

City of Severy March 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes

CITY OF SEVERY

REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING

MARCH 6, 2023

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

Present: Mayor Donna Wiss, Council President Marc Warren, Council Members Lyle Riggs, Rodger Kraft, Ron Robert, Clerk Tessa Riggs and City Attorney Alleen VanBebber (via zoom)

Absent: Councilman Kevin Klepper, Treasurer Casandra Myers & Code Enforcement Officer Ken Kierl

Guest: Robin Wunderlich

Mayor Wiss called the regular business meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited, and roll was called.

Warren moved to go into executive session at 7:05 p.m. for 15 minutes to consult with City Attorney VanBebber. Kraft 2nd. Motion passed 4-0. No action was taken, and the regular meeting resumed at 8:20 p.m.

Warren moved to approve the February 6, 2023 minutes. Riggs 2nd. Motion passed 4-0.

Robert moved to approve the February 2023 bills. Warren 2nd. Motion passed 4-0.

Riggs moved to approve the February 2023 Treasurer's Report as presented. Kraft 2nd. Motion passed 4-0.

Clerk Riggs read a report from Code Enforcement Officer Kierl in his absence. Kierl would like to address a few main points. Mandatory yearly letters for Ordinance 434 (grass cutting) have been sent out. Kierl will start monitoring yards to determine possible violations as the goal this year is to not let the violations go long before addressed. Kierl will also make contact with land owners/tenants that had their yards baled for hay last year as well as the person that hayed the yards that it will not be allowed this year. Kierl would like direction from the city council on how to handle the obvious violation of Ordinance 431 at the corner of Kansas Ave & Water St. This situation got out of control quickly and needs to be addressed. VanBebber mentioned that Kierl needs

to have a written report to give to council. Council could then direct the clerk and the enforcement officer to move forward on enforcing Ordinance 431.

Water Superintendent Schmidt reported that the pump for the water plant is estimated to be in the end of March. He still needs to put the anchor holes in for the antenna. There was a problem when Schmidt did a tank cleaning. The valve at the bottom of the tank would not seal off. A part-time employee is working on roads during the weekends. Discussion was held again West Main Street regarding ditches and dig safe will be called tomorrow. Schmidt spent 3 hours last week at the cemetery doing fill-ins. Robert did put water sealant on the cement at the flagpole. Schmidt will attend the annual water conference for 3 days at the end of March. Warren moved to approve per diem of \$25 per day for Schmidt to attend. Kraft 2nd. Motion passed 4-0.

Schmidt was contacted by a customer who purchased an old home, and they are not sure where the sewer line hooks into the sewer main. If they don't locate it, then the city will have to put a new sewer hook-up to the house. Schmidt stated he has a manhole, but it is halfway between the two. Schmidt explained that the customer supplies the line, and the city goes out to the tap the line. Schmidt did a water locate procedure, and it appeared that someone hit the line when they were digging to install a fence.

Riggs moved to go into executive session at 8:00 p.m. for a matter concerning non-elected personnel, with Water Superintendent Schmidt and City Attorney VanBebber included, for 15 minutes. Robert 2nd. Motion passed 4-0. Meeting came back in session at 8:15 p.m. No action was taken.

Under Old Business, Council discussed that the city has always passed the Water Protection Fee on to the customers each month in their utility billing. It was discussed a few months ago that charging the fee was not cost effective. Robert moved to have City Attorney VanBebber draft a resolution to remove the \$.03 water protection fee. Riggs 2nd. Motion passed 4-0.

Under old business, Clerk Riggs reported that the City's annual formal audit was held on February 27th, and everything went smoothly. She also reported that the KDHE water samples last month went well for the first-time pick-up by the courier service.

Under new business, Clerk Riggs reported that the annual Fisheries Report will be available in the City Office if anyone would like to read it. The Clerk reminded the council that there will be 3 positions coming up for

election: Wiss's position for mayor, Robert's position for council member and Warren's position for council member. Clerk Riggs must certify the positions to the courthouse by May 1st. Any Severy resident who wants to run for one of these elected positions, including the present office holders, will need to sign up by June 1st.

Warren moved to authorize the mayor to hire 2 part time employees and advertise the ad in the newspaper for one week. Riggs 2nd. Motion passed 4-0.

Riggs motion to approve that City Attorney VanBebber to draft a resolution regarding the IRS mileage rate the city pays throughout the year for employees. Warren 2nd. Motion passed 4-0.

Kraft moved to adjourn. Riggs 2nd. Motion passed 4-0.

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