

THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE LIBERAL CITY COMMISSION

February 23 2016

The regular meeting of the Liberal City Commission was held at 5:30 p.m. in the Commission Chambers located at 325 North Washington on Tuesday, February 23, 2016.

Commissioners Present: Mayor Joe Denoyer, Vice Mayor Dean Aragon, Jack Carlile, Dave Harrison and Tony Martinez.

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, Building Inspector/Zoning Administrator Kevin Kirk, Code Enforcement Officer Albert Gallegos, Chief of Police Al Sill and Legal Counsel Kerry McQueen.

Mayor Denoyer 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 Dr. Jack Jacob of the First Southern Baptist Church.

1. Awards/Proclamations/Presentations. *Mayor Denoyer presented Royce Kitts and Elizabeth Rankin with a proclamation designating March as National Nutrition Month.*

Ms. Rankin invited the public to attend the 13th Annual Children's Healthy Fun Fair scheduled for March 5th at the Ag Building. She noted there would be a lot of fun activities, prizes and games to show healthy ways of living and good nutrition.

2. Approval of Agenda.

Mayor Denoyer requested approval of the agenda.

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

3. Approval of Minutes.

Commissioner Carlile moved to approve the minutes of the February 9, 2016 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. *No items were presented.*

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:

a. Acknowledge Receipt of Minutes:

1. Liberal Planning & Zoning Board, January 14, 2016.
2. Liberal Housing Authority, January 19, 2016.

Mayor Denoyer inquired if the Commission wished to remove any items for further discussion.

Commissioner Harrison moved to approve the Consent Agenda, as presented, with Commissioner Carlile seconding the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

7. Adolescent Support Service:

A. Truancy Program.

Adolescent Support Services Director Ivanhoe Love, Jr. reviewed the history and philosophy of the Truancy Program and noted the number of truants has declined since the program began. He thanked the Commission for their support of the program and requested funding the program at its current rate. He introduced truancy officers Sarah Rogers and Monica Arredondo who reviewed their cases and the schools they serve. They introduced students from their programs who spoke of their challenges and success.

Commissioner Carlile moved to fund the City's portion of the Adolescent Support Services Truancy Program in the amount of \$53,666, as presented, with Vice Mayor Aragon seconding the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

- The Commission wished the students well and encouraged them to stay on track.

B. Teen Court.

Adolescent Support Services Director Love noted this program has taken off this school year and explained the process followed for non-felony or violent crimes. He introduced Shawna Polk who trained the students to be judges, attorney's, jury and bailiff and noted this gives them a second chance to improve their education.

- Ms. Polk explained the process of receiving a case from the county attorney's office through the Teen Court process and how it has surprised her at how they take this seriously and the hold their classmates responsible. She introduced three students who are taking the course this year and they spoke of their experiences.
- Mayor Denoyer was pleased that they are holding the students accountable with their punishment.
- Legal Counsel McQueen advised he was very impressed with how these young people told their story and knew the process.
- Vice Mayor Aragon advised he was pleased that City funds helped make this happen and noted it was very important that we get a return on the investment.

Commissioner Carlile moved to fund the City's portion of the Adolescent Support Services Teen Court Program in the amount of \$20,686, as presented, with Commissioner Martinez seconding the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

8. Resolution No. 2226 - vehicle abatements.

Mayor Denoyer requested Commission consideration of Resolution No. 2226, entitled, "A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE REMOVAL OF MOTOR VEHICLE NUISANCES FROM CERTAIN PROPERTIES IN THE CITY OF LIBERAL, KANSAS, PURSUANT TO SECTION 8-510 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF LIBERAL, KANSAS".

- Code Enforcement Officer Gallegos referred to the resolution and photographs of vehicle abatements located at mobile home parks throughout the community.
- Commissioner Carlile questioned if City staff goes to other places other than the mobile home parks. It was noted this is the annual mobile home park inspections.

Commissioner Harrison moved to adopt Resolution No. 2226, as presented, with Vice Mayor Aragon seconding the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

9. Resolution No. 2227 - Environmental Abatements.

Mayor Denoyer requested Commission consideration of Resolution No. 2227, entitled, "A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ABATEMENT OF CONDITIONS WHICH ARE INJURIOUS TO THE HEALTH, SAFETY AND GENERAL WELFARE OF THE RESIDENTS IN THE CITY OF LIBERAL, KANSAS, PURSUANT TO SECTION 8-210 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF LIBERAL, KANSAS".

- Code Enforcement Officer Gallegos referred to the resolution and photographs abatement of conditions found at the mobile home parks throughout the community.

Commissioner Carlile moved to adopt Resolution No. 2227, as presented, with Commissioner Harrison seconding the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

10. Resolution No. 2228 - vehicle abatements.

Mayor Denoyer requested Commission consideration of Resolution No. 2228, entitled, "A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE REMOVAL OF MOTOR VEHICLE NUISANCES FROM CERTAIN PROPERTIES IN THE CITY OF LIBERAL, KANSAS, PURSUANT TO SECTION 8-510 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF LIBERAL, KANSAS".

