

CITY OF VALLEY FALLS

Open Meeting

May 6, 2020

Open Meeting

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Lucy Thomas. Council members present were Mike Glissman, Gary McKnight, Salih Doughramaji, and Jennifer Ingraham. Connie Fridley was absent. Others present were Leonard Buddenbohm, and Clarke Davis.

The minutes from the April 15, 2020 meeting were presented. Mike moved to approve. Salih seconded the motion. Motion carried. 4-0

Petitions, Proclamations, Request, Complaints, Visitors, Etc.:

Public Comments:

Committee Reports:

Administrative: Written report was presented.

*Harold Mayes will be present at the next meeting to give the annual audit report.

*Joe wants to finish council tours by the end of June.

*A FEMA representative made contact. Joe reports that they are processing category A and category B claims currently. In talking further the City is in category F, so it will be a while for reimbursement for the flooding in summer of 2019.

Water/Sewer: The pump is still down at the sewer ponds. Chad will need to take it in and have the pump looked at.

*HACH finished all the upgrades. Gary moves to approve up to \$6,000 to complete the repairs. Jennifer seconds the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

Streets/Alleys:

Parks/Pool: There were some complaints about how tall the grass is at the park. Chad has it on the top of the list to get done but is has been too wet.

Fire board:

Police: Investigation continues on both vehicle thefts that occurred recently. Both vehicles have been found in Topeka and the department has some suspects.

*Marcus continues to recommend everyone lock up your vehicles and do not keep valuables in vehicles.

*A search warrant arrest was completed April 21st. The department worked with the DEA, KHP, and our local EMS to carry out this process.

*The department will be participating in the click it or ticket program May 18th through May 31st.

Health Code:

VFEDC:

Swimming Pool:

Old Business: Water Tower Discussion: Salih addressed the water tower and still is not happy with the quality of the water tower paint job. After a few hard rains, there still seem to be dark spots that were thought to be overspray. Joe will make contact with Rick Penner at Viking.

New Business: Summer Help 2020: There were five applications received for summer help this year. Chad and Joe have made contact and completed interviews. They have two candidates they would like to hire. Gary moves to authorize Joe and Chad to hire the two candidates they seem fit at \$10.00 per hour. Mike seconds the motion. Motion carried. 4-0.

Community Clean-up dumpster: There seems to be some issues at the community clean up dumpster.

The containers are filling up very quickly with items being left on the ground outside. This is not acceptable. The Council would like to monitor this area better and place cameras at the site along with posting some signs. It was also discussed to limit usage to the City utility paying customers only within City limits. Joe and Leonard will work on putting an Ordinance together with fines in place, so that this can be prosecuted in Municipal Court if needed.

2020 Pool Season: Discussion continues on what the plan will be this summer with the pool. Joe cautions the Council to not treat this season like any other swimming pool season. Joe has made some contact with surrounding cities (Atchison, Holton, and Effingham) and found that they are closing completely for the 2020 season. A lot of the decision was based on budgetary reasons and also the unknown of COVID-19. Some other pools are still waiting to see if they will open at a later date in the summer with some stricter guidelines and closer monitoring on the number of people attending the pool at one time. It was also discussed to hire a more skeleton staff and only hire lifeguards that would include concession work as a part of their rotation. This is not an easy decision to make and the pool provides a great public service for our community. However the City is responsible for setting standards to protect the fiscal health and the physical health of the community. After discussion it was decided to wait a bit longer to decide and to hold a special meeting on May 27th at 6:30pm. Lori will continue to work on the handbook and she was instructed to go ahead and start the interview process and make contact with the applicants.

Real Estate Contract: The City was approached by Doyle Caldwell. He is interested in two lots on Oak St. south of town and wants to build a home. Some pre-conversations have started and some minor details have been changed to the contract. The Council has decided to sell both of the lots to Doyle for \$10,000 with a 50% rebate if he builds right away. Gary moves to approve the contract with the new changes. Jennifer seconds the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

Freeborn (501 Mulberry) Demolition: The County made contact and stated they will not be able to meet the April 30th deadline discussed originally. They requested an extension on the demolition of the Freeborn property. The Council determined they want it done sooner. Gary moves to set up a deadline of June 17th for a hearing at 6:30pm. Jennifer seconds the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

VOUCHERS

The Vouchers were presented. Gary moved to approve. Jennifer seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

ADJOURNMENT

Gary moved to adjourn the meeting. Mike seconds the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

APPROVED: _____
LUCILLE THOMAS, MAYOR

ATTEST: _____
APRIL HERBSTER, CITY CLERK