

THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE LIBERAL CITY COMMISSION

October 9, 2012

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, October 9, 2012.

Commissioners Present: Mayor Tim Long, Vice Mayor Joe Denoyer, Dave Harrison Larry Koochel and Janet Willimon.

City Staff Present: City Manager Mark Hall, Public Works Director Joe Sealey, Finance Director Chris Ford, City Clerk Debbie Giskie, Human Resources Director Sheena Schmutz, Housing & Community Development Director Karen LaFreniere, and City Attorney Shirla McQueen.

Mayor Long declared the meeting called to order, and City Clerk Giskie read the roll call declaring a quorum present. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited, and the invocation was given by Joe Sealey.

1. Awards/Proclamations/Presentations.

Mayor Long presented Olga Cisneros with a proclamation designating the month of September 15 to October 15, 2012 as National Hispanic Heritage Month.

- Ms. Cisneros thanked the Commission for the proclamation and introduced several representatives of the community, including Crystal Tiscareno, Liberal's first Miss Hispanic Heritage Queen.

2. Approval of Agenda.

- Mayor Long requested approval of the agenda.

Commissioner Koochel moved to approve the agenda, as presented, with Vice Mayor Denoyer seconding the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

3. Approval of Minutes.

Vice Mayor Denoyer moved to approve the minutes of the September 25, 2012 regular meeting, as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Willimon and carried unanimously.

4. Items from Citizens.

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

- Joe Sealey appeared on behalf of City traffic employee Raymond McVey, who wanted to express his appreciation on how quickly the emergency departments responded to his recent accident at Fourth & Kansas. He noted Ray is recovering at home.

5. Items from Groups.

Mayor Long 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.

a. Acknowledge Receipt of Minutes:

1. Diversity Council, August 7, 2012.
2. Liberal Memorial Library, September 18, 2012.
3. Liberal Convention & Tourism Board, September 20, 2012.

b. Approval of Airport Lease Renewals

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|----|---------|------------------------|------------|--------|
| 1. | # 6.00 | Anadarko Petroleum | \$6,501.00 | 1 year |
| 2. | # 34.02 | Gary Classen | \$ 633.60 | 1 year |
| 3. | # 91.02 | Schartz Energy, Inc. | \$3,423.25 | 1 year |
| 4. | #112.01 | Bill Campbell | \$1,009.80 | 1 year |
| 5. | #122.02 | L & D Oilfield Service | \$1,220.08 | 1 year |
| 6. | #183.01 | Merit Energy Company | \$3,277.97 | 1 year |

- Mayor Long inquired if the Commission wished to remove any items for further discussion. *Vice Mayor Denoyer moved to approve the Consent Agenda, as presented, with Commissioner Willimon seconding the motion. The motion carried unanimously.*

7. Resolution No. 2161 – Authorizing filing of KDHE loan application for WWTP Rehab.

Mayor Long requested Commission consideration of Resolution No. 2161, entitled, "A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE FILING OF AN APPLICATION WITH THE KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT FOR A LOAN UNDER THE KANSAS WATER POLLUTION CONTROL REVOLVING FUND ACT (K.S.A. 1988 SUPP. 65-3321 THROUGH 65-3329)".

- Public Works Director Sealey reported this resolution is part of the application process required by KDHE for the wastewater treatment plant rehabilitation loan application. *Commissioner Koochel moved to adopt Resolution No. 2161, as presented, with Commissioner Willimon seconding the motion. The motion carried unanimously.*

8. Proposed Sale of Lot – Housing Department.

- Housing & Community Development Director LaFreniere noted the vacant lot known as 604 East Spruce, which was acquired with the Prairie Breeze lots, is a small unbuildable lot that was advertised for sale in March 2010. She explained no one was interested at that time; however, she was recently approached by self-help homeowner, Fernando Lopez that lives at 600 East Spruce who wishes to purchase the lot for \$1,500.

