

MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL
OF LINN VALLEY, KANSAS
November 9, 2020
6:00 pm

Mayor Cindy Smith called the regular meeting to order. Present at the meeting were Council Members Lewis Donelson, Robert Suppenbach, John Weers, Brenda Muncy and Jason Jenkins and City Attorney James Brun were present. The meeting was held via Zoom.

MEETING MINUTES

Minutes from the October 12, 2020 meeting were presented. Council Member Suppenbach made a motion to accept the minutes as written. Council Member Donelson seconded. The motion passed 5-0. Minutes from the October 29, 2020 workshop/meeting were presented. Donelson made a motion to accept the minutes as written. Suppenbach seconded. The motion passed 5-0. Minutes from the November 5, 2020 workshop/meeting with the POA Board of Directors was presented. Council Member Weers made a motion to accept the minutes. Council Member Jenkins seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

Public Safety Director Corey Murrison introduced Mark Whelan from Miami County Emergency Management and Miami County Commissioner George Pretz. Miami County would like to execute a contract with Linn Valley for coverage of medical calls and accidents in the southeast Miami County currently covered by Drexel. The area to be covered is from the state line to New Lancaster and from 359th south to Miami/Linn County line. The contract would begin January 1, 2021. The contract was sent to Attorney Brun. He approved it with a request that the contract be renegotiated at the end of the year if calls exceed expectations. Director Murrison is to provide monthly reports to Miami County. Donelson made a motion to enter into the contract with attorney's approval. The motion was seconded by Suppenbach and passed 5-0.

SEWER REPORT

Report from Page Enterprise: locates as requested, checked lift station, worked on main lift station to remove shingle wrappers, installed a grinder pump.

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT REPORT

Director of Planning and Development, Dan Donham reported Paul Owings of BG Consultants sending the final PER to Mike Billings at USDA. Clerk Karen Siffring, Shelly Underwood and Director Donham are working on the required online application for funding. It is important to get all the information required to USDA as soon as possible to qualify for a grant. Shelly is requesting environmental reviews.

Paul Owings reported three steps toward getting funding for the wastewater project. 1) PER, 2) RD application 2) Environmental report (Ms. Underwood must send out multiple letters and predicts there will be many requests for testing). Mr. Owings is reaching out to Army Corp of Engineers on wetland study. It is critical to move as quickly as possible.

Appraisal of the 139.6 acres property for new lagoons expansion owned by Kiwi Cattle Company was completed. The property owner agreed on the price of \$624,000 provided by the appraiser. An intent to purchase contract will follow. The price is about \$300,000 less than budgeted. Mr. Owings

recommended soil testing prior to signing a contract. As a benefit, the current owner can use the property for grazing until construction starts and will keep it in good condition.

Director Donham would like to arrange funding for water and sewer to be lumped together. The City may have to borrow money short term and then roll the debt back into USDA loan.

The Council set the required Public hearing to be on November 23rd at 7:00 pm and to be a virtual meeting.

The Codes vehicle needs repairs. Due to its age and condition it may need future additional repairs. Repair cost for current repairs is \$800. Donham predicted there will be more issues with the vehicle which would continue to be an expense to the City. He suggested purchasing a used vehicle. The Council recommended setting up plan to cycle through vehicles and consider depreciation or life span in a vehicle policy. Council Muncy made a motion to spend \$800 to repair the vehicle. The motion was seconded and passed 5-0. Donham will research purchase of another vehicle.

Donham proposed hiring an in-house pump repair person. This person could also do inspections on holding tanks. A fee could be charged to offset the cost of the employee. Equipment would need to be purchased. Inspections would be done with a change in ownership.

The new electronic building permit application process began this month. The POA has technical issues.

NUISANCE CODES

Codes Enforcement Officer Don Hastings reported sending 23 notifications of nuisance violations. To date 184 notification letters have been sent. As of October 31st, 82 owners have complied. Ten properties are being recommended for condemnation. One citation was issued in October. Brun said that most owners are cooperating. Brun will research people required to do Community service and they may help with clean-up of properties of owners who physically are unable to do the work.

PUBLIC SAFETY DIRECTOR REPORT

Public Safety Director Corey Murrison reported Officer Brett Jenkins being tested for COVID-19 and passed. Jenkins will be working until academy starts again.

The new patrol car will be in this month.

The Police Department made 5 arrests on drug charges and recovered two stolen firearms. The police also took one non-injury and one injury accident.

The Fire Department responded to six medical calls, four mutual aid grass fires and one day of training in October.

Murrison requesting purchasing equipment for the fire department. The cost is within the Fire Department's current budget. Suppenbach made a motion to allow Murrison to spend money on the line items in his report. The motion was seconded by Council Member Weers and passed 5-0.

CITY CLERK'S REPORT

Balances for the City's accounts and funds on October 31st were:

General Fund Checking: \$101,530.96
Money Market: \$125,753.30
October income: \$57,378.03; expenses \$58,820.82
Street & Highway Fund balance was \$94,989.70
Sewer Utilities Balance is \$182,919.53

Vouchers were presented by Clerk Siffring in the amount of \$65,983.16. Council Member Donelson made a motion to approve the vouchers in the amount of \$65,983.16. Motion was seconded by Council Member Suppenbach and passed 5-0. The City received the 2020 infrastructure check of \$49,624.

Water Agreement

Attorney Brun will discuss the Water agreement with the Council in executive session.

Mike Page

Completed Sutherland home has been complete and grinder pump should be functional soon. The west lift station is functionally good after repair from shingle wrappers damage. There have been no new issues. Page responded to two audible alarms and one sewer smell.

Page will get with Director Donham to discuss ideas plan for pump repairs.

County does sewer checks when property changes hands within the county. The County has no jurisdiction in Linn Valley or in cities to do checks. The checks are relatively inexpensive ranging from \$50 - \$100.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Lisa has taken over as Court Clerk.

Veterans Ceremony at the Veteran's Memorial Park is at 11:00 on Saturday.

Mayor will get with Attorney Brun to discuss Air B&B's. The Mayor also asked Brun for a decision on allowing chickens in Linn Valley.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

OPEN FORUM

There were no comments from the public.

Council Member Donelson made a motion for fifteen-minute executive session for legal. The motion was seconded by Council Member Weers and the motion passed 5-0. The council retired to executive session at 7:27 pm and returned at 7:45 with no action taken.

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 pm.

Submitted by

City Clerk Siffring