

CITY COUNCIL
FEBRUARY 20, 2024
7:00 P.M.

The Council of the City of Augusta, Kansas met in regular session on February 20, 2024, with Mayor Mike Rawlings presiding. Council present were Mike Martin, Eric Birk, Bob Bailey, Shane Scott, Kip Richardson, Shawn Davis, Jeff Brown, and Jake Marr. 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, Shawna Cortez, Susan Smith, Rod Davis, and Maggi Davis. Visitors: Sue Jones, Kim Austin, Helen Gibson, Melanie Cox, Joseph Clifton, Anita Holliday, Mac Martin, Mike Clifton, Jim Beadle, Mari Beadle, and Clayton Pearson.

Pledge of Allegiance

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

Minutes: Richardson made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 5, 2024 City Council meeting. Martin seconded the motion. Motion carried without opposition.

Ordinance: Richardson made a motion to approve Ordinance #2 dated February 14, 2024. Brown seconded the motion. Motion carried without opposition.

Proclamations:

Mayor Rawlings read a proclamation declaring the week of March 4-8, 2024 as Severe Weather Preparedness Week.

Visitor:

Joseph Clifton, 620 Osage Apt B2, addressed the governing body regarding feral cats. He stated that he is the proud owner of a very obedient dog who unfortunately has a thing with cats. He asked the Council to close a loophole in the City ordinance that allows people to keep, feed and harbor as many stray and feral cats as they would like without being responsible for anything a normal responsible pet owner would and should be responsible for. He stated that last week his dog was attacked by a tom cat when he took him out to use the restroom. Clifton asked the Council to consider coming up with a solution that holds people accountable equally for the animals they keep. Clifton stated that his apartment has been turned in to a cat sanctuary and he would like to see a provision in the ordinances to put an end to this and prevent it in the future.

Business:

Memorandum of Understanding with AARTI for Redbud Trail Maintenance and Upkeep: Kim Austin representing AARTI was present to answer questions from the Council. Davis made a motion to approve a collaborative partnership memorandum of understanding (MOU) with Andover Augusta Rail Trail Initiative (AARTI) regarding the Redbud Pedestrian Trail system located between milepost 485.2 (near Augusta) and milepost

488.35 (near Andover). Marr seconded the motion. Motion carried with Martin voting in opposition.

Lease Purchase Agreement for Compact Track Loader for Santa Fe Lake: Brown made a motion to approve a 5-year lease purchase agreement with First Bank for a Case TR 310B CTL for use at Santa Fe Lake, at a cost of \$16,240 per year (plus \$1 buyout to total \$81,201); authorize City Manager Josh Shaw to execute the agreement; and authorize the purchase of a 60-month / 3,000-hour extended warranty for \$3,535. Davis seconded the motion. Motion carried without opposition.

Rental Agreement for Airport Tractor: Richardson made a motion to approve rental of a 6 Series John Deere tractor with loader attachment from Prairieland Partners and authorize City Manager Josh Shaw to sign a 12-month/350-hour rental agreement at a cost of \$7,882. Davis seconded the motion. Motion carried without opposition.

Taxable Industrial Revenue Bonds – Butler County – Hattan Ford Project: Richardson made a motion to support the adoption of Resolution No. 24-05 by the Board of County Commissioners of Butler County, Kansas regarding the issuance of Taxable Industrial Revenue Bonds to finance the acquisition, construction and equipping of a commercial facility to be located within three miles of the corporate limits of Augusta. Scott seconded the motion. Motion carried without opposition.

Schedule Project Performance Public Hearing for CDBG Grant No. 22-PF-003 for the Acquisition of a Fire Truck: Brown made a motion to schedule a public hearing on Monday, March 18, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. in the City Council Room located at City Hall, 113 E 6th Avenue, Augusta, Kansas for the purpose of evaluating the performance of Grant No. 22-PF-003 for the acquisition of a fire truck. Martin seconded the motion. Motion carried without opposition.

Discussion/Direction Regarding Funding for Trap/Neuter/Vaccinate/Return of Feral Cats: Council discussed and provided direction regarding funding for Trap/Neuter/Vaccinate/Return (TNVR) of feral cats.

Sue Jones, 1817 Meadowlake Drive, addressed the governing body. Jones stated that a TNVR plan is the best option to reduce the number of feral cat colonies and asked the Council to consider providing funding for the program.

Marr made a motion to authorize funding from the existing general fund for the TNVR program for 2024 in the amount of up to \$2,500. Brown seconded the motion. Motion carried with Davis voting in opposition.

Matters From/For Council and Informational Memorandum:

Martin: Martin thanked Shaw for getting the pot holes fixed that he brought up in previous meetings. He stated that he received a call from someone who was pulling out of the old Plaza parking lot stating that there are flags along that side of the road that are obstructing

the visibility of traffic. Shaw stated there are general rules about signage along a highway and those are likely in the right of way. Shaw stated he would have staff look in to it.

Martin asked if he had any feedback from the testimony letter he wrote. Shaw stated he had not heard anything back about the testimony but he would let the Council know if he gets any feedback.

Executive Session:

At 8:30 p.m. Richardson made a motion to recess into executive session for 25 minutes to discuss acquisition of real property pursuant to the preliminary discussions of the acquisition of real property exception, K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(6) and asked that City Manager Josh Shaw and City Attorney Andrew Marino join the Council in executive session. The open meeting of the governing body will reconvene in the council chambers at 8:55 p.m. Martin seconded the motion. Motion carried without opposition.

At 8:55 p.m. Richardson made a motion to exit executive session where no action was taken. Marr seconded the motion. Motion carried without opposition.

Adjourn: At 8:55 p.m., Richardson made a motion to adjourn. Martin seconded the motion. Motion carried without opposition.

City Clerk