

CITY COUNCIL
SEPTEMBER 5, 2023
7:00 P.M.

The Council of the City of Augusta, Kansas met in regular session on September 5, 2023, with Mayor Mike Rawlings presiding. Council present were Mike Martin, Bob Bailey, Eric Birk, Mike Huddleston, Tom Leffler, Kip Richardson, Jeff Brown, and Ron Reavis. Also present: City Attorney Andrew Marino, City Manager Josh Shaw, and City Clerk/Director of Finance Erica Jones. Staff Present: Director of Public Safety Todd Ackerman, Shawna Cortez, and Susan Smith. Visitors: Pastor Lynn Lamberty, Brandon Terry, Shawn Davis, Jayme Chapin, Lisa Daniels, Myrna Rogers, Gary Rogers, Shelby Smith, Heather Smith, Jeff Bray, Harry Stockwell, Charlene Adams, John Moore, Luella Vance, Beverly Steiner, Jacob Smith and JaLynn Smith.

Pledge of Allegiance

Prayer: Pastor Lynn Lamberty, United Methodist Church, gave the invocation.

Minutes: Richardson made a motion to approve the minutes from the August 21, 2023 City Council meeting. Reavis seconded the motion. Motion carried without opposition.

Ordinance: Reavis made a motion to approve Ordinance #8B dated August 30, 2023 with the removal of the payment to Kansas Paving in the amount of \$188,568.68. Martin seconded the motion. Motion carried without opposition.

Visitors:

Brandon Terry from Augusta High School was present to request that the City Council waive fishing license requirements for Augusta City Lake for students participating in the High School's outdoor activities classes. Reavis made a motion to waive fishing license requirements for Augusta City Lake for students participating in the High School's outdoor activities classes. Huddleston seconded the motion. Motion carried without opposition.

Shawn Davis was present to request approval for an event on September 30, 2023 in the 300 block of State Street. Leffler made a motion to approve the closure of the 300 block of State Street on September 30, 2023 for the A-Town Get Down event. Brown seconded the motion. Motion carried without opposition.

Business:

Conduct Public Hearings to Take Public Input and Comments on the Revenue Neutral Rate and 2024 Proposed Budget: Staff gave a presentation on the revenue neutral rate and proposed 2024 Budget.

Mayor Rawlings opened the public hearing to take input and comment on exceeding the Revenue Neutral Rate.

Gary Rogers, 1135 Euclid, addressed the governing body and spoke against exceeding the Revenue Neutral Rate.

Myrna Rogers, 1135 Euclid, addressed the governing body and spoke about lack of communication from the City to citizens as well as voter apathy in Augusta.

Jeff Bray, 1801 Meadowlake, addressed the governing body and spoke against exceeding the Revenue Neutral Rate.

Shelby Smith, 712 State Street, addressed the governing body and spoke against exceeding the Revenue Neutral Rate.

Mayor Rawlings closed the public hearing.

Leffler made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2023-13 to exceed the Revenue Neutral Rate. Reavis seconded the motion. Roll Call: Huddleston No, Birk Yes, Reavis Yes, Richardson Yes, Bailey Yes, Leffler Yes, Brown Yes, Martin No. Motion carried.

Mayor Rawlings opened the public hearing to take input and comment on the proposed 2024 Budget.

Myrna Rogers, 1135 Euclid, addressed the governing body and spoke against the proposed 2024 Budget and exceeding the Revenue Neutral Rate.

Shelby Smith, 712 State Street, addressed the governing body and spoke against the proposed 2024 Budget and the way the increase was communicated to the taxpayers in mill levy terms instead of dollar amounts.

Mayor Rawlings closed the public hearing.

Leffler made a motion to approve the proposed 2024 Budget. Reavis seconded the motion. Motion carried with Huddleston and Martin voting in opposition.

At 9:01 p.m. Leffler made a motion to take a 10-minute break. Richardson seconded the motion. Motion carried without opposition.

At 9:11 p.m. Richardson made a motion to reconvene the meeting. Leffler seconded the motion. Motion carried without opposition.

