

CITY COUNCIL
DECEMBER 18, 2023
7:00 P.M.

The Council of the City of Augusta, Kansas met in regular session on December 18, 2023, with Mayor Mike Rawlings presiding. Council present were Mike Martin, Eric Birk, Tom Leffler, Jeff Brown, and Ron Reavis. Council members Bob Bailey, Kip Richardson, and Mike Huddleston were absent. Also present: City Attorney Andrew Marino, City Manager Josh Shaw, Assistant City Manager Kamme Sroufe, and City Clerk/Director of Finance Erica Jones. Staff Present: Director of Public Safety Todd Ackerman, Director of Public Utilities Tim Johnson, Jim Sutton, Ray Seif, Shawna Cortez, and Susan Smith. Visitors: Shawn Davis.

Pledge of Allegiance

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

Minutes: Reavis made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 4, 2023 City Council meeting. Martin seconded the motion. Motion carried without opposition.

Ordinance: Reavis made a motion to approve Ordinance #12 dated December 6, 2023. Brown seconded the motion. Motion carried without opposition.

Business:

Resolution No. 2023-17 Authorizing the City to Utilize Cemetery Endowment Funds for the Micro Surfacing of the Cemetery Roadway in the Old Section of Elmwood Cemetery: Leffler made a motion to approve Resolution 2023-17 authorizing the use of funds in the Cemetery Endowment Fund to pay for the costs associated with laying micro surfacing on the cemetery roadway in the old section of Elmwood Cemetery. Martin seconded the motion. Motion carried without opposition.

Conduct a Public Hearing to Take Input and Comment on the Proposed 2023 Budget Amendment: Staff provided a report on the recommended amendments. Mayor Rawlings opened the public hearing. After no one came forward to speak, Mayor Rawlings closed the public hearing.

Leffler made a motion to approve the proposed amendments to the 2023 Budget. Brown seconded the motion. Motion carried without opposition.

KCC Subgrant Application Letter of Local Funding Commitment for Electric Grid Voltage Conversion and Upgrade: Reavis made a motion to approve a letter confirming the City of Augusta's commitment to providing matching funding for a KCC Subgrant and to authorize staff to submit the grant application to KCC for the 4,160-voltage upgrade project. Brown seconded the motion. Motion carried without opposition.

Augusta Municipal Airport Land Lease Rate Schedule Adoption: Leffler made a motion to approve the Augusta Municipal Airport Advisory Board's recommendation and adopt the Land

Lease Rate schedule, thereby establishing land lease rate baselines for negotiation of new leases for the Augusta Municipal Airport. Brown seconded the motion. Motion carried without opposition.

2024 Cereal Malt Beverage License Renewals: Leffler made a motion to approve the 2024 Cereal Malt Beverage License Renewals for King Buffet, Pizza Hut, Augusta Art's Council and Miller's 5 for sale for consumption on premises and for Joe's Kwik Marts, Wal-Mart, Casey's, Jump Start, Dillons, Comfort Inn & Suites, and Miller's 5 for sale not for consumption on premises. Reavis seconded the motion. Motion carried without opposition.

2023 Write Offs and Collections: Brown made a motion to approve the write off of 27 utility accounts and 1 airport account for a total of \$15,919.17. Martin seconded the motion. Motion carried without opposition.

Matters From/For Council and Informational Memorandum:

City Manager: Shaw reminded everyone that the next two City Council meetings will be on Tuesdays because of recognized holidays for New Year's and Martin Luther King Jr. Day. The first meeting in January will be Tuesday, January 2nd and the second meeting will be Tuesday, January 16th.

Reavis made a motion to allow all current members of the ad hoc committee for City Engineer Review to conclude the process and make recommendation to the City Council. Brown seconded the motion. Motion carried without opposition.

Reavis: Reavis stated at the last meeting he inquired about the old Walmart property. Sroufe stated she has been in contact with the property owner. She stated that property is unique in that it is not open to the public and there are no public access agreements to the lot. She stated the storage containers will be removed in the next couple weeks.

Reavis stated he has really enjoyed his last 6 years on the Council and expressed sincere gratitude to staff and Council past and present that he has worked with. He stated that anything he has asked for has been handled swiftly and professionally. Reavis thanked the voters of ward 4 for allowing him to serve and stated he appreciates the positive and negative comments that he has received, as that tells him the system is working. You can't please everybody, and that is the way democracy works. Reavis stated he is leaving the Council but not Augusta and that he is always willing to answer questions and be helpful.

Martin: Martin stated he had a citizen call him about the road around the lake. He inquired about a plan for the potholes around the lake. Shaw stated they rework it every year and sometimes it is every month depending on the condition of the road. Shaw stated we have put asphalt millings on the road to help keep the dust down. He stated he will discuss it with staff to make sure they are aware of the concerns. Leffler stated the asphalt they put down on the lake road going north was very nice and helpful.

Executive Session:

At 8:10 p.m., Leffler 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, K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(1) and ask that City Manager Josh Shaw join the Council in executive session. The open meeting of the governing body will reconvene in the Council Chambers at 8:40 p.m. Martin seconded the motion. Motion carried without opposition.

At 8:41 p.m., Leffler made a motion to exit executive session where no action was taken. Brown seconded the motion. Motion carried without opposition.

Reavis made a motion to extend City Manager Josh Shaw's contract for one year, to December 31, 2025. Leffler seconded the motion. Motion carried without opposition.

Adjourn: At 8:42 p.m., Leffler made a motion to adjourn. Brown seconded the motion. Motion carried without opposition.

City Clerk