Commissioner Koochel moved to sell the lot known as 604 East Spruce to Fernando Lopez for \$1,500, as presented, with Vice Mayor Denoyer seconding the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

9. West Fifteenth Street Improvement Project.

- Public Works Director Sealey referred to the results of the bid opening for the West Fifteenth Street Improvement Project. He noted the project was advertised, with one bid received from J & R Sand at \$657,440.17, which was \$73,000 below the engineer's estimate. Mr. Sealey reported the project would go to the alley on the east side of the Cemetery entrance.
- Additional questions were asked how the project would impact the Cemetery entrance. Mr. Sealey advised City staff would address this prior to the start of the project.

Commissioner Koochel moved to accept the bid of J & R Sand in the amount of \$657,440.17 and authorize the transfer of sales tax monies for this project. The motion was seconded by Vice Mayor Denoyer and carried unanimously.

10. Storm Siren Replacement – Seward County Emergency Management.

- Seward County Emergency Preparedness Director Greg Standard appeared before the Commission to discuss a project they have been working on for the past three years. He explained federal funds are available for replacement of 30 year old tornado sirens and the intent is to replace them with sirens that have a battery backup to ensure operation during periods of power outage.
- He advised the local match is 50% which historically has been split equally between the City and County for a total of \$18,000 to each entity. He noted the County would take care of the maintenance and upkeep of the sirens, including battery replacement every 5 to 7 years.

Commissioner Harrison moved to approve the storm siren project for a total of \$18,000, as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Willimon and carried unanimously.

11. SKC Lobbyist Agreement.

- City Manager Hall referred to the Agreement for professional services with Pinegar, Smith & Associates, Inc. for the cities of Dodge City, Garden City and Liberal. He noted the cost of the one-year contract has increased due to travel expenses and will be payable upon receipt for a total of \$36,600 to be divided equally between the cities, or \$12,166.67 per year. Discussion was held on issues affecting southwest Kansas and the importance of having the lobbyist services when considering the changes being faced as a result of the upcoming November election.

Commissioner Harrison moved to enter into the Agreement with Dodge City and Garden City for lobbyist services with Pinegar Smith & Associates, as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Koochel and carried unanimously.

12. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT.

- City Manager Hall reported City staff is working very hard preparing for the colder weather and he expressed his appreciation for their efforts.

13. ITEMS FROM COMMISSIONERS.

Commissioner Willimon commended City staff for their efforts in making Liberal a great place. She explained that she is proud to be a part of the energy being generated in the growth and progress of Liberal and the CID program is good for competition.

Vice Mayor Denoyer advised while attending League meetings for the past three years, he has heard what other communities are facing due to the economy, such as increased mill levies and laying off employees. He reported we live in a great town where we have numerous long-term employees and we are seeing growth and cleaning up the community.

- Vice Mayor Denoyer noted the League regional dinner will fall on the night of our next regular commission meeting and that he is researching what can be done so commissioners can attend the dinner.

Commissioner Koochel advised he has observed the busses around town and that many people are taking advantage of the professional operation. He thanked Chief Sill for providing a copy of the police department's citizen complaint process.

Commissioner Harrison also thanked Chief Sill for the policy on the complaint process. He thanked City staff for attending the KDOT meeting in Dodge City and HR Director Schmutz for the article in the *LKM Government Journal* on the Blue Bonnet Park painted tree. He also commented Vice Mayor for his participation on the League governing body and Mayor Long for his participation in meetings with the Coalition.

- Commissioner Harrison expressed appreciation for the efforts of all City staff and departments.

Mayor Long reported the City Commission will attend a dinner meeting at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, October 15 at SCCC.

- Mayor Long thanked City staff for all they do from department heads to each employee and noted he gets compliments on how nice our community looks. He noted their efforts are noticed and each person makes a difference. He also thanked all the commission for their involvement in the community.
- He noted he has received a number of comments about the bus system and it is neat to see people waiting for a ride at the bus stops. Mayor Long noted the CID program makes Liberal a better place and is a sign that Liberal is going in the right direction.

14. VOUCHERS.

\$721,185.06, dated October 9, 2012. *Commissioner Koochel moved to approve the vouchers, as presented, with Commissioner Willimon seconding the motion. The motion passed unanimously.*

The meeting was adjourned by motion of Vice Mayor Denoyer.

Tim Long, Mayor

ATTEST:

Debra S. Giskie, CMC, City Clerk