

CITY COUNCIL  
MAY 1, 2023  
7:00 P.M.

The Council of the City of Augusta, Kansas met in regular session on May 1, 2023, with Mayor Mike Rawlings presiding. Council present were Mike Huddleston, Eric Birk, Tom Leffler, Kip Richardson, Jeff Brown and Ron Reavis. Council Members Bob Bailey and Mike Martin 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 Utilities Tim Johnson, Fire Major Ray Marbut, Jim Sutton, Susan Smith, and Shawna Cortez. Visitors: Mac Martin, Jeff Alfaro, Jayme Chapin, Harold Woolery, Shawn Davis, Zach Hettenbach, Jacqueline Farra, and Nathan Hawley.

Pledge of Allegiance

Prayer: Mac Martin, First Baptist Church, gave the invocation.

Minutes: Richardson made a motion to approve the minutes from the April 17, 2023 City Council meeting. Brown seconded the motion. Motion carried without opposition.

Ordinance: Reavis made a motion to approve Ordinance #4A dated 4/26/2023. Richardson seconded the motion. Motion carried without opposition.

Visitors:

Jeff Alfaro, father of recently passed Parks Superintendent Brian Alfaro, was present to speak with the City Council to thank everyone for their support of his son especially Frank Sortini.

Jayme Chapin, Executive Director of Go! Augusta, was present to introduce new staff, Jacqueline Farra and Nathan Hawley; and to request \$600 in funding for prizes for the Spring Adopt-A-Pot competition. Leffler made a motion to approve \$600 funding for prizes for the Spring Adopt-A-pot program. Huddleston seconded the motion. Motion carried without opposition.

Zach Hettenbach, representing from Ignite Augusta, was present to request financial support from the City to assist with the quoted \$33,000 in electric infrastructure upgrades to reintroduce the annual Christmas Lights show in Garvin Park. Council asked Ignite Augusta to provide information related to the impact of the light show on the community and for staff to provide funding options. Consensus was to review this item at an upcoming budget work session.

Business:

Rental Program for Airport Tractor: Leffler made a motion to approve an 8-month trial rental program through John Deere for a 6E Series tractor and loader to be used for airport mowing for \$8,100. Reavis seconded the motion, Motion carried without opposition.

Grant of Electric Utility Easement to Evergy Kansas South in Support of Infrastructure Enhancements at the Mobile Substation: Leffler made a motion to approve a settlement in the amount of \$3,200, and other good and valuable considerations to grant a utility easement to Evergy Kansas South, Inc., a Kansas corporation, its successors, assigns and lessees, the right and easement to alter, conduct surveys, construct, erect, inspect, install, maintain, operate, rebuild, reconstruct, relocate,

remove, renew, repair, and replace electric and communication transmission and distribution lines and their appurtenances. Brown seconded the motion. Motion carried without opposition.

Mayoral Recommendations for Appointments to City Boards and Committees: Richardson made a motion to approve the reappointment of Kevin Miller, Willie Sinsel and Michael Snow to the Airport Advisory Board with a term to expire in April 2025; reappoint Warner Harrison and Jane Mathias to the Convention and Tourism Bureau with a term to expire in April 2026; reappoint Jayme Chapin and Shane Scott to the Main Street Design Committee with a term to expire April 2026; and reappoint Jake McClure and Nick Hoefgen to the Planning Commission with a term to expire in April 2026. Leffler seconded the motion. Motion carried without opposition.

#### Matters From/For Council and Informational Memorandum:

Huddleston: Huddleston stated that the Public Safety Department's report of fees shows monthly revenue for fishing permits and numbers for March do not add up and asked if there is a reason that amount would change. Staff stated they would look in to that. Huddleston stated that we charge Bicycle registration fees but there are never any fees collected, so should we do away with that fee. Huddleston inquired about the "Vehicle" revenue. Shaw stated he would check on that. Jones stated she believes that may be for the UTV's.

Huddleston stated that when the Downtown park was put in a few years ago we had proposed a fence around that and asked where are we at with that. Shaw said he would need feedback from the Council because the feedback he has received so far is really split with some of the businesses not wanting a fence there. Huddleston asked if a fence could at least be put up on the west side to avoid kids running out in to the roadway. Shaw stated the council could do whatever they would like to do, but he would need direction from the council.

Huddleston stated he still gets questions about when we are putting in the new waterline from El Dorado. Shaw stated the history of the project is on the website project tracker. He stated it will be a standalone project and we have to bid out for an engineer to determine the scope the project. Huddleston asked about a timeline to get a waterline. Shaw stated that is a hard question to answer because it depends on the route and right of way required for the project.

Reavis: Reavis asked staff to get some information out on the City website and on social media to share with people how they can file or re-file to run for Council.

Richardson: Richardson asked staff if they could make sure to put something on the City's website about the upcoming special vote on the recreation commission and where people can go to vote.

Richardson made a motion to schedule a work session on Monday, May 8<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. to discuss the 2024 Budget. Reavis seconded the motion. Motion carried without opposition.

Rawlings: Rawlings stated he has filed to run for mayor again.

Leffler: Leffler stated that he has filed to run for his council position again

City Manager: Shaw stated that tonight's meeting is the last meeting that will air on Channel 7 and that future meetings will be available on the City's YouTube channel.

Adjourn: At 8:19 p.m., Richardson made a motion to adjourn. Brown seconded the motion. Motion carried without opposition.

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City Clerk