

Osawatomie, Kansas. **March 25, 2021.** The Council Meeting was held at Memorial Hall. Mayor L. Mark Govea called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Council members present were Wright, Macek, Walmann, LaDuex, Dickinson, Diehm, Hampson and Caldwell. City Staff present at the meeting were City Manager Mike Scanlon, City Clerk Tammy Seamands, Assistant to the City Manager Sam Moon and City Attorney Richard Wetzler. Members of the public were: Donna Koontz, Dale Koontz, Daniel West, Danessa Mitzner, Pastor Debra Huss, Pat Huss, Maria Lincoln, Mike Williams, Marley Murrow and Kari Bradley.

**INVOCATION.** Pastor Debra Huss, Let There Be Light Fellowship

**CONSENT AGENDA.** Approval of March 25<sup>th</sup> Agenda; March 11<sup>th</sup> Council Minutes, Tornado Alley Rally Soapbox Derby Special Event Permit, and Annual Fireworks Display Permit **Motion** made by LaDuex, seconded by Dickinson to Approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Yeas: All.

#### **COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC.**

Paster Debra Huss – Let There Be Light Fellowship Church has had the opportunity over the last several years to serve the children at Trojan Elementary by providing snacks and water. The church takes up a monthly offering to help provide this service. The church has weekly meetings and also a women’s ministry on Tuesday afternoon’s at 2:00 p.m. They are thankful that the schools are open.

Maria Lincoln – Wants to discuss the increase in the electric bill. Other utility companies are not putting the increase on their customers’ bills. Lincoln doesn’t understand why the Osawatomie utility customers has to pay this expense when they have financial burdens of their own and can’t afford this.

Mike Williams – There is a two-story house to the east of his home that burned a few months ago. The house has been posted as uninhabitable. However, there has been traffic in and out of the house and now there are several stray cats there. Williams would like to see something done with the house.

Danessa Mitzner – had a conversation with Mr. Scanlon today regarding the utility increases and is very thankful for the information that he shared. Mitzner wants to encourage the City Council to think about the residents as they are hearing these proposals and considering how the residents will pay these back. Mitzner has calculated that her portion of the increase would be approximately \$2,000.00 and she cannot afford that. Even if this is spread over 12 months it would increase her bill \$200.00 each month. People in this community does not have that kind of funds. People will move out of the community if prices continue to go up.

#### **PRESENTATIONS & PROCLAMATIONS.**

2<sup>ND</sup> SEMI-ANNUAL COMMUNITY PRIDE MONTH PROCLAMATION – LaDuex read the proclamation. Kari Bradley stated that the Pride Committee is planning with the community garden, Miami County Conservation District and Rotary. Pride is also planning a food drive for the food pantry. **Motion** made by Dickinson, seconded by Hampson to accept the 2<sup>nd</sup> Semi-Annual Community Pride Month Proclamation. Yeas: All.

**PUBLIC HEARINGS.** – None.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS.** – None.

**NEW BUSINESS.**

RESOLUTION 856 – ADOPTING AND PROVIDING FOR STANDARDS FOR PROCUREMENT, BIDDING AND CONTRACT AWARDS. On March 11, 2021, we had a public hearing to discuss the purchase of an 800 MHz radio system. As a part of the grant/loan process we are required to pass this resolution adopting standards for procurement, bidding and contract awards. **Motion** made by LaDuex, seconded by Dickinson to approve Resolution 856 – Adopting and providing for standards for procurement, bidding and contract awards as presented. Yeas: All.

RESOLUTION 857 - ESTABLISHING THE CALENDAR AND FRAMEWORK FOR CALCULATING AND COLLECTION FOR FEBRUARY 2021 ELECTRIC SPIKE. Scanlon gave a recap of the utility bill energy crisis timeline. Residential utility customers fees could average somewhere between \$200.00 to \$2,000.00 depending on the number of kilowatts the customer used. Council considered four payment options and decided that customers should be given 36 months to pay the increase from the Electric Spike. A plan will be brought back to council on the next agenda based on the 36-month payment plan. **Motion** made LaDuex, seconded by Caldwell to approve Resolution 857 – Authorizing the City of Osawatomie, Kansas to bill according to a calculation framework proposed for the electric utility and approved by the City Council using a 36-month payment option. A plan will be brought back to council on the next agenda how this will be accomplished using either a 36-month payment plan for the spike increase to be charged to the resident or a increase in electric rates for a period of 36 months to cover the spike increase. Yeas: (7) Wright, Macek, Walmann, LaDuex, Dickinson, Hampson and Caldwell. Nays: (1) Diehm.

RESOLUTION 858 –ESTABLISHING A 30-DAY PLAN FOR PROMOTING COVID–19 VACCINATIONS AND INCREASING ACCESSIBILITY TO HOMELESS, HOMEBOUND, AND OTHERS EXPERIENCING HARDSHIPS. City Staff has worked diligently to support the efforts of Miami County Public Health to protect the citizens of the County and our community. **Motion** made by LaDuex, seconded by Diehm to approve Resolution 858 – Directing staff to execute a 45-day plan to increase the awareness of Covid vaccine available to Miami County Residents wishing to be vaccinated. Yeas: All.

PROPERTIES AND MAINTENANCE - MOWER PURCHASE – Three sealed bids were received for the purchase of a new Kubota ZD 1211 72” mower. **Motion** made by Walmann,

seconded by LaDuex to accept the bid from Romans Outdoor Power for a new Kubota ZD 1211 72" mower in the amount of \$13,600.00. Yeas: All.

### **COUNCIL REPORTS.**

Jeff Walmann ~ The informational kiosk is being framed in and the foundation is formed. The bridge will be shipped soon and put into place by April 14<sup>th</sup>.

Lawrence Dickinson ~ Heard the county will be discontinuing their mask mandate and wants to make sure that we keep ours in place.

Nick Hampson ~ Thinks that council should discuss the mask mandate and determine a time to review it in the future since it does not have an end date set.

**MAYOR'S REPORT** – The first Water Plant Investigation Committee was held today. Govea was impressed the members were engaged and ready to go. It is good to see the citizen's volunteer.

A special thanks to Commission Pretz and Roberts. They took our emergency resolution recrafted it and presented it to the County Attorney five minutes before their meeting and got an emergency declaration made for Miami County and the Energy Crisis. Also, our city manager had a lot to do with getting this started. Scanlon made phone calls early on and took the lead on this.

**CITY MANAGER & STAFF REPORTS.** – The City of Osawatomie was recognized for being a 2020 Tree City USA community. We have been recognized as a Tree City USA community for 16 years. Thanks to Tammy Seamands for suggesting that we hold our Arbor Day Celebration during the trail ribbon cutting. We were able to have the Governor graciously shovel dirt around a tree to help us celebrate.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION.** - None

**OTHER DISCUSSION/MOTIONS.**

**Motion** made by LaDuex, seconded by Dickinson to adjourn. Yeas: All. Mayor declared the meeting adjourned at 8:04 p.m.

/s/ Tammy Seamands  
Tammy Seamands, City Clerk