

MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL  
OF LINN VALLEY, KANSAS  
October 24, 2022  
7:00 pm

Mayor Cindy Smith called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Present at the meeting were Mayor Cindy Smith, Council Members Robert Suppenbach, Lewis Donelson, Brenda Muncy, John Weers, and Michael Hemphill.

MEETING MINUTES

Council Member Hemphill made a motion to accept the September 12, 2022 minutes as written. The motion was seconded by Council Member Weers and the motion carried 5-0.

SEWER REPORT

There were six locates in September. Page Enterprise responded to needed repairs for two grinder pumps and an electrical breaker replacement. Mike is out for a couple of weeks.

WATER PROJECT

No Water Project report.

Mayor Smith stated that the Town Hall meeting to discuss the wastewater and water projects is at 10:00 am Saturday at city hall. Information summaries and Q/A's of both projects, and tax information are ready and will be available at the meeting.

Council Member Donelson reported the fire department will be using the structure on the water tower property for training, prior to its demolition. Due to the delay in access to the structure, the date of completion for Rob Gifford, the contractor for demolition of the structure, to complete his work is extended. The city attorney approved this.

WASTEWATER PROJECT

No Wastewater Report

BUILDING CODES REPORT

Sixty-three permits were issued in September with a year-to-date total of 427.

PUBLIC SAFETY REPORT

In September, there were eight medical calls and a structure fire in Linn Valley. Fourteen traffic citations were issued and seventeen traffic warnings. There were two ATV accident reports and two arrests for possession of narcotics.

In Miami County there were eight medical calls, an injury accident, and a grass fire.

Officer Brett Jenkins reported all four new radios are in and are working. Chief Corey Murrison requested paying for the radios with ARPA funds. Council Member Suppenbach made a motion to purchase the four new radios in the amount of \$3100 using ARPA funds. Council Member Weers seconded the motion and the motion carried 5-0.

## CLERK'S REPORT

Clerk Karen Siffring reported \$15,817.06 income and \$55,078.43 expenses in September.

Balances for the City's accounts and funds on September 30, 2022:

General Fund Checking: 78,591.58  
-Restricted Mayor's Christmas Tree Fund\* \$204.57  
-Restricted Tree Fund\* \$1,650.00  
-Restricted Parks & Recreation Fund\* \$2,850.59  
-Restricted Capital Improvement\* \$23,890.70  
-Restricted Special Equipment\* \$29,695.29  
\*Restricted funds included in the General Fund total.  
Money Market: \$81,881.30  
Total General Fund: \$160,472.88

Balances of other city funds on September 30, 2022:

Street & Highway Fund: \$118,796.64  
Sewer Utilities: \$383,158.31  
Sewer Reserve Fund: \$32,534.10  
ARPA: \$91,672.35  
Temporary Notes (Water Project): \$1,877,673.24  
Temporary Notes (Wastewater Project): \$6,302,453.64

Council Member Donelson made a motion to approve vouchers in the amount of \$176,825.21. The motion seconded by Council Member Suppenbach passed unanimously.

## MAYOR'S REPORT

A Veterans Day ceremony will be held on November 12 at 10:00 am at Memorial Park.

Mayor Smith requested a moratorium on accepting building permits applications until the April 24<sup>th</sup> 2023 meeting. Reasons include: 1. Will reduce waste in the fragile lagoon system giving opportunity to determine whether it has an effect on the lagoons and will give a chance to measure lagoons waste. 2. There are 337 approved open building permits from 2021 through October 22, 2022. With a two-person department, we don't have the resources to process that kind of workload. To enable the P&Z committee to meet and consider related projects, including updating the P&Z regulations to remove/change conflicting or difficult to interpret language. 3. Make changes to who is considered a contractor, and not allow the Codes department to educate property owners on how to complete permit application forms, or how to perform construction work i.e., wire electricity. Also want to prioritize nuisance issues and reduce workload on staff. Mayor & council are averaging 120 – 130 hours per week.

Conditions to lift the moratorium. 1. Updated P&Z regulations. 2. Evaluate the number of permits that can be processed by existing staff. 3. Impact of amount of waste going into lagoons. The Codes Department monthly report will include progress on completed permits. Council Member Donelson considers this an opportunity for the employees to catch up. The city may need to be involved in the amount of permits we have and consider what is a self-contractor?

Reasons to lift or partially lift the moratorium. 1. Updated Regulations; 2. Evaluated number of permits that staff can handle, and 3. Outcome of impact of the moratorium on the amount of waste in the lagoons. Exceptions to the moratorium are ADA, health, and safety.

Council Member Weers made a motion that we do a six-month moratorium. Council Member Donelson added to the motion that it take effect immediately. Donelson seconded the motion and the motion passed 5-0. Mayor Smith will contact the POA.

#### OLD BUSINESS

Council Member Donelson discussed the lift station cost. In the last twenty-seven months we have spent approximately \$5800 per month to operate the lift station, which equals \$69,800 per year. The lift station only serves the community center. This topic will be added to the November 14<sup>th</sup> meeting agenda.

Public Safety Director Corey Murrison reported the high-pressure skid unit that was ordered came in and is installed. He would like to transfer \$1380, from the firework fundraiser that went into the city's account, into the Special Equipment Fund. Clerk Siffring will consult with the accountant. The council approved using \$1200 from Special Equipment Fund to pay for the high-pressure skid unit.

Last year the council approved purchasing a new vehicle for Brett. Because it did not come in, it was re-ordered.

#### NEW BUSINESS

Council Member Weers voiced concern that the public has received incorrect information on individual cost for wastewater project repayment.

Council Member Weers made a motion to recess into executive session to discuss legal updates regarding city infrastructure projects. This is to protect the city's interests. We will reconvene at 8:15 pm. The motion was seconded by Council Member Donelson and carried 5-0. The council retired to the executive session at 8:00 pm and returned at 8:15 with no action taken.

#### ADJOURN

Council Member Donelson made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Hemphill and passed 5-0. The meeting adjourned at 8:17 pm.

Submitted by  
Karen Siffring, City Clerk