

MULVANE CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

December 20, 2021

7:30 p.m.

The Mulvane City Council convened at the City Building at 211 N. Second at 7:30 p.m. Presiding was Mayor Shelly Steadman, who called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

Council Members Present: Kevin Cardwell, Terry Richardson, Brent Allen, Nancy Farber Mottola and Jenean Keck.

Others Present: Mike Robinson, Debra Parker, Joel Pile, Kent Hixson, J.T. Klaus, Gordon Fell, Amanda Ford, Chris Young, Nancy Armstrong, Sonya Jackson, Angela Fox, Ticia Herd, Laura Lear.

Pledge of Allegiance: All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance led by Mayor Steadman.

Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes Dated 12-06-2021:

MOTION by Mottola, second by Cardwell to approve the Regular meeting minutes dated 12-06-2021.

MOTION approved unanimously.

Correspondence: None

Review and Closing of the Agenda: None

Appointments, Awards and Citations: None

OLD BUSINESS

1. City 1% Sales Tax Election Calendar Review:

City staff reviewed the 1% sales tax election calendar as provided by the Sedgwick County Election Office. The special election will be held on Tuesday, January 18th. Staff is working on information to be provided to the public. If approved, the sales tax would take effect July 1, 2022.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Mulvane Community Foundation – Request for Funding Subsidy for 2022:

Councilmember Mottola removed herself from her council seat. Mottola expressed her gratitude to the city, the staff, and citizens for the opportunity to take a leadership role in the Downtown Revitalization which led to the creation of the Mulvane Community Foundation (MCF). Mottola has been honored to have been part of this group of citizens that are the founding members of the MCF. Mottola will be stepping back from her leadership roles in the Revitalization and the

Community Foundation. Mottola is confident that the new staff will lead these organization to greater heights. Laura Lear introduced herself to the council as the new MCF Director.

Mottola reviewed the organizations support of local events and activities and reviewed the financials of the MCF.

During the 2022 annual budget preparation in June, the MCF asked for consideration of a subsidy to help fund a part-time director beginning in January of 2022. Council agreed to put a \$25,000 placeholder in the budget.

Councilmember Brent Allen abstained from any discussion or voting on this agenda item due to being a board member of the MCF.

MOTION by Richardson, second by Cardwell to approve the Mulvane Community Foundation request for funds in the amount of \$25,000.00 for 2022.

MOTION approved 3-0.

Mayor Steadman thanked all those who served on the Board and the great job Mottola has done while serving. Mottola returned to her council seat.

2. Mulvane Chamber of Commerce - Request for Funding for 2022:

In January 2021, the Council provided the Chamber with \$32,000 to support its efforts in promoting economic development, supporting businesses and the local community. Chamber Director, Amanda Ford, reviewed the 2021 activities and financials with the council.

There were many challenges in 2021 due to the everchanging COVID-19 guidelines. Many Chamber events had to be reconfigured or canceled. A few key Chamber activities from the past year included the Women's Fair, Advertisement in the Kansas Official Travel Guide, COVID-19 Testing and the distribution of PPE.

Ford distributed the Kansas Travel Guide to the council and reviewed the pages featuring Mulvane.

The Chamber was able to grow membership to 114 and continue to serve existing members and the city. The Mulvane Chamber is requesting \$32,000 for 2022.

MOTION by Richardson, second by Mottola to approve 2022 funding for the Mulvane Chamber of Commerce in the amount of \$32,000.

MOTION approved unanimously.

Council thanked Ford for her service to the community and has seen incredible differences.

3. Cost of Living Allowance for City Employees:

The Employee Handbook, Sec. D-2 (b) states, "Annual cost-of-living pay increase *may be given* as approved by the City Council". The City Council has previously approved a COLA in relationship to inflation. Social Security is granting an increase over 5% however the 2022 City budget includes a 3% increase for employees.

Hixson reviewed the Casino tax appeal and the impact it will have on the City. Hixson spoke with the city's auditor, which advised we have strong reserves in the Utility. Hixson feels we should invest in the employees and offer a 3% COLA. If granted a COLA, it would be implemented the first full pay period in January.

MOTION by Cardwell, second by Richardson to approve a 3% COLA increase for city employees for 2022.

MOTION approved unanimously.

4. Public Safety Dept. – Transfer of Funds to Municipal Equipment Replacement Fund:

Due to the tax lid law, public safety budgets (Police, Fire and EMS) need to be zeroed out. To easily track excess public safety funds and allow for those funds to be spent on public safety Finance Director, Rachael Blackwell, requested excess funds be transferred to Public Safety Municipal Equipment Reserve Fund.

Staff estimates up to \$400,000 to be remaining in the public safety funds after all 2021 expenditures have been made. We anticipated these funds to address CIP projects, additional needs for the new fire engine, new police car camera systems, and other public safety needs.

MOTION by Allen, second by Keck to authorize the Fund Transfer of up to \$400,000 from the 2021 Public Safety Budgets (Police, Fire and EMS) to the Public Safety Municipal Equipment Reserve Fund.

MOTION approved unanimously.

ORDINANCES & RESOLUTIONS

None

ENGINEER

1. Project Review and Update:

City Engineer, Chris Young, reviewed project updates with the council which included: Main "A" Sanitary Sewer Improvements, Pool Re-Painting, Rock Road Sewer Lift Station Abandonment, BRIC Grant – Flood Mitigation Funding, Second Street Pedestrian Crossing at Martha Ave.

City Clerk: None

City Administrator: To make it more welcoming in the downtown area, Councilmember Keck would like to see a Christmas decoration expanding all the way across the street at the corner of W. Main and First St. If the council agrees, she will speak with Hixson and Baker to proceed. The council agreed.

City Attorney: J.T. Klaus reminded the council that the 2014 Casino tax appeal has not been settled. Klaus also updated the council on the Homestead Affordable Housing lending documents. Once the documents are corrected, they will be brought before the council.

Consent Agenda Item #1:

MOTION by Mottola, second by Allen to approve Consent Agenda item #1.

1. Payroll dated 12-10-21 (\$225,699.92)

MOTION approved unanimously.

ANNOUNCEMENTS, MEETINGS, AND NEXT AGENDA ITEMS:

- Monday, January 3rd - next council meeting @ 7:30 p.m.
- Mayor Steadman wished everyone a Happy Holiday.

ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION by Richardson, second by Mottola to adjourn the City Council meeting at 8:00 p.m.

MOTION approved unanimously.

Minutes by:
Debra M. Parker, City Clerk