

CITY OF VALLEY FALLS

Open Meeting

January 15, 2020

Open Meeting

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Lucy Thomas. Council members present were Mike Glissman, Gary McKnight, Salih Doughramaji, Jennifer Ingraham, and Connie Fridley. Others present were Sallie Meyer, Lorraine Gentry, Chad Jepson, Scott Heinen, and Clarke Davis.

The minutes from the December 18, 2019 meeting were presented. Mike moved to approve. Gary seconded the motion. Motion carried. 5-0

Petitions, Proclamations, Request, Complaints, Visitors, Etc.: Sallie Meyer was here to address the Council on a resolution to the lot request and status of her son Craig Meyer's property. They did what was asked of them at the last meeting. They consulted with an attorney and made contact with the insurance company. Sallie stated that there is no claim. After discussion it was decided by both parties to just give this more time. Salih states that the land is not going anywhere and future opportunity awaits for development so to just relax and give it some time. Negotiations and conversations can be had about possible 1st right of refusal for that north lot. The Council continues to work through the legality and contracts so the decision was to just wait it out and give it some more time.

Public Comments: Paul Burghart announced his resignation. He has found a new job at Soldier Township and his last full day is January 24th.

Committee Reports:

Administrative: Written report was presented. Joe touched on the trash service RFP preparation and continues to get that ready to send out.

*W2's have gone out to employees.

Water/Sewer: Chad Jepson has been working on getting the annual water loss report done with Paul so that he can cross over on some of the paperwork.

*Both Chad's are certified in the Water Department but Paul is the only one certified in sewer for testing. Chad Jepson has plans to take the certification test in March. Until Chad is able to get certified Paul Burghart will remain on the payroll as our certified staff (and will use sick leave for this). A certified staff member has to be on the payroll to be in compliance. Paul will also be assisting in training as needed as well. After discussion there was no objection from the Council to continue as planned.

Streets/Alleys: Staff continues work on repainting and updating the street signs.

Parks/Pool:

Fire board: New officers for the board are. Brett Frakes is president, Megan Royer is vice president, Lee Welborn is secretary, and Mike Glissman is the treasurer.

*With all the fundraising the department has got the new gurney cot covered.

*Work continues on a grant for the new AED's.

Police: There were reports of vehicle burglaries with entry by force recently. The department continues with the investigation and there are people in custody currently. Marcus really would like to emphasize to keep all vehicles locked up and to keep any valuables out of the vehicles. It was discussed to maybe put a short education video together for the website and Facebook page. It was discussed that people are more prone to watching a short video opposed to reading a long article.

Health Code:

VFEDC:

Swimming Pool:

Old Business: Review of July 4th Ordinance: A committee was developed to meet regarding the City Ordinance of shooting of fireworks in City limits. Gary and Connie will work with Marcus on a review of times that are allowed to shoot off fireworks. (Currently the Ordinance states June 27th-July 5th until midnight).

New Business: Annual Appointments 2020:

Admin: Joseph Hackney

City Clerk: April Herbster

Chief of Police: Marcus Koch

City Traffic Court Attorney: Rick Johnson

City Attorney for Council: Leonard Buddenbohm

Judge: Dennis Reiling

News Paper: The Vindicator

Bank: Kendall State Bank

Jennifer moves to approve all annual appointments. Connie seconds the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

Street Projects 2020: A plan for street maintenance was presented. There are a couple areas of focus. The intersection at Walnut and Mary Street there is plans to tear out the entire intersection and concrete. The idea is to hire out the concrete with our city staff tearing out the brick. Estimated cost is \$30,000 for that intersection. The second area of focus is 16Hwy to 12th Street heading south on Walnut. Paul made a call to Bettis asphalt to look at whether we need to mill the asphalt to the brick. There is also an area of sewer that needs to be addressed before we overlay. The estimated cost for this phase is \$38,691. There was no objection from the Council to proceed.

Animal Control Discussion: There has been an increase in dog calls lately. Our department is not fully equipped to handle some of these calls and more so if the dog has vicious tendencies. Marcus proposed an idea to the Council to cross train Jim Varner as our City Animal Control Officer. The idea is to have him handle these calls while on patrol and only in case of a real dire emergency. This could also help assist the City in the annual registration process too. Jim would work with the Topeka Animal Control Department for the training and once completed a request for \$1.00 per hour compensation. Mike moves to approve an animal control program with Jim Varner as our officer and to give \$1.00 per hour increase once training is completed. Gary seconds the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

Council Meeting Structure: Topic tabled.

Additions: Gary was nominated as the new Council President and Salih was nominated as the new Council Treasurer. The other committee assignments will come at a later meeting.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

*Mike moves to go into executive session at 8:10pm for 15 minutes to discuss matters of non-elected personnel (subject: Evaluation) to include Mayor, City Council, Administrator, and Public Works Director. Jennifer seconds the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

The Council returned to open session at 8:25pm with no action taken.

Mike moves to hire Chad Jepson as Public Works Director with a starting salary of \$48,000 to increase to \$50,000 once he completes sewer certification. Gary seconds the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

*Mike moves to go into executive session at 8:40pm for 10minutes to discuss matters of non-elected personnel (subject: Performance) to include Mayor, Council, and Admin. Jennifer seconds the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

The council returned to open session at 8:50pm with no action taken.

Gary moves to pay \$100 towards April's family health insurance deduction per pay period (26payrolls). Jennifer seconds the motion. Motion carried 4-1 (Salih nay).

*Mike moves to go into executive session at 8:50pm for 10 minutes to discuss matters of non-elected personnel (subject: Evaluation) to include Mayor, City Council, and Administrator. Jennifer seconds the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

The Council returned to open session at 9:00pm with no action taken.

Gary moves to hire Kathy Young and Lori Glissman as pool managers for the 2020 pool season with a 3% salary increase. Jennifer seconds the motion. Motion carried. 4-1. (Mike sustained)

*Mike moves to go into executive session at 9:05pm for 5 minutes for attorney-client privilege (subject: contract) to include Mayor, City Council, Administrator, and City Attorney. Jennifer seconds the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

The Council returned to open session at 9:10pm with no action taken.

Gary moved to have Joe arrange a meeting with David Watson and the City attorney to work out contract details. Mike seconds the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

*Mike moves to go into executive session at 9:12pm for 23 minutes for attorney – client privilege (subject: consultation) to include Mayor, City Council, Administrator, and City Attorney. Jennifer seconds the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

The Council returned to open session at 9:35 with no action taken.

Gary moves to adopt Resolution 2020-01 to abate the nuisance at Mark Boyce's property. Salih seconds the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

VOUCHERS

The Vouchers were presented. Mike moved to approve. Gary seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

ADJOURNMENT

Gary moved to adjourn the meeting. Gary seconds the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

APPROVED: _____
LUCILLE THOMAS, MAYOR

ATTEST: _____
APRIL HERBSTER, CITY CLERK