

CITY COUNCIL
DECEMBER 6, 2021
7:00 P.M.

The Council of the City of Augusta, Kansas met in regular session on December 6, 2021, with Mayor Mike Rawlings presiding. Council present were Eric Birk, Mike Huddleston, Bob Bailey, Tom Leffler, Kip Richardson, Ron Reavis and Bill Slade. Councilman Jake Marr was absent. Also present: City Attorney Andrew Marino, City Manager Josh Shaw, Assistant City Manager Cody Sims and City Clerk Erica Jones. Staff Present: Interim Director of Public Safety Ray Marbut, Susan Smith and Latasha Harder. Visitors: Pastor Paul Andrews, Paul Belt, Connie Thurman, Jamie Barton, Katherine Wallace, Monica McClure, John Pilcher, Nancy Olson, Jamie Barton and Priscilla Templin.

Pledge of Allegiance

Prayer: Pastor Paul Andrews, Freedom Church, gave the invocation.

Minutes: Richardson made a motion to approve the minutes from the November 15, 2021 City Council meeting and November 18, 2021 Special Meeting. Slade seconded the motion. Motion carried without opposition.

Ordinance: Reavis made a motion to approve Ordinance #11A dated 11/24/2021. Slade seconded the motion. Motion carried without opposition.

Visitor:

Katherine Wallace and Monica McClure, representing Flatwater Fitness & Fun, were in attendance to present the Augusta Department of Public Safety with a donation of \$1,000 from the proceeds of their 2021 Paddle to Gravel event.

Jamie Barton, representing the Isabella Weldin Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, was in attendance to request the liability insurance requirement be waived for the Wreaths Across America event scheduled for December 18, 2021 and annually moving forward and to be able to install temporary banners on the cemetery property to announce the event. Leffler made a motion to waive the liability insurance requirement for Wreaths Across America, VFW/American Legion and Memorial Day ceremony. Richardson seconded the motion. Huddleston made a motion to call the question. Motion to call the question failed due to lack of a second. Motion to waive the liability insurance requirement carried without opposition.

Leffler made a motion to allow Wreaths Across America to place a banner in front of the mausoleum and along 12th Street annually during the months of November and December. Bailey seconded the motion. Motion carried without opposition.

Elmwood Cemetery Sexton Latasha Harder requested that the VFW be required to provide a schedule for their Memorial Day activities. Shaw recommended they be required to complete the event form annually to lay out the schedule for their event and to waive the insurance requirement for their event. Council consensus was to require the VFW to complete the annual event form for their Memorial Day event and the set up time frame and to continue to waive the liability insurance requirement for their event.

Business:

Conduct a Public Hearing to Take Input and Comment on the Proposed 2021 Budget Amendments: Council conducted a public hearing to take input and comment on the proposed amendments to the 2021 Budget and consider approval of the proposed 2021 Budget Amendments. Mayor Rawlings closed the public hearing after no comment was received.

Reavis made a motion to approve the proposed amendments to the 2021 Budget. Leffler seconded the motion. Motion carried without opposition.

2022 Special Alcohol Grant Program Applications: Leffler made a motion to approve the ad hoc committee's award recommendations for the 2022 Special Alcohol Grant Program: Augusta USD No. 402 \$3,350, Bright Futures Augusta \$1,640, Core Community Augusta \$3,350, Family Life Center (SAFEHOUSE) \$3,350, and Tri-County CASA \$3,350 for a total of \$15,040. Slade seconded the motion. Motion carried without opposition.

2022 Utility Abatement Program Applications: Paul Belt, representing Twisted Oz Motorcycle Museum, provided an update on the organization.

Connie Thurman, representing the Augusta Arts Council, provided an update on the organization.

John Pilcher and Nancy Olson, representing the Augusta Community Caring Center, provided an update on their organization.

Reavis made a motion to approve of the ad hoc committee's recommendation for the 2022 Utility Abatement Program; Augusta Arts Council \$14,000, Augusta Community Caring Center \$9,000, Augusta Girls Softball free service, Augusta Historical Society and Museum \$7,000, Augusta Senior Center \$5,000, Kansas Museum of Military History \$1,750, Mid-Kansas Community Action Program \$8,000, and Twisted Oz Motorcycle Museum \$15,000, for a total of \$59,750. Slade seconded the motion. Motion carried without opposition.

Emergency Water Supply Plan Update 2021: Leffler made a motion approve the newest version of the Emergency Water Supply Plan as required by KDHE and K.A.R. 28-15-18(c). Huddleston seconded the motion. Motion carried without opposition.

Appointment to the Butler County Solid Waste Management Planning Committee: Richardson made a motion to approve appointing Street/Solid Waste Superintendent Anthony Craft to the Butler County Solid Waste Management Planning Committee. Bailey seconded the motion. Motion carried without opposition.

Matters From/For Council and Informational Memorandum:

Huddleston: Huddleston stated there has been a lot of discussion about North Ohio Street, but one of the things that help deteriorate streets the most has to do with the weight of the traffic. He stated there are still a lot of large trucks, specifically cattle trucks and trucks hauling rock that he sees going up and down Ohio as he lives on that street. He stated he rarely sees them pulled over by Public Safety. Huddleston stated he is especially concerned about the damage those trucks will cause on the new street when the project is complete. He stated he would like to see more enforcement of the truck traffic along Ohio. Sims stated he has ordered signage related to truck traffic to place along Ohio and before reaching the city limits that is much larger and more noticeable to divert the trucks around Augusta. Sims stated once those signs go up the next step will be enforcement of the truck traffic regulations. Leffler stated that one problem they have when ticketing the drivers is that their

employers feel it is cheaper to pay the fine rather than taking more time to go around Augusta. He stated we should look at the fines to see if they need adjusted. Shaw stated he saw a cattle truck pulled over on Frisco recently.

Huddleston stated that bats are a real nuisance downtown. He believes they are worse than cats. He suggested the animal control officer do some research about how to address the bat problem. Huddleston stated that the property owners would probably be willing to do something with them if they had some help identifying what to do. Connie Thurman stated the Arts Council is paying \$3,500 to have their building treated and that will only come with a 1 year guarantee.

Executive Session:

At 8:13 p.m. Richardson made a motion to go into executive session for 30 minutes to discuss an individual employee's performance to conduct the City Manager's annual evaluation pursuant to the non-elected personnel matter exception under the Kansas Open Meetings Act, K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(1), and to ask City Manager Josh Shaw to join the Council in executive session. The open meeting will resume in the City Council chambers at 8:43 p.m. Leffler seconded the motion. Motion carried without opposition.

At 8:43 p.m. Richardson made a motion to exit executive session where no action was taken. Leffler seconded the motion. Motion carried without opposition.

Adjourn: At 8:44 p.m., Richardson made a motion to adjourn. Slade seconded the motion. Motion carried without opposition.

City Clerk