

CITY COUNCIL
DECEMBER 7, 2020
7:00 P.M.

The Council of the City of Augusta, Kansas met in regular session on December 7, 2020, with Mayor Mike Rawlings presiding. Council present were Eric Birk, Cale Magruder, Jamie Crum, Kip Richardson, Tom Leffler, Ron Reavis and Bill Slade. Councilman Mike Huddleston was absent. Also present: City Manager Josh Shaw, Assistant City Manager Cody Sims and City Clerk Erica Jones. Staff Present: Director of Public Safety Bob Sage, Susan Smith and Susie Geiger. Visitors present were: Bill Morris, Connie Thurman, Les Bond, Howard Ruyle, Nancy Olson and John Pilcher.

Pledge of Allegiance

Prayer: Mayor Rawlings gave the invocation.

Minutes: Richardson made a motion to approve the minutes from the November 16, 2020 Council meeting. Crum seconded the motion. Motion carried without opposition.

Ordinance: Crum made a motion to approve Ordinance 11A dated 11/25/2020. Slade seconded the motion. Motion carried without opposition.

Visitors:

Crum made a motion to approve the request from Freedom Church to use the Kerry Unrein Stage in Garvin Park on Saturday, December 19, 2020 for a concert event. Slade seconded the motion. Motion carried without opposition.

Les Bond, 1515 Washington Lane and Howard Ruyle addressed the governing body about a City easement between their properties. Bond stated that there is a storm water drain and that every spring that area turns in to a river with all the water draining off State Street and Washington Lane. Bond stated that he has been doing a lot of landscaping to try to get it out of his yard but it runs into his garage and last year 4 inches of water got in to his basement. He said the drain opening cannot handle the amount of water that comes down there and he is concerned that with the new parking lot at the Baptist Church it will only get worse. Bond asked the governing body to consider a drain system where the inlet will allow more water volume to go down into the drainage system itself. Sims stated he took a look at it and there is a 42-inch drainage pipe between the two properties. He said he will work with Wastewater Division to put the camera in there to see the routing, sizing and condition of the pipe and if there are capacity issues that are causing a backup. Sims stated the drain could also be modified or reworked to allow more water to enter the pipe. He stated he will run some ideas by the City Engineer to gain his insight into the matter as well.

Business:

2020 Budget Amendments Public Hearing: Council conducted a public hearing to take input and comment on the proposed amendments to the 2020 Budget. Mayor Rawlings closed the public hearing after no one came forward with comments.

Richardson made a motion to approve the proposed 2020 Budget amendments. Leffler seconded the motion. Motion carried without opposition

2020 Special Alcohol Grant Ad Hoc Committee Recommendations: Reavis made a motion to accept the ad hoc committee recommendation to approve 2021 Special Alcohol Grants to Augusta USD No.

402 for \$2,500, Bright Futures Augusta for \$1,380, Core Community Augusta for \$1,700, Family Life Center – Safehouse for \$1,700, South Central Mental Health for \$1,700, and Tri-County CASA for \$1,700, for a total of \$10,680. Slade seconded the motion. Motion carried without opposition.

2020 Utility Abatement Program Applications: Council reviewed and discussed 2020 Utility Abatement Program applications. Reavis made a motion to approve the 2021 Utility Abatement requests as follows: Augusta Arts Council (Theatre) for \$10,000; Augusta Arts Council (Gallery) for \$2,000; Augusta Community Caring Center for \$6,500; Augusta Historical Society and Museum for \$7,000; Augusta Senior Center for \$5,000; Kansas Museum of Military History for \$3,500; Mid-Kansas Community Action Program for \$8,000; Twisted Oz Motorcycle Museum for \$15,000; and free service for Augusta Girls Softball and Augusta Youth Soccer estimated at \$12,300; for a total of \$69,300. Crum seconded the motion. Motion carried without opposition.

Third Round Grant Award Recommendations for CDBG-CV Program: Crum made a motion to approve committee recommendation to award \$42,000 to Homestead of Augusta through the CDBG-CV Program. Reavis seconded the motion. Motion carried without opposition.

Matters From/For Council and Informational Memorandum:

Richardson: Richardson stated that a couple weeks ago the Council received an email about banners for 7th Avenue and asked if there are any updates on that. Sims stated he received one response of interest and two he was unsure of so he wanted enough time for the Council to be comfortable with a decision about a decoration. Sims stated the Parks Division is especially concerned about the condition of the decorations and we have gone down to only installing 9 out of the 19 decorations. He stated they are approximately 20 years old. Sims stated he has tasked Brian Alfaro with looking in to Christmas decorations to include for the 2022 Budget for replacements and will budget accordingly if that is the direction the City Council wants to go in the next couple years. Sims stated he would still like to put up banners along South Ohio, especially American flags, and that he will be bringing ideas to the Council in the future. Rawlings reminded the Council that those decorations were bought and paid for by Ignite Augusta and the City has installed them and maintained them over the years. Crum said she has been putting a lot thought in to that and would like to get with Ignite Augusta to put some of those decorations downtown. Shaw stated he has thought that too and reached out to them but he hasn't received any feedback from them. Crum stated those decorations are not their private property as they were purchased with funds from the community. She stated there should be some sort of checks and balances for where they are and how they are used. Rawlings stated that a lot of that stuff has been disbursed to the people who have helped maintain it and are willing to pay for the electricity. He stated that several pieces have fallen apart and they survived the 1998 flood and it would take a lot to repair many of them. Rawlings stated it will take volunteers to help repair them and there haven't been people willing to volunteer.

Reavis: Reavis said he has heard many complaints about the water level of the City Lake and asked if the City is drawing water from the City Lake and why is it so low. Shaw stated there has not been any rain for a long time and we have not been drawing water from it since October. Reavis stated there had also been discussions about repairing the ramp at the lake. He stated that because the water is so low there aren't very many fishermen launching from the east side because there is such a large drop off. He stated he thought the \$100 boat permits were supposed to help fund a new launch on the West side of the lake. Shaw stated the Parks Division will be getting to work on that. Rawlings stated the ponds to the north of our lake are low too and it will take significant rain to fill those to flow in to the City Lake. Reavis asked if there is anything that can be done to address the milfoil while the lake is low. Shaw stated there hasn't been a treatment determined by the Council. Sims

stated that while the lake is down he has the Solid Waste Division running a litter route around City Lake to clean trash and debris up around the lake that way when the spring rains come and the lake fills up that task will be complete.

Executive Session:

At 7:53 p.m. Richardson made a motion to recess 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). Richardson asked that City Manager Josh Shaw join the Council in executive session, when requested. The open meeting of the governing body will reconvene in the Council Chambers at 8:23 p.m. Leffler seconded the motion. Motion carried without opposition.

At 8:23 p.m. Richardson made a motion to exit executive session where no action was taken. Leffler seconded the motion. Motion carried without opposition.

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City Manager Shaw informed the governing body that he and staff have been discussing granting additional holiday leave to City employees after the Christmas holiday so they can spend time with their family after the difficult year we have all had. He stated this will not have a monetary value to the employees or the budget, just lost productivity over those days. Council consensus was in favor of Shaw granting this additional time off to City staff.

Adjourn: At 8:57 p.m., Richardson made a motion to adjourn. Crum seconded the motion. Motion carried without opposition.

City Clerk