

THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE LIBERAL CITY COMMISSION

January 13, 2015

The regular meeting of the Liberal City Commission was held at 6:30 p.m. in the Commission Chambers located at 325 North Washington on Tuesday, January 13, 2015.

Commissioners Present: Mayor Joe Denoyer, Vice Mayor Dean Aragon, Dave Harrison, Janet Willimon and Ron Warren.

City Staff Present: City Manager Mark Hall, Finance Director Chris Ford, City Clerk Debbie Giskie, Human Resources Director Sheena Schmutz, Economic Development Director Jeff Parsons, Chief of Police Al Sill and City Attorney Shirla McQueen.

Mayor Denoyer declared the meeting called to order and City Clerk Giskie read the roll call declaring all members present. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and the invocation was given by Ann Holman of the Risen Glory Church.

1. Awards/Proclamations/Presentations. A) Mayor Denoyer read a proclamation from Governor Sam Brownback designating January 9, 2015 as National Law Enforcement Appreciation Day.

B) Chief Sill advised the police department held their annual employee awards ceremony in December and recognized the winners who were present at the meeting.

- Chief Sill announced Jim Crosier received the Employee of the Year Award for this dedicated service at the Animal Shelter.
- Chief Sill also announced that Detective Jason Ott received the Officer of the Year Award for his dedication to the job and the community. He noted Detective Ott is the first individual to receive this award twice.
- Chief Sill announced that Sergeant Mark West received the Supervisor of the Year Award for his dedication and compassion to the citizens.
- Chief Sill presented a certificate of appreciation to each of the Commission and City Manager Hall for their praise and support by providing them with the tools and resources to perform their jobs.

2. Approval of Agenda.

Mayor Denoyer advised the agenda has been amended to include Item 9 – First and Final Reading of Ordinance No. 4448, pertaining to Water Billing. He requested approval of the amended agenda.

Commissioner Harrison moved to approve the agenda, as amended, with Commissioner Warren seconding the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

3. Approval of Minutes.

Commissioner Warren moved to approve the minutes of the December 23, 2014 regular meeting, as presented. The motion was seconded by Vice Mayor Aragon carried unanimously.

4. Items from Citizens.

Mayor Denoyer read the rules of the Commission and requested members of the audience approach the podium to address the Commission.

Rozelle Webb, Liberal Chamber of Commerce executive director, presented the Commission with an invitation to attend the SW Kansas Night Out in Topeka on Monday, January 26 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the Capital Plaza Hotel.

- Ms. Webb announced the annual Southwest Kansas Congressional Delegation will be April 11-14, 2015 in Washington, DC at the JW Marriott, with Garden City serving as host.

5. Items from Groups.

Mayor Denoyer read the rules of the Commission and requested members of the audience approach the podium to address the Commission. *No items were presented.*

6. Consent Agenda. *No items were presented.*

7. Final Reading of Ordinance No. 4446 - Prohibiting the Drilling for Oil and Gas within the City Limits.

Mayor Denoyer requested Commission consideration of the final reading of Ordinance No. 4446, entitled, "AN ORDINANCE PROHIBITING THE DRILLING FOR OIL AND GAS WITHIN THE CITY LIMITS, AND REPEALING AND REPLACING EXISTING CHAPTER 5, ARTICLE 3 OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF LIBERAL, KANSAS".

- City Manager Hall noted this is the second reading of an ordinance which would ban the drilling and exploration of oil and gas within the City limits. He advised this would grandfather existing wells inside the City limits and would allow for directional or horizontal drilling of those reserves lying under the City.
- Mr. Hall advised this issue has become an issue across the United States and creates contamination and other health issues, as well as the hazard created by increased use of fracking.

Commissioner Warren moved to approve Ordinance No. 4446, as presented. Vice Mayor Aragon seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

8. First Reading of Ordinance No. 4447 - Amending Chapter 3, Article 1 of the Code of the City of Liberal, Kansas.

Mayor Denoyer requested Commission consideration of the first reading of Ordinance No. 4447, entitled, "AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 3, ARTICLE 1 OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF LIBERAL, KANSAS".

