

CITY OF VALLEY FALLS

Open Meeting

December 18, 2019

2019 Budget Amendment: Due to the flooding this spring and summer we have a budget over expenditure. Joe has consulted with the State of Kansas and they recommend for future years to set the Bond and Interest Fund as a separate line item. It has already been set up that way in 2020 budget but this amendment will help to adjust how the funds are distributed in year 2019. Salih moves to approve the 2019 budget amendment. Betsy seconds the motion. Motion carried 5-0.
There was no public comment so the budget amendment hearing was closed at 6:05pm.

Open Meeting

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Lucy Thomas. Council members present were Mike Glissman, Gary McKnight, Salih Doughramaji, Judy Rider, and Betsy Doughramaji. Others present were Sallie Meyer, Connie Fridley, Craig Meyer, Chelsea Meyer, Scott Heinen, and Clarke Davis.

The minutes from the December 4, 2019 meeting were presented. Mike moved to approve. Salih seconded the motion. Motion carried. 5-0

Petitions, Proclamations, Request, Complaints, Visitors, Etc.: The question was asked from a citizen as to why the Christmas lights are left on from dusk to dawn at the City Park. It was discussed that the cost was minimal when they looked into it and the lights were a good deterrent to vandalism.

Public Comments:

Committee Reports:

Administrative: Written report was presented. Pat Harrington at 604 Frazier had a rear yard setback variance approved at a zoning board meeting 12/17/19. There was no objection from the Council. The zoning board is looking for a new member to fill a vacant spot if anyone knows someone of interest.

Water/Sewer: Paul attended continuing education classes in Lawrence the last couple of day.

*The plug at the sewer ponds is fixed and the ponds are draining like normal again.

Streets/Alleys: The bobcat will be ready for use at the first of the year.

Parks/Pool:

Fire board:

Police: The police department tab on the City website is up and running. It provides opportunity for anonymous reporting there.

*The new phone system is up and running. It includes a calling tree so that contact can be made with a live person at any time. This would include Jefferson County dispatch as well.

*The Jeep had some minor repairs done.

*Marcus still works on getting the new police vehicle in service. He hopes to get it tagged by the end of the week.

Health Code:

VFEDC: Joe introduced the EDC to an idea of a micro-grant program. The goal is inducing business activity for both existing and new businesses. He will have a draft of this program ready to present to EDC this February.

Swimming Pool:

Old Business: **Water Tower Paint Update:** Paul and Joe met with Rick Penner at Viking. He is going to have a crew come out in spring of 2020 and they will touch up the paint or re-roll if necessary.

New Business: Appointment of Leonard Buddenbohm: Leonard Buddenbohm took his oath of office as City Attorney and took a seat at the Council table. He will be attending the second meeting of the month. Rick Johnson will be handling traffic court only for the city per his choice.

Craig Meyer Request: Craig was here to follow up on his lot request. Leonard Buddenbohm joined in on the discussion. He recommended that the Council stop all negotiations and discussions on this. With the citizen feeling and stating that there was a breach of contract he recommend that Craig make contact with the City insurance company EMC and file a claim.

Resolutions to Demolish Unsafe Structures: Resolutions to demolish three unsafe structures were presented to the Council. Leonard Buddenbohm reviewed the process briefly. *Resolution 01-2019 for address 605 Frazier St. Gary moves to adopt. Mike seconds the motion. Motion carried 5-0. *Resolution 02-2019 for address 501 Mulberry St. Gary moves to adopt. Mike seconds the motion. Motion carried 5-0. *Resolution 03-2019 for 281 Maple St. Judy moves to adopt. Betsy seconds the motion. Motion carried 5-0. These will be published in the Vindicator for the next two consecutive weeks.

Parking Violations in Conjunction with CODE: There was a brief discussion on the Council's thoughts to allow Jimmy Ellis the authority to cite parking tickets in conjunction with his CODE violations write ups. After discussion it was decided that this may not occur to often and is a function under the Standard Traffic Ordinance for our Police department to handle if necessary.

Trash Service RFP: It is time to think about our City trash contract. The current contract with Waste Management ends April 30, 2020. It was decided to go through the RFP process opposed to an extension to our current provider.

CODE/Standards:FEMA: Joe received an email from Keith Jeffers regarding a FEMA limited time opportunity for public owned systems and upgrading to code standards. There will be options to discuss and decide on with a short deadline of January 2, 2020. The first option would be to accept reimbursement for the City's cost and repairs to put dikes back in the exact same condition they were before the flood. The second option would be to accept FEMA funding to be reimbursed for the cost of damages plus raise the dikes to the new code standards and could be done in stages. The issue with the seconds option is this could be very costly to the City with the project being close to 3 million dollars and the City to match 15% (\$450,000 city cost). This decision will have impacts on future prospects of funding. Discussion continues.

City Council Meeting Structure: There was a short discussion on meeting structure and thoughts on continuing with two meetings a month. There was a brief discussion on the possibility of a work session type setting for the first Wednesday of every month. This topic will be tabled until the new Council members take their seats in January.

ADDITONS: With the first meeting in January falling on New Year Day it was decided to reschedule the first meeting in January for Thursday January 2, 2020.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

*Mike moves to go into executive session at 8:00pm for 10 minutes to discuss matters of non-elected personnel to include Mayor and City Council. Judy seconds the motion. Motion carried 5-0. The Council returned to open session at 8:10pm with no action taken.

*Mike moved to go into executive session at 8:10pm for 15minutes to discuss matters of non-elected personnel to include Mayor, Council, City Admin, and City Attorney. Gary seconds the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

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

*Mike moved to go into executive session at 8:30pm for 15minutes to discuss annual employee evaluations to include Mayor, Council, City Admin, and Superintendent. Judy seconds the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

The Council returned to open session at 8:45 with no action taken.

*Gary moves to go into executive session at 8:45pm for 40 minutes to discuss annual employee evaluations to include Mayor, Council, City Admin, and Police Chief. Judy seconds the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

The Council returned to open session at 9:25pm with no action taken.

*Betsy moved to go into executive session at 9:25pm for 30 minutes to discuss annual employee evaluations to include Mayor, Council, and City Admin. Mike seconds the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

The Council returned to open session at 9:55pm with no action taken.

*Mike moved to go into executive session at 9:55 for 10 minutes to discuss annual employee evaluations to include Mayor, Council, and City Admin. Gary seconds the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

The Council returned to open session at 10:05pm. Judy moved to approve raises as follows:

*April Herbster: Raise hourly rate by .23cents bringing her hourly rate to \$18.00 and with a \$1,250 annual bonus.

*Joe Hackney: 3% increase to bring his annual salary to \$49,420.80.

*Paul Burghart: 3% increase to bring his annual salary to \$61,380.80.

*Chad Jepson: 3% increase to bring his hourly rate to \$16.69.

*Chad Spencer: 3% increase to bring his hourly rate to \$15.40.

*Marcus Koch: 2% increase to bring his annual salary to \$56,098.00.

*Jim Varner: 3% increase to bring his hourly rate to \$16.48.

*Travis Courter: 3% increase to bring his hourly rate to \$17.51.

*Paul Juedes: .25cent increase to bring his hourly rate to \$17.25.

*Matt Honas: No increase his hourly rate will stay at \$17.00.

Mike seconds the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

VOUCHERS

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

ADJOURNMENT

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

APPROVED:_____

LUCILLE THOMAS, MAYOR

ATTEST:_____

APRIL HERBSTER, CITY CLERK