

CITY COUNCIL
DECEMBER 4, 2023
7:00 P.M.

The Council of the City of Augusta, Kansas met in regular session on December 4, 2023, with Mayor Mike Rawlings presiding. Council present were Mike Martin, Bob Bailey, Eric Birk, Tom Leffler, Kip Richardson, Jeff Brown and Ron Reavis. Council member Mike Huddleston was 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, Jim Sutton, Rob Cooper, Chris McNutt, Marc Cain, Shawna Cortez, and Susan Smith. Visitors: Shawn Davis, Kristey Williams, Diana Burress, Andy Williams, Jada Ackerman, Lynette Dryden, Eldon Foreman, and Craig Sammartano.

Pledge of Allegiance

Prayer: Mayor Rawlings gave the invocation.

Minutes: Richardson made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 20, 2023 City Council meeting. Brown seconded the motion. Motion carried without opposition.

Ordinance: Leffler made a motion to approve Ordinance #11A dated November 22, 2023 pulling the payment to Augusta Animal Clinic in the amount of \$691.80. Richardson seconded the motion. Motion carried without opposition.

Visitors:

Andy Williams, representing BNSF Railroad, presented the City with the first \$10,000 installment of BNSF's \$50,000 commitment to the Castle Park project.

Business:

Park Board Recommendation Regarding Design Concept for Castle Park: Richardson made a motion to approve the Park Board's recommendation regarding design for the new Castle Park playground in Shryock Park and authorize staff to proceed with submittal of a grant application to the KDHE waste tire grant program for soft surfacing and to finalize materials and equipment lists with the parents' group to begin placing orders. Bailey seconded the motion. Motion carried without opposition.

Resolution No. 2023-15 Establishing the 2024 Job Classification and Salary Schedule and Governing Body Compensation: Leffler made a motion to approve Resolution 2023-15 establishing the 2024 employee job classification and salary schedule as well as governing body compensation pursuant to Ordinance No. 2168. Brown seconded the motion. Motion carried without opposition.

Bid Award for Electric Plant Cooling Tower: Leffler made a motion to approve the quote from Midwest Machinery in the amount of \$183,445 for two Marley Cooling Towers Model #NC8403SLN to replace the cooling towers for Generating Unit C-3. Martin seconded the motion. Motion carried without opposition.

Temporary Access Agreement Between the City of Augusta and Brian and Patricia Begley: Richardson made a motion to approve a temporary access agreement with Brian and Patricia Begley for a field access connection from the dead end of Ranchwood Drive. Birk seconded the motion. Motion carried without opposition.

Temporary Lease Agreement with D-J Engineering: Leffler made a motion to approve a temporary lease agreement for a segment of right-of-way west of Oak Street for temporary storage. Richardson seconded the motion. Motion carried without opposition with Brown and Bailey abstaining from the discussion and vote.

Ordinance No. 2231 Amending Article 6.4(D)(1) of the Adopted Zoning Regulations Regarding the Front Yard Side Street Setback Requirement, in the R-1 (Single-Family Residential) District: Reavis made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 2231 amending Article 6.4(D)(1) of the adopted Zoning Regulations of the City of Augusta as recommended by the Planning Commission. Brown seconded the motion. Roll Call: Birk Yes, Reavis Yes, Richardson Yes, Bailey Yes, Leffler Yes, Brown Yes, Martin Yes. Motion carried.

Nuisance Abatement Resolution For 1521 N Robbins St: Leffler made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2023-16 determining that a nuisance exists at 1521 North Robbins Street and ordering the removal and abatement of nuisances within ten (10) days as specified in K.S.A. 12-1617e. Richardson seconded the motion. Motion carried with Reavis voting in opposition.

2024 Special Alcohol Grant Recommendations: Richardson made a motion to approve the ad hoc committee's award recommendations for the 2024 Special Alcohol Grants in the amount of the balance of the Special Alcohol Fund on December 31, 2023 divided evenly between Augusta USD No. 402, Core Community Augusta, Family Life Center – SAFEHOUSE, Sunlight Children's Services, and Tri-County CASA. Martin seconded the motion. Motion carried without opposition.

