

CITY OF SEVERY  
REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING  
SEPTEMBER 4, 2025  
7:00 P.M. AT CITY HALL, SEVERY KS

Present: Council members Marc Warren, Lyle Riggs, Ron Robert, Kevin Klepper, Treasurer Madelyn McClendon via zoom, Clerk Tessa Riggs, City Attorney William McClendon and Water Superintendent Paul Schmidt

Absent: Mayor Donna Wiss and Councilman Rodger Kraft

Guests: Ed Cornett, Bryan Hampton, Rodney Craig and Jennelle Sommerow

Council President Marc Warren called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The pledge of Allegiance was cited and roll called.

Riggs moved to approve the August 4, 2025 special meeting minutes. Robert 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion passed 4-0.

Riggs moved to approve the August 2025 regular council meeting minutes. Klepper 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion passed 4-0.

Robert moved to approve the August 2025 bills. Riggs 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion passed 4-0.

Klepper moved to approve the August 2025 treasurer's report as presented. Riggs 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion passed 4-0.

Water Superintendent Paul Schmidt potholes are getting fixed around town, mowing was all caught up until the rain started, the north sewer lift station has been down and Don Scott pumped out approximately 23 loads of sewage. Schmidt also reported that the City had to go on a water boil ban for a few days as a plug rusted at the bottom of the water tower and broke causing the tower to lose water pressure. Clerk Riggs took water samples to Topeka since it was a holiday weekend coming up.

Old Business.

The City sold 3 out of 4 vacant lots during a special meeting on September 4<sup>th</sup> at 6:45 pm. Council suggested rerunning the ad in the paper for another month for the one vacant lot. Clerk Riggs reported that she has not heard back from Junction Insurance on the water plant quote.

New Business.

Guest Rodney Craig asked the council if he could dig the cremation hole for his deceased mother. He understood that the council updated the cemetery ordinance and is willing to pay for the

opening/closing of the grave but since he dug the grave when his father passed he would like to do the same for his mother. Council agreed it was okay as long as the opening/closing cost is paid and Schmidt marks the plot.

Clerk Riggs reported that a certified letter was submitted to the city from citizen George Gathungu requested his monthly sewer charge be paused for sewer repairs. Council decided not to pause the monthly sewer charge at this time. Clerk Riggs will send a letter to Mr. Gathungu.

Clerk Riggs noted that the income the city should receive each month from just solid waste is barely covering the monthly solid waste invoices. Every month Clerk Riggs sends out approximately 30 delinquent letters. She noted that if you take 30 citizen times \$27 per trash cart that equates to \$810. The City does charge a 10% late fee to all unpaid accounts. Council discussed it is not fair to increase the solid waste monthly bill and punish all the citizens who do pay their bill on time for those who don't. Council also discussed removing the percentage to a flat fee. Klepper moved to remove the 10% late fee and add a \$40 flat fee to utility bills not paid by the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month. Riggs 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion passed 4-0. City Attorney William McClendon will draft a resolution for October's meeting.

Clerk Riggs stated the county sent a road maintenance agreement drafted by County Attorney Paul Dean. The county is giving half of 700 feet of West Water Street to the City. City Attorney McClendon reviewed it and stated it looked okay. Council President Warren signed as a city representative, and Clerk Riggs notarized it.

Clerk Riggs stated that Waste Connections is reporting a couple of issues with weekly trash pick-up. One being the trash in the 95-gallon poly carts is not being sacked, and the other issue is a couple residents this week had oil and gas containers in the trash. According to the contract the city signed with Waste Connections both issues are addressed. Trash will need to be sacked, and no hazardous waste is allowed. Clerk Riggs will send out a letter to all residents.

Councilman Riggs found a 50,000 watt, 3 phase generator with a Kohler transfer switch generator for the city. The original water plant upgrade was to have a generator but was cut due to budgeting reasons. The asking price is \$4,000.00 and it is located in Howard. Clerk Riggs presented council with pictures of the generator. Councilman Riggs noted that the city rented one several years ago and it was a \$1,000 and if you do that four times you already paid for it. Riggs stated that even if it takes another year to get it all set up at least the city would own one. Robert moved to purchase the generator pending councilmen Riggs and Klepper go check it out since Riggs has not heard it run, and the hours are unknown. Warren 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion passed 4-0.

Warren moved to go into executive session for 20 minutes for non-elected personnel regarding employee performance to include city attorney and city clerk. Klepper 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion passed 4-0.

Regular meeting reconvened. No action was taken.

Jennelle Summerow joined the meeting at 8:30 p.m. Mrs. Summerow addressed the council on a business her and her husband own called WaterWise. WaterWise sells chemicals for water

treatment plants and they also have a contracted service for water and wastewater operators who are already certified. Clerk Riggs had spoke to Mrs. Summerow earlier in the week regarding the possibility of getting another certified operator for when the times comes for Schmidt to retire or go part time. At this point, the city has been actively looking for someone to obtain a water/wastewater license. Clerk Riggs has also reached out to the state on contracting a certified operator. Summerow mentioned if the city would happen to hire WaterWise the operator who would be assigned already has a Class 2 Water and a Class 1 Wastewater license, which is what Schmidt is required to hold for the City of Severy. City Attorney McClendon suggested Summerow send Clerk Riggs a couple of references. Council suggested Summerow come out sometime before the October council meeting. Summerow plans on coming to Severy on September 11<sup>th</sup> @ 9:30 a.m.

Robert moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:15 pm. Riggs 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion passed 4-0.

/s/ Donna Wiss, Mayor

Attest:

/s/ Tessa C. Riggs, City Clerk