

THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE LIBERAL CITY COMMISSION

May 8, 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, May 8, 2012.

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

City Staff Present: City Manager Mark Hall, Finance Director Chris Ford, City Clerk Debbie Giskie, Human Resources Director Sheena Schmutz, Building Inspector/Zoning Administrator Kory Krause, Police Chief Al Sill, Liberal Convention & Tourism Bureau Director Sally Fuller and representatives JoAnn Combs and Cindy Gilmore, and City Attorney Shirla McQueen.

Vice 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 Vice Mayor Denoyer.

1. Awards/Proclamations/Presentations. *Vice Mayor Denoyer presented a retirement plaque to Elvis Gibbons, Jr. who provided nine successful years of service to the City of Liberal as a sanitation driver in the Solid Waste Department. Mr. Gibbons expressed appreciation to the City.*

2. Approval of Agenda. Vice Mayor Denoyer requested approval of the agenda. *Commissioner Koochel moved to approve the agenda, as presented, with Commissioner Harrison seconding the motion. The motion carried by a vote of 4 to 0, with Mayor Long absent.*

3. Approval of Minutes. *Commissioner Harrison moved to approve the minutes of the April 24, 2012 regular meeting, as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Koochel and carried by a vote of 4 to 0, with Mayor Long absent.*

4. Items from Citizens. Vice 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. Vice 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. Arkalon Council, April 5, 2012 and April 19, 2012 Special Meeting (drafts).
 2. Liberal Housing Authority, March 14, 2012.
 3. Liberal Memorial Library, April 17, 2012.
- Commissioner Willimon asked to discuss the Arkalon Council minutes.

Commissioner Koochel moved to remove 6(a)(1) Arkalon Council minutes from the consent agenda for further discussion. Commissioner Harrison seconded the motion. The motion carried by a 4 to 0 vote, with Mayor Long absent.

Commissioner Koochel moved to approve Consent Agenda items 6(a)(2 and 3), as presented, with Commissioner Harrison seconding. The motion carried by a vote of 4 to 0, with Mayor Long absent.

Commissioner Willimon asked for discussion or feedback on the Arkalon Council's decision to deny the Flatlanders Archery Club request to hold 3-D Shoots at the Arkalon Park.

- Commissioner Harrison noted he was not familiar with what a 3-D Shoot is and pointed out the City Commission appoints a board to make decisions with the best interest of the City in mind. He suggesting asking the Board to revisit the issue and explain the reason for their decision and that he would be willing to attend their next meeting. Commissioner Willimon advised she would also attend their meeting.
- Discussion was held on utilizing the Park to its fullest potential, acknowledging the Board's efforts to create a family park and protect the wildlife, as well as support for the Board.
- Commissioner Koochel advised we need find an area for the Archery Club that will make both the City and the Club happy.
- Kelly Hill, representing the Flatlanders Archery Club, explained the Club approached the Board as a fact finding mission to determine the feasibility of holding shoots in a wilderness setting such as the Arkalon Park. He indicated the Club would be happy to attend the Arkalon Council meeting to discuss this issue further.
- Commissioner Harrison asked that Debbie put this on the next regular meeting agenda for the Arkalon Council.

The Commission thanked Mr. Hill for coming.

Commissioner Harrison moved to approve Consent Agenda 6(a)(1), as presented, with Commissioner Willimon seconding the motion. The motion carried by a vote of 4 to 0, with Mayor Long absent.

7. Final Reading of Ordinance No. 4004 – Vacating Property.

Vice Mayor Denoyer requested Commission consideration of the final reading of Ordinance No. 4004, entitled, "AN ORDINANCE VACATING THE FORTY-FIVE FOOT (45') PARCEL SEPARATING LOTS 16, 17, 24, 25 AND 32 FROM LOTS 15, 18, 23, 26 AND 31 OF THE MID AMERICA FIRST ADDITION TO THE CITY OF LIBERAL, SEWARD COUNTY, KANSAS".

Zoning Administrator Krause advised this is the second and final reading of an ordinance vacating a 45' parcel of land in Mid America First Addition. He noted since the first reading of the ordinance, his office has not received any comments or concerns from the public. He noted the parcel has not been used as an alley or utility easement and the Planning Commission is recommending approval.

