

CITY COUNCIL
JUNE 7, 2021
7:00 P.M.

The Council of the City of Augusta, Kansas met in regular session on June 7, 2021, with Mayor Mike Rawlings presiding. Council present were Eric Birk, Jake Marr, Jamie Crum, Mike Huddleston, Tom Leffler, Kip Richardson, Ron Reavis and Bill Slade. Also present: City Attorney Andrew Marino, City Manager Josh Shaw, Assistant City Manager Cody Sims and City Clerk Erica Jones. Staff Present: Director of Public Safety Bob Sage, Susan Smith, Travis Combes, Anthony Craft and Susie Geiger. Visitors: Jayme Chapin, Scott Hill, Richard Kennedy, Jeffrey Halliwill, Lynn Lamberty, Randy Hughes, Beth Wallingford and Josh Miller.

Pledge of Allegiance

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

Minutes: Richardson made a motion to approve the minutes from the May 17, 2021 City Council meeting and May 24, 2021 Budget Work Session. Slade seconded the motion. Motion carried without opposition.

Ordinance: Reavis made a motion to approve Ordinance 5A dated 5/26/2021. Richardson seconded the motion. Motion carried without opposition.

Visitors:

Randy Hughes of the FishKS Aquatic Education Program was present to request use of Shryock Park on June 26, 2021 for an Augusta Kid's Fishing Clinic/Derby event and to request that Council waive the license requirement for adult volunteers. Huddleston made a motion to approve use of Shryock Park by the FishKS Aquatic Education Program on June 26, 2021 for an Augusta Kid's Fishing Clinic/Derby event and to waive the license requirement for the adult volunteers. Slade seconded the motion. Motion carried without opposition.

Richard Kennedy, representing the Augusta Model Railroad Club, addressed the governing body regarding severe roof leaks in their leased space. Shaw stated he would check with the City Inspector and review the lease to see what needs to be repaired and whose responsibility it is to make the repairs and report back at the next meeting.

Business:

Update on Condemnation Process of a Detached Residential Garage Located at 654 North Santa Fe Street: Leffler made a motion to approve the close-out of the condemnation of a detached residential garage structure located at 654 North Santa Fe Street. Huddleston seconded the nomination. Motion carried without opposition.

Automated Tarping System Improvements for Solid Waste Roll-Off Truck: Leffler made a motion to approve the purchase of an automatic tarping system from Fleet Pride in the amount of \$10,825.51 to be retrofitted onto SN-64 Solid Waste Roll-Off Truck. Richardson seconded the motion. Motion carried without opposition.

Matters From/For Council and Informational Memorandum:

Richardson: Richardson inquired about downtown zoning distance limitations regarding specific uses and churches. He stated that the distance requirement related to the two churches is stifling businesses

from coming downtown. He stated he would like to consider eliminating the distancing requirement in the red brick district and have staff draft an ordinance making the change. Shaw stated that two months ago he sent out a listing of all the distance limitations downtown. He stated that would include alcohol and tattoo parlors related to the churches. Shaw stated this pertains to the zoning code, but there is an entirely separate ordinance that sets a 200-foot restriction and another says 250 feet. He stated that one requires a conditional use permit and the other says that they can come to the governing body for a waiver. Shaw asked if they want it to apply to both the alcohol and tattoo parlors and bring it into line with the alcohol portion of the code. Huddleston asked if you would have to do it for the whole town. Shaw stated you could do it for whatever area you want. Huddleston asked if it would make sense to eliminate it in any commercially zoned areas. Shaw stated there are commercial zoned areas that abut religious or residentially zoned areas. Richardson stated he would like to include both in the red brick district. Richardson made a motion to have staff find all places there are restrictions and recommend changes to eliminate the distance requirement in the red brick district. Marr stated he would like to see those side by side so we can avoid any unintended consequences. Richardson withdrew his motion. Council consensus was to have staff review the Zoning Code and City Code for any reference to distance restrictions and prepare the information with recommendations to present to the Council at a future meeting.

Mayor Rawlings: Rawlings stated that Crum initiated a discussion regarding voting wards and redistricting. He stated she said there were only 40 registered voters in Ward 2. Rawlings stated the wards were set up based on the 2010 Census numbers and are supposed to be fairly equal. Huddleston stated the wards are based on population, and that just because a ward only has 40 registered voters does not mean the population is different. Huddleston stated maybe we should wait until we get 2020 Census information. Rawlings asked if there is a State Statute related to wards. Shaw stated it is based on population information. Shaw stated that staff has believed that at the time the 2010 Census data was being collected there were pipeline workers in town for the Keystone pipeline project. But he stated that based on the population numbers from that census the wards were fairly close in population. Shaw stated you can change ward lines as long as you keep the population in each ward fairly equal. Huddleston stated that the State requirement is that if you get out of population lines by more than 10% you have to make an adjustment. Reavis stated he would like to discuss the size of the Council. He said it is getting difficult to find enough people willing to serve and he would like to see one member per ward and one at large member and the mayor. He stated the wards could also be reduced to three wards. Reavis stated the school district board members are all elected at large now. He stated he would like to keep one representative from each area of town, but it is getting more and more difficult to find people that are willing to serve. Reavis said he doesn't want to hurry the process but we don't have anyone to fill the one seat in Ward 4. Jones stated that no changes could be made until after this next election, so that will not resolve the situation in Ward 4. Shaw stated that changing the ward boundaries would be easier to do but that changing the number of council members or making a move to at large representation would be a Charter issue and would have to be looked at a lot closer. Huddleston stated that we could use the utility bills to get more information out to the citizens, including about open positions and elections.

City Manager: Reavis made a motion to schedule Budget Work Session #3 for Monday, June 14th at 6:00 p.m. Leffler seconded the motion. Motion carried without opposition.

Reavis: Reavis stated he previously inquired about markings for truck routes. Sims stated he is working on it right now.

Leffler: Leffler inquired about the status of the CDBG surveys. Shaw stated he would email Rose Mary and see where they are on it. He stated they have started their door to door surveys. Leffler stated that at the last budget meeting we had Superintendent Ward there to give a presentation and that it

was mentioned about previously having a couple members of the council and school board meet regularly. Leffler stated it would help keep both entities informed about what is going on. He stated there were improvements made to the school district parking lot and the old shavings were hauled off, but had we known about it they possibly could have been given to the city. He stated we should give some consideration to resuming those joint meetings so we know what each other are doing.

Executive Session:

At 7:57 p.m. Richardson made a motion to recess into executive session for 15 minutes to discuss an individual employee's performance pursuant to the non-elected personnel matter exception, K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(1). Richardson asked that City Manager Josh Shaw and Assistant City Manager Cody Sims join the Council in executive session. The open meeting of the governing body will reconvene in the Council Chambers at 8:12 p.m. Leffler seconded the motion. Motion carried without opposition.

At 8:12 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 8:13 p.m., Richardson made a motion to adjourn. Slade seconded the motion. Motion carried without opposition.

City Clerk