Ordinance No. 2226 Establishing the Maximum Property Tax Dollar Amount for the Library Fund and Library Employee Benefit Fund: Richardson made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 2226 establishing the maximum property tax dollar amount for the Library Fund and Library Employee Benefit Fund for the Augusta Public Library of the City of Augusta, Kansas pursuant to the adopted 2024 Budget. Martin seconded the motion. Roll Call: Huddleston No, Birk Yes, Reavis Yes, Richardson Yes, Bailey Yes, Leffler Yes, Brown Yes, Martin Yes. Motion carried.

Amendment No. 1 to Agreement Concerning Township Roads: Leffler made a motion to approve Amendment No. 1 to agreement concerning Augusta Township roads to update responsibilities for repairs and upgrades to Dike Road after the Augusta City Lake Dam project has been completed, at a cost not to exceed \$150,000. Martin seconded the motion. Motion carried without opposition.

Matters From/For Council and Informational Memorandum:

Huddleston: Huddleston asked if the numbers on the animal control officer report in the packet tonight only apply to the clinic. Director Ackerman said it is only the clinic. Huddleston asked if the narrative could be expanded to explain what the animal control officer does each month. Ackerman stated he would look into what can be provided.

Reavis: Reavis asked if the Cemetery Tour meets the regulations of the Cemetery and if not, should they be approving the event. Shaw stated the governing body determines what activities happen in the Cemetery. He stated this event honors the stories of those buried in the cemetery which is different than just walking your dog through the cemetery, and therefore he believes it does meet the regulations.

Richardson: Richardson reminded everyone of the dog swim at the pool from 6-8 p.m. this Thursday. Richardson stated when the traffic light issue went off a few weeks ago and it was reset, it seems to be functioning correctly now.

Bailey: Bailey asked if the Council has to consider Brandon Terry's request to waive the fishing fees for his class every year. Shaw stated that is up to the Council, if you want to make it a routine thing you can make that decision. Council directed staff to draft wording to consider at the next meeting.

Leffler: Leffler thanked Shaw for having the Airport Manager provide a monthly report for the Airport. Leffler stated there will be a car show at the airport this weekend.

Brown: Brown asked when the stop lights were out at Belmont & Ohio, if they went to flashing yellow or if staff set it to yellow. Shaw stated they defaulted to that and when staff reset the breaker they started working. Brown stated that it was confusing for people because a yellow flashing light means proceed with caution but then there was a stop sign.

Brown asked if Public Safety officers help patrol the college football games in El Dorado. He stated he saw one of their vehicles at White Eagle across from the stadium. Ackerman stated we do not.

Brown asked if there is a way that we can partner with the Schools to help senior citizens get set up on their computers or phones with social media, websites, etc. Shaw recommended reaching out to the senior center to see what they think the best way would be to reach those people. Rawlings stated the Library helps with that as well.

Motorcycle Museum Cannonball – Event Request: Shaw stated this event does not happen on public property, but as in the past they requested the City provide trash cans for the event at no cost. Richardson made a motion to approve the request for trash cans at no cost for the Cannonball event. Brown seconded the motion. Motion carried without opposition.

Chickens Discussion/Recap: Staff asked the governing body for clarification on whether or not they want to proceed with the chicken discussion. Birk, Huddleston, and Martin voted in favor of moving forward with chicken discussion while Reavis, Richardson, Bailey, Leffler, and Brown voted against moving forward with the chicken discussion. Director Ackerman stated the animal control staff will start enforcing the ordinance not allowing chickens in the city limits at the first part of October.

Rawlings: Rawlings inquired about the status of the RV at 12th Avenue and Ada Street. Ackerman stated they were cited and instructed to remove it and have not, so now it will have to play out through the court system.

Richardson: Richardson asked staff if it was possible to have 13 months of history printed on the utility bill so customers can compare their current month to the same month last year. Jones stated she would look in to it.

Executive Session:

At 9:51 p.m. Richardson made a motion to go into executive session for 10 minutes to discuss acquisition of real property pursuant to the preliminary discussions of the acquisition of real property exception, K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(6) and to invite in the City Manager Josh Shaw and City Attorney Andrew Marino. The open meeting will resume in the City Council Chambers at 10:01 p.m. Leffler seconded the motion. Motion carried without opposition.

At 10:01p.m. Richardson made a motion to exit executive session where no action was taken. Leffler seconded the motion. Motion carried without opposition.

Adjourn: At 10:01 p.m., Richardson made a motion to adjourn. Birk seconded the motion. Motion carried without opposition.

City Clerk