Commissioner Koochel moved to adopt Ordinance No. 4004, as recommended, with Commissioner Harrison seconding the motion. The motion carried by a vote of 4 to 0, with Mayor Long absent.

8. Liberal Memorial Library Board Appointment.

City Manager Hall referred to the Library Board recommendation to appoint Catherine Corn to the Library Board for a 4-year term to begin in June and end in May 2016.

Commissioner Harrison moved to appoint Catherine Corn to the Library Board for a 4-year term beginning June 2012 and ending May 2016, as recommended. Commissioner Koochel seconded the motion, which carried by a vote of 4 to 0, with Mayor Long absent.

9. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT.

City Manager Hall asked that CVB representatives Sally Fuller, JoAnn Combs and Cindy Gilmore, organizers of the 2012 Kansas Sampler Festival, come forward to present the results of this past weekend's activities.

- CVB Director Fuller advised that even though they were the organizers of the event, they could not have done it without the help of City Manager Hall and the rest of the City staff. She noted the preliminary count shows about 5,500 people attended the two-day festival this year, even though it was hot on Saturday and cold on Sunday.
- She indicated many e-mails flooded in today from the vendors saying how impressed they were with Liberal, how wonderful it was and how they can't wait to come back next year. She thanked the Commission for their support and CVB noted couldn't have done it without all of them.
- Commissioner Koochel advised he was part of the committee and that he was surprised about how many details had to be addressed and that he received many compliments from participants on City staff and the community. He complimented Sally, JoAnn and Cindy for putting together a well-organized event that was a very positive thing for the community.
- Commissioner Harrison also complimented Sally, JoAnn and Cindy for putting together a professional event and said he received many compliments from people attending it on how wonderful it was and that they would be back again next year. He also thanked all the City staff members for their support of the event.
- Commissioner Willimon congratulated Sally, JoAnn and Cindy for doing a fabulous job and how proud she was to be a part of it. She thanked City Manager Hall for getting the welcome banners up in the community.
- Vice Mayor Denoyer noted the preparation of the Kansas Sampler Festival started years ago with City staff attending many of the festivals with the hope of getting the festival to Liberal someday. He commended the many volunteers, City staff, fellow Commissioners and the citizens for helping make Liberal shine over the weekend. He especially thanked Sally, JoAnn and Cindy for everything they did.
- City Manager Hall noted the Kansas Sampler Festival has given Liberal the opportunity to show who we are to the entire State. He told Sally, JoAnn and Cindy this was truly a success from the day Liberal was given the opportunity and encouraged them to be proud of what they have accomplished and know that the City Commission and 230 City employees are proud of them. The Commission, City staff and audience applauded their efforts!
- Mr. Hall reported the sales tax collection is up about 5% over last year which was our third highest year. He noted this is a sign of progress. He expressed appreciation to all the City staff and employees for their help in holding a fun Sampler Festival that we look forward to next year.

10. ITEMS FROM COMMISSIONERS.

Commissioner Koochel advised it took a lot of people to make the Kansas Sampler Festival and it also took some equipment. He thanked local businesses for loaning 4-wheel vehicles for

assistance during the Sampler Festival including Keating Tractor, Trailers and Trails, USD 480, Seward County Community College/ATS and Seward County.

Commissioner Harrison noted the Cinco de Mayo celebration was well attended and enjoyed. He also reminded the public of the Yellow Brick Road Car Show going on this weekend.

Commissioner Willimon thanked City staff for all their hard work and advised there were many positive things happening in the community.

Vice Mayor Denoyer commended the members of the Cinco de Mayo committee for holding a successful event on Saturday and Sunday. He also pointed there are many things happening in the community such as the car show, the OK Kids events at Meade State Lake, SCCC/ATS graduation this weekend and Liberal High School graduation next weekend.

Mayor Long was absent.

11. VOUCHERS.

\$466,157.60, dated May 8, 2012. *Commissioner Koochel* moved to approve the vouchers, as presented, with *Commissioner Willimon* seconding the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 4 to 0, with *Mayor Long* absent.

The meeting was adjourned by motion of Commissioner Koochel.

Joe Denoyer, Vice Mayor

ATTEST:

Debra S. Giskie, CMC, City Clerk