

CITY OF VALLEY FALLS  
COUNCIL MEETING  
September 16, 2015

**Open Meeting**

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Charles Stutesman. Council members present were Mike Hahn, Betsy Doughramaji, Lucy Thomas, Tony Trower and Andy Dinger. Others present were Clarke Davis, Paul Heinen, Salih Doughramaji and Joyce Brown.

The minutes from September 2, 2015 were presented. Andy dinger moved to approve and Tony Trower seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

**Petitions, proclamations, request, complaints, visitors, etc.: NONE**

**Public comments: NONE**

**Committee reports:**

**Administrative:** City Administrator Streeter prepared a written report and highlighted the following points;

- Reminder that a special council meeting is scheduled with the Mesner Company on September 22 for a presentation on the VFED senior housing proposal.
- The Swimming Pool committee continues to refine the pool design for the ball field site. As the total estimated project cost is determined, Larkin will forward the figures to Rick Ensz and he will re-run the numbers to size the bond issue, and determine the required sales tax.

**Water/Sewer:** PEC (engineering firm) ran the computer model that has been under development and found two problem spots – one issue was a valve that was shut off; the other is still being researched. They are ready to go to the second phase.

**Street:** Paul has confirmed that the city will continue to have access to the County's 'dome' on Blue Mound Road for storage of deicing salt. We currently have 15 ton; Paul obtained a bid of \$2234.25 for an additional 25 ton from Central Salt. Lucy Thomas moved to purchase the 25 ton of deicing salt; Tony Trower seconded. Motion approved 5-0. Paul has also begun researching a used truck that will replace one that was sold several months ago.

**Pool:** The swimming pool will be winterized by Swims and Sweeps on Monday, September 21.

**Fire Board:** Per a phone report from Shawn Jepson, there were no comments at the public budget hearing; John Shipley will be speaking with the local paper giving an account of the Outstanding Inspection Certificate that the Fire Dist. No. 11 EMS received from The Kansas Board of Emergency Medical Services for the first time; The EMS unit has 11 members with two more enrolled in EMT classes and two or three more who have expressed interest in attending further educational classes; the district will be participating in Grasshopper Falls Day.

**Police:** Chief Campbell reviewed the current budget figures and noted that if line items continued on the current trend, there was the possibility of a \$5,000 cost savings over last year. Two interviews were conducted for the PT officer's position with the successful candidate being Greg Peterson. He has been a FT deputy of the AT Co Sheriff's office for the past three years. With the experience, Chief Campbell requested that the council consider a starting salary of \$13.00 per hour. After discussion, the consensus was that the beginning rate would be \$12.00 per hour and that a possible increase to the higher rate would be entertained after 60 days. The security coverage for Oct 2-3 gun show held at the Delaware Township Hall was discussed. It was determined that a Valley Falls police officer could be supplied on a voluntary basis from 11pm to 7am. If agreed to, the officer would be representing the Valley Falls Police Department and be paid their overtime rate from the City.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

Leases allowing for equipment to be placed on the City's two water towers were presented to the council members prior to the scheduled meeting for review with Giant Communications, Holton, KS and Kansas Broadband, Salina, KS. After discussion, Andy Dinger moved to approve renewing Giant Communications lease to include the language that Kansas Broadband initially used, that the agreements would be for ten (10) years and automatically renewed unless one of the parties gave a 90 to 120 written notice; Mike Hahn seconded; motion carried 5-0. The City Administrator was instructed to continue working with USD #338 and JNR to update their agreements with the City.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Paul Heinen attended representing the Valley Falls Housing Authority and presented the annual payment in lieu of taxes for the Sunset Haven HUD housing project. He provided a financial report that compared year ending June 30, 2014 vs 2015 income and expense figures. He stated that there are 24 units, currently all are rented and there are three on a waiting list. The average rent is \$286.55, and there are guidelines for eligibility. HUD grants cover major improvements to the complex.

Salih Doughramaji gave a presentation on the requirements for the State of Kansas Community Block Grant Program and Valley Falls potential eligibility. These are for cities under 50,000 and who can demonstrate a need to address one of three national objectives of: An urgent need; slum and blight areas; benefit 51% of population that is low to moderate income (LMI). Using 2010 census information and following CDGB guidelines, Valley Falls showed a 50.40% LMI which is slightly above. The state has provided for a way for the city to conduct a survey and prove that 51% of the Valley Falls population is low to moderate income. Once the surveys are tabulated and confirmed LMI eligibility is established, other information covered included specific project requirements to be competitive for the CDBG funds.

### **VOUCHERS**

The vouchers were presented. Lucy Thomas motioned to approve, Tony Trower seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

Andy Dinger made a motion for adjournment, motion seconded by Mike Hahn. Motion carried 5-0.