

CITY OF SEVERY  
REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING  
SEPTEMBER 5, 2024  
7:00 P.M. AT CITY HALL, SEVERY KS

Present: Council Members Marc Warren, Lyle Riggs, Ron Robert, Rodger Kraft, Kevin Klepper, Clerk Tessa Riggs, Water Superintendent Paul Schmidt, Treasurer William McClendon and City Attorney Alleen VanBebber (via zoom)

Absent: Councilman Rodger Kraft

Guest: Jeanna Fout, Tamara Higbee, Roy Higbee, Tim Moore, Ed Cornett, Angie Beliveau and Robin Wunderlich

Mayor Wiss called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m. Pledge of Allegiance was recited, and roll was called.

Riggs moved to go into executive session for 20 minutes at 7:15 p.m. with Treasurer McClendon, Clerk Riggs and City Attorney VanBebber for pending litigation. Warren 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion passed 4-0.

Regular meeting reconvened at 7:35 p.m. No action was taken.

Warren moved to approve the August 5, 2024 minutes. Riggs 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion passed 4-0.

Robert moved to approve the August 2024 bills. Riggs 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion passed 4-0.

Klepper moved to approve the August 2024 treasurer's report as presented. Warren 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion passed 4-0.

Code Enforcement Officer John Plonka was absent from the meeting. Clerk Riggs reported 20 grass/vegetation letters went out in August.

Water Superintendent Paul Schmidt reported sewer letters were mailed out to customers. The City work truck is scheduled for heater repair this winter. The diver came out to take photos of the intake pipe at the lake and Schmidt ordered a guard to go inside the pipe to keep the fish out. Warren noted the diver will be back on Sunday, September 8<sup>th</sup> to install the guard. The kids park has been damaged. The green frog is broken and the sand digger that was donated by Lyle & Tessa Riggs has also been broken. A few flags and banners are needing repair due to wind damage. Robert noted there were 42 kids at the fishing derby for Labor Day. The Severy Volunteer Fire Department received a grant of approximately \$1,500.00 through the Elk County Community Foundation. The grant money will be used to purchase an infrared thermal gun. Water plant construction is getting close to being completed.

Old Business.

Clerk Riggs mailed out a reminder in the August utility bills to register your dog(s).

New Business.

Guest Angie Beliveau reported that the property to the south of her at 401 N. Hobart Avenue has become a public nuisance. Beliveau stated the filth, the rotten meat and vegetables out by the alley has caused a horrible order and abundance of trash and garbage is causing her property to lose value. In the past weekend, Beliveau counted 12 truckloads coming in to be unloaded. VanBebber suggested Beliveau to submit a written detailed statement and bring it into the city clerk. VanBebber also noted that the City can take action, it cost money. There are lots of fees involved if the City would have to go to municipal court. Guest Tim Moore stated that several years ago, Climax Kansas had a lot of trash issues, and he thought KDHE came in and it didn't cost the City thousands of dollars to clean it up. VanBebber stated that if every little city had that experience, then everyone would know it and must have been years ago. VanBebber noted that KDHE does not do that anymore and she has tried more than once and the City has already authorized the code enforcement officer to proceed at a previous meeting. Robert stated he spoke with the violator, and it would be cheaper if she would rent a roll off dumpster and take care of it herself than to have the City do it because the City will hire an independent contractor to clean up and the fees to go to court are going to be much higher than if she did it herself. Guest Roy Higbee stated he has offered several times to help the violator, and he owns storage units that are filled with her garbage. Clerk Riggs stated a violation letter has already gone out and a hearing was not requested. The next step will require a complaint to be filed with the City and go to court.

At 8:40 p.m. Robin Wunderlich joined the meeting.

Guest Roy Higbee addressed the council regarding his property line in the City limits and would like to be de-annexed. City Attorney VanBebber suggested he petition the City and seek an attorney.

Clerk Riggs stated that she sent in the Kansas Department of Health and Environment Lead and Copper Surveys. She noted out of 165 customers, she had all but 20 surveys. She tried numerous times to those who did not comply, and the state will then contact those water users. Riggs applied for the second round of grants from the Kansas Water Office. She also applied for a grant from the Elk County Community Foundation, but the City was not selected.

Robert moved to approve the gWorks Utility Billing update software to the cloud. Warren 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion passed 4-0.

Riggs moved to go into executive session at 8:50 p.m. for 10 minutes to consult with City Attorney on matters subject to attorney-client privilege. Robert 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion passed 4-0.

Regular meeting reconvened at 9:00 p.m. No action was taken.

Warren moved to approve the Revenue Neutral Rate Resolution that has been provided by the clerk which is a resolution to exceed the Revenue Neutral Rate that was proposed in the Eureka Herald. Klepper 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion passed 4-0.

Robert moved to approve the 2025 Budget as proposed. Warren 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion passed 4-0.

Warren moved to go into executive session at 9:10 p.m. for 25 minutes to discuss personnel matters of non-elected personnel with Clerk Riggs and City Attorney VanBebber. Klepper 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion passed 4-0.

Regular meeting reconvened at 9:35 p.m. No action was taken.

Klepper moved to adjourn the meeting. Warren 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion passed 4-0.

/s/ Donna Wiss, Mayor

Attest:

/s/ Tessa C. Riggs, City Clerk