

CITY COUNCIL
JULY 5, 2022
7:00 P.M.

The Council of the City of Augusta, Kansas met in regular session on July 5, 2022, with Mayor Mike Rawlings presiding. Council present were Jake Marr, Mike Huddleston, Bob Bailey, Tom Leffler, Jeff Brown and Ron Reavis. Councilmembers Eric Birk and Kip Richardson were absent. 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, Susan Smith and Susie Geiger. Visitors: Pastor John Einem, Jayme Chapin, Bill Morris, Connie Thurman, Kelly Modlin, Richard Kennedy, Jerry Primm, Rolinda Sample, Lonny Pace, Alyssa Jameson, and Shirley Stueven.

Pledge of Allegiance

Prayer: Pastor John Einem, Christ Lutheran Church, gave the invocation.

Minutes: Huddleston made a motion to approve the minutes from the June 26, 2022 City Council meeting and June 27, 2022 City Council Budget Work Session. Reavis seconded the motion. Motion carried without opposition.

Ordinance: Reavis made a motion to table approval of Ordinance #6A dated 6/22/2022 until questions regarding a payment to Goedecke Surveying could be answered by staff later during the meeting. Huddleston seconded the motion. Motion carried without opposition.

Visitors:

Jayme Chapin, representing Go! Augusta, was present to request \$600 in funding for the Spring Adopt-a-Pot competition. Reavis made a motion to approve \$600 in funding for the Spring Adopt-a-Pot competition. Huddleston seconded the motion. Motion carried without opposition.

Business:

Recommendation from Park Advisory Board Regarding Future of City-Owned Property at 928 E Kelly Avenue: Leffler made a motion to reject the Park Advisory Board's recommendation to deed ownership of City-owned property at 928 E Kelly Avenue to the Girl Scouts of Kansas Heartland and instruct staff to look in to an amendment to the lease and bring it back to the Council. Motion died from lack of a second to the motion.

Reavis made a motion to approve the Park Advisory Board's recommendation to deed ownership of City-owned property at 928 E Kelly Avenue to the Girl Scouts of Kansas Heartland and authorize staff to prepare title work to present to City Council for approval. Brown seconded the motion. The vote was a tie with Reavis, Bailey and Brown voting in favor and Huddleston, Leffler and Marr voting in opposition. Rawlings broke the tie by voting in favor of motion to break the tie. Motion carried.

Ordinance: Staff answered the Council's question regarding the payment to Goedecke Surveying. Leffler made a motion to approve Ordinance #6A dated 6/22/2022. Reavis seconded the motion. Motion carried without opposition.

Discussion/Direction Main Street Design Committee: Council discussed the current role of the Main Street Design Committee and provided staff with direction on what the future of the committee should be.

Jayne Chapin, representing Go! Augusta, addressed the governing body. Chapin stated their goal is for Go! Augusta to take over the design and make it not so limiting, to keep the historic preservation of the building but not limit what the business can do. She stated they want to keep the ordinance in place, but heavily amend it. She stated they do not want to be the enforcement, but to be proactive versus reactive. Chapin stated this will grow our businesses and not be so limiting.

Connie Thurman, representing the City Design Committee and Mainstreet, addressed the governing body. Thurman stated that the original IWW funds provided to Main Street Organizations have already been distributed to all communities and that there are no more funds to be added to, but cities were able to keep the funds as long as the Main Street Organizations are active in those communities and that they have the four key committees and design regulations in place. She stated if you take away the ordinances then the committee will have to have recommended guidelines or we will risk losing those funds.

Bill Morris, co-chair of the design committee, addressed the governing body. Morris stated that when the ordinance was developed we coordinated with the State Historical Society. He stated that they liked what we did and would have liked us to be more restrictive but what we did was right for Augusta. He stated that we found out that guidelines without an ordinance is worthless, so we felt it mandatory that it be codified and it has worked very well except that it needs to be updated to reflect the current times. Morris stated we need the ordinance to protect our historic buildings and character.

Huddleston made a motion to direct the design committee do work on ordinances and make their recommendations to bring back to Council. Brown seconded the motion. Motion carried without opposition.

Matters From/For Council and Informational Memorandum:

Work Session: Leffler made a motion to schedule a special meeting at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, July 11th for the purposes of completing discussion of the 2023 City Budget and authorizing publication of any required hearing notices for the 2023 Budget and to consider the documents and related agreements with the BASE Grant. Brown seconded the motion. Motion carried without opposition.

Marr: Marr stated the fireworks show was tremendous and he has received lots of positive feedback from the public. He stated he has received numerous feedback items on Garvin Park and that during the baseball tournaments that there is an issue with residents using Garvin Park road to access Loomis being stopped and asked to pay for parking or confirm they live in the area and use the road. Marr stated he does not want to disrupt use of the public park not related to the tournaments.

Leffler: Leffler stated there has been little change in work on the base and sewer lift station grates with the Ohio project. Shaw stated that the city engineer is working with the contractor about an updated timeline. He stated that the asphalt paving was supposed to start today but Kansas Paving had concerns identified in a couple areas where work needs to be done before the asphalt is put down. Shaw stated he will send Council an update as soon as he has it. Rawlings stated there are parts ordered for the lift stations but they cannot start the work until all the parts are received. Shaw stated the work should start in July. Leffler reminded people to pay attention to what they are doing on Ohio, and not to drive on north bound lanes or on the south bound lanes to go north. He stated that the Department of Public Safety has been writing tickets and the Butler County Sheriff's office

and Highway Patrol have also been writing tickets. Leffler stated that the progress is going on ahead of schedule so hopefully it will be done earlier than expected.

Huddleston: Huddleston asked if concessions are being sold again at Santa Fe Lake. Shaw stated they are. Huddleston asked when we rezone property from residential to commercial if it changes the tax classification. He specifically referenced the building at 5th and School that was changed from commercial to residential a couple years ago, but he hasn't done anything with the property. He asked if the owner has been saving money paying residential taxes instead of commercial.

Huddleston stated he mentioned some time back about the 5 minute parking signs in front of the post office. He stated you can barely read them and the City doesn't enforce them. Shaw stated he doesn't know the origin of the signs and if they are City signs or if the post office put them up. Huddleston stated the signs look terrible in front of a historic building and no one pays attention to the 5 minute parking.

Brown: Brown inquired about the status of the vicious dog ordinance. Shaw stated he received a draft today from Director of Public Safety. He stated he will review them and have a conversation with staff and bring that back to the council for consideration.

Adjourn: At 9:01 p.m., Leffler made a motion to adjourn. Marr seconded the motion. Motion carried without opposition.

City Clerk