- Code Enforcement Officer Gallegos referred to the resolution and photographs of vehicles located at three locations.

Commissioner Carlile moved to adopt Resolution No. 2228, as presented, with Commissioner Martinez seconding the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

11. Resolution No. 2229 - Environmental Abatements.

Mayor Denoyer requested Commission consideration of Resolution No. 2229, entitled, "A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ABATEMENT OF CONDITIONS WHICH ARE INJURIOUS TO THE HEALTH, SAFETY AND GENERAL WELFARE OF THE RESIDENT SO THE CITY OF LIBERAL, KANSAS, PURSUANT TO SECTION 8-210 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF LIBERAL, KANSAS".

- Code Enforcement Officer Gallegos referred to the resolution and photographs of conditions that exist at 719 South Oklahoma.
- Commissioner Harrison advised the Commission wants to go on notice that they will be moving forward with cleanup of the community and City staff will be bringing properties in violation to the Commission for further action.
- Commissioner Martinez expressed appreciation to City staff for following up on a call he made.

Commissioner Carlile moved to adopt Resolution No. 2229, as presented, with Commissioner Harrison seconding the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

12. Arkalon Council - Board Appointment

- City Clerk Giskie advised the Arkalon Council has three vacant positions as a result of two terms expiring at the end of last year and also due to Pete Olson resigning and moving out of State. She noted the Board met earlier in the month and reviewed the resumes in the packet.

Commissioner Harrison moved to appoint Nick Schwindt and Tracy Gutierrez to four year terms ending December 31, 2019 and to appoint Tom Willis to fill the unexpired term ending December 31, 2016. Vice Mayor Aragon seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

13. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT.

City Manager Hall reported the traffic safety committee discussed the school zone lights on 15th Street and determined that no action will be taken until the conditions and changes are made with the school system and then it will be reviewed at that time.

- City Manager Hall also reported the committee reviewed the 15th & Pershing intersection at the hospital entrance. He explained they are looking at different alternatives and they will continue discussion to solve this issue. Chief Sill noted there have been 17 accidents at this intersection since 2011.
- Mr. Hall advised the traffic safety committee would be addressing the changes to the schools for the next couple of years and would provide updates about what they are working on. He noted child safety is their first concern.
- City Manager Hall thanked City staff for their efforts and reported they are addressing the weed situation and mosquito issue in order to get ahead of the game in the event we have another wet year. He noted they are doing great things and preparing for the summer months.
- Mr. Hall advised the ball fields are changing everyday as we had complete some drainage and landscaping issues. Mr. Hall advised high school season begins on Monday.
- Commissioner Martinez requested consideration be given to putting a crosswalk by the South Fire Station in the vicinity of the apartments for those wanting to cross the street to go the Leete Family Park or walk along Pine Street.
- Mayor Denoyer questioned the status of the batting cages. Mr. Hall advised they received some damage from the ice and they weren't insured. He advised a request for funding assistance is being made.
- Mayor Denoyer noted we are a couple weeks into the reorganization and questioned the status of the riffraff at the golf course. Mr. Hall advised City staff has already started has started on removing the materials and are approximately one-third finished.

14. ITEMS FROM COMMISSIONERS.

Commissioner Martinez advised he went with Debbie and Jeff Parsons last Tuesday to the Denver area to visit with some airlines for the upcoming EAS bid process. He also noted it is getting dry outside and people would like to water their lawns and he has been approached about ending the sewer rate evaluation period early.

- Finance Director Ford explained the sewer rate evaluation period would end on March 14, however, the if the Commission opted to end it early, it would retroactively end as of February 14.

Commissioner Martinez moved to end the sewer rate evaluation period effective February 14, 2016. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Carlile and it carried unanimously.

Commissioner Harrison thanked City staff for all they do and commended the Building Department for bringing the resolutions to the meeting tonight. He also commended the police department of the longevity of their personnel and noted that it says something about the officers, the department and Commission's support.

Commissioner Harrison advised the Commission is behind the code enforcement department's efforts and they won't have much tolerance for those who don't care about their property. He advised the time of receiving six months, a year or never to clean up their property is over and penalties will be made to encourage the cleanup. He complimented former City

Commissioner Larry Koochel who always carried this torch during his time and noted he intends to keep this going.

Commissioner Carlile thanked City staff for all they do and expressed appreciation to Commissioner Martinez for going to Denver to visit with some airlines.

Vice Mayor Aragon expressed appreciation to City staff and all the departments for their efforts and thanked the Police Department for being firm and consistent with everyone.

Mayor Denoyer thanked City staff and the new leadership and noted things will be difference and the Commission stands behind them.

Mayor Denoyer addressed the social media and asked the public to realize there are two sides of the story to every situation. He noted when you visit with people that you believe in, then we will stand behind them. He thanked his fellow Commissioners and noted it is not an easy job to just stand the course.

15. VOUCHERS.

\$791,581.76, dated February 23, 2016. *Vice Mayor Aragon moved to approve the vouchers, as presented, with Commissioner Martinez 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