meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited, and roll was called. Councilman President Warren moved to go into executive session for 15 minutes with the City Attorney regarding a contract. Kraft 2nd. Motion passed 3-0. After motion was passed, Councilman Kevin Klepper joined the executive session. Meeting back in session after 15 minutes. No action taken.

Evans, Bierly, Hutchison's engineer Mike Younger addressed the council on updates with the water plant project, which is entering Phase 2, the construction period. The base bid from APAC – Kansas Inc. came in at \$928,000.00. Mr. Younger gave Option #1 to replace the existing filter for an additional \$100,500.00. Option #2 would be redoing all the high service pumps and piping for an additional \$54,000.00. Option #3 was to redo the raw water line with new mixers with an additional \$8,500.00 and Option #4 would be chemical feed improvements to cost \$11,200.00. Younger did bid those options separately to give the city flexibility. The only thing the City has the funds for is to approve the base bid, and the large items included in the base bid only are electric improvements, the telemetry systems, and the building addition and filters. The city already has a contract with EBH to complete required engineering operations for Phase 2, but to make this all work with the money the City has, Mr. Younger proposed a contract amendment for EBH to delete some of its planned engineers' services. Some requirements that the city can independently perform, such as painting

and rerouting the gas line, which will save some money. Warren moved to approve the contract amendment #1 as presented. Kraft 2nd. Motion passed 4-0. Warren moved to accept the bid and initiate notice of award for the base bid only for \$928,000.00 to APAC – Kansas Inc. Riggs 2nd. Motion passed 4-0.

Kraft moved to approve the 2022 amended budget hearing minutes of December 5, 2022 as presented. Warren 2nd. Motion passed 4-0. Klepper moved to approve the regular council meeting minutes of December 5, 2022. Riggs 2nd. Motion passed 4-0.

Riggs moved to approve the December 2022 bills as presented. Warren 2nd. Motion passed 4-0. Treasurer Myers presented the treasurer's report. Treasurer's report income for December is \$31,249.77. Total income with utility receipts was \$50,364.94 and the expenditures of \$30,739.56. Riggs moved to accept the treasurer's report as presented. Klepper 2nd. Motion passed 4-0.

Schmidt reported he did a few burials, and he needs to go out and do some fill-in work. Schmidt has been cleaning his office, filing old files, and making room for current paperwork. Schmidt has several year-end reports that he will be completing in the next few weeks. There were some issues over the weekend with the water plant. The meter wasn't reading correctly due to a fish getting sucked in.

Klepper moved to go into executive session for 20 minutes with city attorney regarding the 2023 budget in process. Warren 2nd. Motion passed 4-0. At 8.25 p.m. regular session resumed. Warren moved to go back into executive session for 5 extra minutes with city attorney regarding the 2023 budget in process. Riggs 2nd. Motion passed 4-0. Regular session resumed at 8:30 p.m. No action was taken.

Warren moved to increase the baseline in-town water delivery rate by \$5.00, increase the baseline out-of-town delivery rate by \$5.00, increase the baseline refuse rate by \$2.00, increase by 33.3% the rate for two-yard dumpsters, and charge the baseline rate plus an additional \$1.00 for each thousand gallons of water delivered over the first 1,000 gallons. Current rates over 1,000 on water usage. Klepper 2nd. Motion passed 4-0. Riggs moved to allow the City Attorney to draft this motion into a resolution for the February charges to be billed March 25, 2023. Kraft 2nd. Motion passed 4-0. Riggs commented that the Council had previously assigned a committee to review the Utility Fund budget and make suggestions for the Council to look at. He said he would like everyone to understand why the Council is making these increases. Warren pointed out that the rates have not been increased in five years.

Under new business, Guest George Gathungu explained to the Council that he has an issue with his utility bills. His friend Andrea Culp attended the meeting. She explained that she is trying to assist Mr. Gathungu and wanted clarification on this subject. Mr. Gathungu brought his bills, along with letters the city has mailed him. He said he doesn't understand why he is getting monthly bills when he has requested no water delivery. Clerk Riggs explained that he is responsible for service charges for utilities attached to his real estate property. Mr. Gathungu also mentioned that his property taxes increased due to the City of Severy. Clerk Riggs explained that once a year, according to the ordinance, if he does not pay his utility bill, it will be sent to Greenwood County to be assessed on his taxes and will be sent to the Kansas Set Off Program for debt collection. Mayor Wiss explained several times that these are the rules of the City. Ms. Culp requested to contact Clerk Riggs to discuss payment options.

Kraft moved to accept Ordinance 437 regarding the 1% Retailer's Sales Tax which was approved by the voters at the November 2022 general election, to be used for street maintenance and repairs. Klepper 2nd. Motion passed 4-0.

Warren moved to extend the contract another year with Jarred, Gilmore & Phillips PA, for their services as the City's retained accountants. Kraft 2nd. Motion passed 4-0.

Kraft brought to the Council's attention that he found a couple of road graders from another town which are going to be for sale, and they are identical to the City's current road grader. Councilman Riggs offered to call and check it out.

Councilman Riggs addressed a question concerning a mile of easement across Louis Johnson's property. The easement contains lines from the water plant to the city. The city did work on these lines some time ago and has agreed to smooth out the surface over the lines. Riggs stated that right now with the ground a little wet, it would be a good time to get it taken care of. Schmidt will need to schedule a time for Kevin Craig to do some road grading. Riggs stated that rocks will need to be picked up, maybe with a tractor and loader, because Mr. Johnson does have the property.

Warren moved to adjourn the meeting. Kraft 2nd. Motion passed 4-0.