- City Manager Hall reported this is the final reading of an ordinance that will bring the City's regulations to State standards regarding the consumption of beer and alcohol on the premises. He noted the City's regulations prohibit consumption of beer and alcohol within 200' of property lines for schools, churches, libraries and hospitals; however, the State law is 200' from building to building, and this ordinance will correct the measurement to read 200' from building to building.
- Mr. Hall indicated he had received no concerns from the public since the last meeting.

Commissioner Harrison moved to approve Ordinance No. 4447, as presented. Commissioner Willimon seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

9. First and Final Reading of Ordinance No. 4448 – Amending Chapter 15, Article 1, Section 15-135 and Exhibit C, Section C-1506 of the Code of the City of Liberal, Kansas, pertaining to Water Billing.

Mayor Denoyer requested Commission consideration of the first and final reading of Ordinance No. 4448, entitled, “AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER XV, ARTICLE I, SECTION 15-135 AND EXHIBIT C, SECTION C-1506 OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF LIBERAL, KANSAS”.

- Finance Director Ford advised this has to do with the water billing procedures and also affects sewer and trash billing as they appear on the water bill. He explained the City utilizes the bulk mailing rate for a cost savings to customers and recently it was found that the bulk mail is held in Amarillo for three to five days before it is processed and in many cases the customer receives the bill just before the date.
- Mr. Ford advised the City Code states there is a 15 day period between the date the bill is generated until the bill is due. He noted the proposed ordinance would change this to 20 days in order to give the customers plenty of time to pay the bill in a timely manner and would go into effect for the first billing of the year.
- City Clerk Giskie advised the Mayor has executed the letter declaring this an emergency and waiving the first reading.

Commissioner Willimon moved to approve Ordinance No. 4448, as presented, with Vice Mayor Aragon.

10. CITY MANAGER’S REPORT.

City Manager Hall reported the year is starting out to be a busy year and he anticipated it be a great year. He reported the State of City address is being planned for February. Mr. Hall advised the Mayor would give a report on the history making sales tax collections for 2014 later in the meeting.

- City Manager Hall noted our community is growing and thanked the departments for their efforts to make our community a city of choice to live.

11. ITEMS FROM COMMISSIONERS.

Commissioner Warren advised he went by the ball fields and saw there was a lot going on there as well as all over town. He noted it should be an interesting year and thanked City staff for all the hard work to keep things running smoothly.

Commissioner Willimon advised she was proud to receive the certificate of appreciation from the police department. She also noted she was part of the committee involved in putting on the Pancake Day parade and encouraged the public to consider entering a float in the parade scheduled to kick off the Pancake Day activities on Saturday, February 14 at 3:00 p.m. *Commissioner Harrison* thanked City staff and the employees for everything they do, especially in the cold weather.

Vice Mayor Aragon expressed pride in the City employees for all they do to make things happen especially working in the cold weather. He also thanked the police department of the certificate and thanked them for all they do.

Mayor Denoyer advised he was proud to see the employees working in the cold weather. He also asked that the public treat member so the police department with respect while they are out protecting the citizens of Liberal.

- Mayor Denoyer advised that during budget sessions, the sales tax income is estimated at \$3.5 million and some years it has been less. He reported in 2014 more than \$445 million was

collected in sales in the Liberal which resulted in \$4.4 million in sales tax earnings or almost a million dollars over the estimate. He thanked the local businesses and community for shopping locally.

- Mayor Denoyer advised 2015 will be an exciting year as a result of planning made by this and prior commissions to make these things happen. He encouraged those up for re-election to get back in.

12. VOUCHERS.

\$732,102.20, dated January 13, 2015. *Commissioner Warren moved to approve the vouchers, as presented, with Commissioner Willimon seconding the motion. The motion passed unanimously.*

The meeting was adjourned by motion of Commissioner Harrison.

Joe Denoyer, Mayor

ATTEST:

Debra S. Giskie, CMC, City Clerk