

CITY OF VALLEY FALLS

Open Meeting

September 5, 2018

Open Meeting

The meeting was called to order by Lucy Thomas. Council members present were Mike Glissman, Salih Doughramaji, Betsy Doughramaji, and Gary McKnight. Judy Rider was absent. Others present were Joyce Brown, Connie Fridley, Blake Shipley, Jeff Herrig, John Shipley, James Tweed, and Clarke Davis.

The minutes from the August 15, 2018 meeting were presented. Betsy moves to approve the minutes. Salih seconds the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

The minutes from the August 13, 2018 Special meeting were presented. Betsy moves to approve the minutes. Mike seconds the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

The minutes from the August 6, 2018 First Impressions meeting where a quorum of Council members attending were presented. Mike moves to approve. Betsy seconds the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

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

Public Comments:

Committee Reports:

Administrative: Written report presented.

*The Council was pleased to hear that Josh Ney, County Attorney, will be filing a separate case for 501 Mulberry for the County tax sale. Due to some of the past history on this property the redemption period may take a little longer but the Council was pleased to see some movement.

Water/Sewer: The City is in stage I for water conservation. The levels are getting back up to where they need to be at the intake. Paul did get permission to rebuild the WEIR from the CORP. So that project continues.

*Chad Spencer passed his water certification test. Betsy moves to give Chad a \$1.00 per hour raise to be prorated back to the previous payroll. Mike seconds the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

*KDHE thought there was a possible Blue Green Algae in the Delaware River but all test came back negative.

*Paul continues to work with KDHE on hook up to Atchison #5 in case of a water emergency but things are at a standstill for now.

Street/Alley: Complete Pavement Company continues work on the crack and seal work on our streets.

Parks/Pool:

Fire board:

Police:

Health Code:

VFEDC:

Swimming Pool: Continental Pools were here to go over the process for winterizing the pool. They will be back to help open at the beginning of next pool season.

Old Business: Courter Contract: Denise reports, after speaking with Rick Johnson and conversing with LKM, that the City cannot use small claims court as their avenue to pursue Travis Courter and the broken contract. The cost of legal fees could exceed the amount being

collected from Travis so the question was whether or not to proceed. After discussion Betsy moves to not pursue Travis Courters broken contract and to abolish the contract agreement completely for future employees. Gary seconds the motion. Motion carried 3-1 with Mike being the nay vote.

800 GHz vs VHF: Dave Mitchell, James Tweed, John Shipley, and Jeff Herrig, were all here to discuss 800 megahertz radios. The goal is to get all of the police departments in the county along with all EMS and Fire departments on the same frequency. Valley Falls is the only city in Jefferson County that is not set up yet. The County was able to obtain a grant to help fund the bi-directional amplifiers. These are being placed in the surrounding schools to boost signal due to lack of signal at times because of infrastructure of the building. The County will also be looking into funding and location of a new tower. Cost for this is roughly \$500,000 so this will come in later years. Cost of the new equipment was discussed. The department can find refurbished portable radios for approx. \$800 per unit and refurbished mobile radios for approx. \$1,200. A bi-amplifier will cost approx. \$8,000. Our department currently has portable extenders that can be reprogrammed for use so this could save in some cost. Gary moves to purchase three mobile units one for each car, a bi-directional amplifier for City Hall, and to reprogram our current mobile extenders at a total cost of approximately \$12,000. Mike seconds the motion. Motion carried 4-0. The Law Enforcement Fund that was set up for the Cadillac Escalade forfeiture can be used towards the cost of the new radios. The VHF system that the department currently uses will not be going away completely as for this is the system that the storm sirens operate on.

Code Hearing Officer: Curtis Wheeler was here to introduce himself to the Council. He currently works with Jimmy Ellis in Effingham as their hearing officer and is the full time Code Enforcer in the City of Atchison. He presented a fee schedule that included mileage at .545per mile, an hourly rate of \$50 for drive time, and a one hour minimum rate of \$75 for hearing. Salih moves to hire Curtis Wheeler and his presented fee schedule. Gary seconds the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

New Business: Advance Life/Short Term Disability Insurance: Currently the City provides a benefit for a 10,000 life insurance policy including short term disability at a cost of \$12.10 per employee per month. During the open enrollment period the City has the option to increase the Life Insurance amount. After discussion it was decided to keep the current benefit the same with no increase.

Fill Dirt-Vacant Lots-Barnes Addition No. 3: There was short discussion on the dirt, drainage, and driveway access to lots at the Barnes Addition No 3. No action taken.

Replacing School signs: Paul presented a quote to replace 3 school signs along 16 Hwy. The quote from National Sign Company was for \$686.00. Betsy moves to approve the purchase. Salih seconds the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mike moves to go into executive session at 8:00pm for 15 minutes to discuss matters of non-elected personnel to include Mayor, Council, Interim Police Chief, and Administrator. Gary seconds the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

The Council returned to open session at 8:15pm with no action taken.

The Council had time to review all applicants for the Chief position. Interviews were set up for September 20th with the first interview at 6:00pm, second at 7:00pm, and third at 8:00pm.

Denise will get the information over to the County Sherriff Department to start the background process.

VOUCHERS

The vouchers were presented. Betsy moved to approve. Mike seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

ADJOURNMENT

Betsy moves to adjourn the meeting. Mike seconds the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

APPROVED: _____
LUCILLE THOMAS, MAYOR

ATTEST: _____
APRIL HERBSTER, CITY CLERK