2024 Utility Abatement Recommendations: Richardson made a motion to approve the ad hoc committee's recommendation for 2024 Utility Abatements as follows: Augusta Arts Council Theatre \$10,000; Augusta Arts Council Gallery \$4,000; Augusta Community Caring Center \$9,000; Augusta Girls Softball Free Service; Augusta Historical Society and Museum \$7,000; Augusta Senior Center \$6,000; Mid-Kansas Community Action Program \$8,000; and Twisted Oz Motorcycle Museum \$14,000; for a total of \$58,000. Bailey seconded the motion. Motion carried without opposition.

Schedule a Public Hearing to Take Input and Comment on the Proposed 2023 Budget Amendments: Leffler made a motion to schedule a public hearing on Monday, December 18, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. at City Hall to take input and comment on the proposed amendments to the 2023 Budget. Martin seconded the motion. Motion carried without opposition.

Matters From/For Council and Informational Memorandum:

Rawlings: Rawlings inquired about the no parking signs on Robbins. Shaw stated he spoke to staff about it, and they believe the no parking signs were a result of the parking that occurs at the swimming pool and the traffic during the busy months when the pool is open. Shaw stated that staff has recommended a compromise of installing signs that say "No Parking between May and August" during the time the pool is open, but parking can occur there the rest of the year.

Rawlings stated that the clock at the roundabout is not working. Shaw stated he forwarded that info on several months ago and will follow up on that.

Traffic Lights: Council discussed the use of street sales tax funding to replace aging traffic signals. Leffler stated he does not see where the language would allow for use of the street sales tax funds for the traffic signals. Reavis agreed, but stated that he would like us to find where there are available funds left in the budget for 2023 that can be used. He stated if there is any funding source that can

be used, it is a priority to him and it should be used. Richardson and Bailey agreed that the language would not allow it to be used for traffic signals. Shaw stated he will continue to look for resources to pay for the traffic signals and if he cannot then he will include it with the bonding for the new Public Works building.

City Engineer Review Committee: Leffler made a motion to schedule an ad hoc review committee meeting on Tuesday, December 12th at 6 p.m. to review city engineering proposals and schedule/develop the interview process. Richardson seconded the motion. Motion carried without opposition.

Reavis: Reavis asked if we have used Go.gov before or looked in to it for notifying citizens. Shaw stated there are several of those types of systems out there that can be used for notifications and that staff has been looking in to that. Jones stated that she and Cortez had demoed that type of software with one particular vendor and found that it would be cost effective and offered in-app notifications, text messages, emails and phone calls to landlines. Jones stated that staff would be able to make a recommendation to begin using a service in the near future.

Reavis stated he saw where someone said they called the number posted to report an after-hours water leak, but that the line went unanswered. Shaw stated that staff would look in to it to make sure the correct phone number was listed for after-hours calls.

Reavis stated that the old Walmart building is starting to get a lot of outdoor storage on the ground and three semi-trailers in the parking lot. Shaw stated he will look in to that.

Leffler: Leffler stated years ago when he got on the Council his wife yelled at him for chewing gum during the meeting, so he needed to apologize to his wife for sitting up here eating the fudge gifted by the mayor and stated it is irresistible.

Martin: Martin stated that there are piles of cut up trees that are going into the lake and asked if the City is putting it in the lake for a fish habitat or if people are just dumping them in the dry bed. Shaw stated he will check to see if it is the City that is doing that.

Rawlings: Rawlings stated that he has noticed lately that the Butler County Times Gazette is trying to include Augusta more in the publication and you can now subscribe to it online. He stated it would be nice if we could bolster their mapping here in the area.

Shaw: Shaw stated that Good Day Kansas will be at SFL between 10 – 10:30 a.m. tomorrow to shoot a segment on the disk golf course.

Adjourn: At 8:39 p.m., Richardson made a motion to adjourn. Reavis seconded the motion. Motion carried without opposition.

City Clerk