

CITY OF SEVERY

REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING

OCTOBER 2, 2023

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

Present: Mayor Donna Wiss, Council Members Lyle Riggs, Marc Warren, Rodger Kraft, Kevin Klepper, Clerk Tessa Riggs, Code Enforcement Officer Ken Kierl and City Attorney Alleen VanBebber (via zoom)

Guest: Robin Wunderlich

Absent: Treasurer Casandra Myers

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 approve the September 2023 minutes. Kraft 2nd. Motion passed 4-0. Robert abstained due to having been absent.

Robert moved to approve the September 2023 bills. Klepper 2nd. Motion passed 5-0.

Klepper moved to approve the September 2023 Treasurer's Report as presented. Riggs 2nd. Motion passed 5-0.

Robert moved to go into executive session for 15 minutes to consult with city attorney for matters that are subject to attorney client privileges, to include Code Enforcement Officer Kierl. Riggs 2nd. Motion passed 5-0.

Meeting resumed back into session. No action was taken.

Code Enforcement Kierl stated that 302 N. Kansas Ave has a new property owner, and the property has now come back into compliance with the City's nuisance ordinance.

Schmidt stated that the groundbreaking at the water plant will be on October 4th. The gun range will be closed during construction. Cremation burials have been a disaster as family members are doing burials and not notifying the city for a recording. Cemetery limbs need trimmed at Twin Groves Cemetery. The new part-time employee is working out very well. The Wilma Edwards Memorial bench and tether ball have been delivered.

The bench has been set. Schmidt asked the council if they suggest the tether ball be installed in the ground or cemented in a rim. The matter was left to his discretion. The fire department is getting ready for a new addition. Schmidt reported that the ball field water has been shut off for the winter. Klepper and Wiss cleaned up some old limbs from a property. Kraft stated the street issue from the Labor Day parade has been taken care of. Robert moved to purchase a 250-gallon tote of rejuvenator for the streets in the amount of \$1,250. Riggs 2nd. Motion passed 5-0.

Under Old Business, cemetery rates and legal issues were discussed. VanBebber mentioned that there is cost to move, dig graves, upkeep and etc. Clerk Riggs has done some research on what comparable rates are. VanBebber will send out a draft for a new ordinance.

Under New Business, VanBebber stated that the accountants brought to the council's attention during their report at the budget meeting in July about the need to reconsider budgeting for sewer issues with realistic sewer rates. The city's sewer structure is approximately 40 years old. If something major happens, it is going to be very expensive.

Clerk Riggs reported that she had timely submitted \$5,227.14 to the Greenwood County Clerks office for delinquent water bills and properties the city has mowed over the summer to be applied as a special tax assessment on 2024 property taxes.

The city office will be closed on Monday, October 9, 2023, for Columbus Day.

Warren suggested the city needs to look into health insurance and, if there is a company that is willing to work with the city, what percentage would the city pay. Riggs questioned the monthly health savings that the employees are receiving now and why it is being taxed. Clerk Riggs shared that former Clerk Myers stated that a former accountant had the health savings set up before she was hired. Clerk Riggs will check with the accountants regarding the health savings being taxed.

Klepper moved to adjourn. Warren 2nd. Motion passed 5-0.