

Kimball City Council
Special Meeting
August 12, 2020

A special meeting of the Mayor and City Council was convened in open and public session at 5:00 p.m. on August 12, 2020. Council members Baliman, Pike, Shields and Bright were present. Also present was City Attorney Hadenfeldt, Water Superintendent Sisk, Streets Superintendent Shoup, Economic Coordinator Schlake, Landfill Superintendent Schulte, Electric Superintendent Hinton, Power Plant Superintendent Terrill, Police Chief Bremer, Wastewater Operator Wagner, City Treasurer Brower and City Clerk Terrill. The public was represented.

Notice of the meeting was given in advance by publication in the Western Nebraska Observer. Notice of the meeting was given to the members and a copy of their acknowledgement of receipt of notice and the agenda is on record at the office of the City Clerk. Availability of the agenda was communicated in advance notice and in the notice to the members. All proceedings hereafter shown were taken while the convened meeting was open to the attendance of the public except as otherwise indicated.

Prunty called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. On roll call the following votes were recorded. Aye: Baliman, Pike, Bright and Shields. Nay: None. Absent: None. Motion carried. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Prunty acknowledged the posted Open Meetings Act.

Prunty opened discussion on the 2020-2021 Fiscal Year Budget Review.

Discussion on the Revenue Distribution. Prunty advised Council that since the Event Center is no longer owned by the City, he suggested splitting that sales and occupation tax to the pool, cemetery, and parks. Bright asked about the Fitness Center. Prunty stated that it would be transferred over to Shane Hays by the beginning of the fiscal year.

Discussion held on Economic Development and available funds. Prunty suggested a cap on loans and grants. Discussion on sales tax projections. Prunty pointed out \$500,000 was budgeted for sales tax for the 20-21 FY. Council agreed to cap loans and grants at \$450,000 for the 20-21 FY.

Council reviewed the draft Cemetery budget. Sisk advised Council that there is a part time seasonal position that will be split 50/50 with the water department. Discussion on a full time seasonal for the Cemetery and upgrading the existing sprinklers. Sisk pointed out to Council that he budgeted \$15,000 in reserve for new equipment and \$6,500 in repair and maintenance for replacing overhead door on shop. Discussion on salaries of employees from other departments that occasionally assist in maintenance of the Cemetery. Sisk stated that those salaries have never been separated. Shields suggested those hours be tracked so that salaries can be adjusted.

No discussion on Community Redevelopment.

Discussion on Fire Equipment. Prunty suggested to Council that they start putting money aside in fire equipment for a new fire truck in the future. He pointed out that the 20-21 FY budget has \$8,900 going to reserves for future equipment.

Discussion on Fire Maintenance. Prunty stated that the \$15,000 - \$20,000 for a new pump motor will be split 50/50 with the Rural Fire Department.

No discussion on Fitness Center.

Prunty opened discussion on the General draft budget. Discussion held on a tree grant program for the removal of trees and the \$6,000 budgeted in the Parks budget for a City Tree Grant. Prunty asked Hinton about the banners for the downtown area. Council suggested raising the proposed amount for the banners. Shields pointed out the office expense. Brower stated that a lot of the expense for the current year was for Zoom meetings. Discussion held on raising that amount from \$4,000 to \$6,000.

Prunty opened discussion on the Keno budget. Brower stated that she was conservative due to COVID.

Prunty opened discussion on the Library budget. Pike pointed out the group health insurance. Brower stated that insurance on the new director will be lower than the previous director. Baliman asked about the increase in the janitorial supplies. Brower stated that this was due to COVID.

Prunty opened discussion on the Parks budget. Discussion held on the new mower for the Parks. Shoup stated that the Parks Department will have enough to purchase the new mower with the additional \$5,000 that is in the 20-21 FY budget.

Prunty opened discussion on the Pool budget. Sisk stated they did paint the pool and building this year but did not budget a lot for maintenance if the City is looking at building a new pool in a few years.

Prunty opened discussion on the Police budget. Prunty stated that the budget includes one final pickup for the department. Shields asked Chief Bremer if he has had any issues with the pickups. Bremer stated that the oldest pickup is at 40,000 miles. Bremer went on to say that the only issue he has is the seats are ripping due to the equipment on duty belts.

Prunty opened discussion on the Roads budget. Shoup explained that there is a new line item for a street improvement fund to help with the projects that are submitted on the City's One- and Six-Year Plan. Discussion was held on having a sidewalk improvement program. Baliman stated that a program would give citizen's incentive to make needed repairs. City Clerk Terrill advised that she would look into programs within surrounding cities and possible grants for sidewalk repair.

Prunty opened discussion on the Utilities budgets. Sonny Porter, Board of Public Works Chairperson, advised Council that the Board offered a 5% discount during COVID and that the Power Plant has not been receiving capacity payments due to equipment failure. Porter went on to say that the Board decided to take care of everything that is mandatory. Porter went on to say that there are several things at the Landfill that need to be taken care of including wells and permitting on the C&D and they are

currently getting the Power Plant up and functional to resume capacity payments. Porter stated that the Board has asked the Supervisor's to defer any upgrades this year unless it is mandatory. He said that there are repairs needed on the building at the water department, but the Board has asked that they wait until next year to make those repairs. Porter stated that the utilities cannot be bonded right now because they already have too many bonds. Porter went on to say that the Board would like to take care of one of the small bonds which would allow a bond in the future if something catastrophic would happen. Baliman asked if there would be any reimbursement from the State for the utility discount that was offered during COVID. Porter advised that it would not be reimbursed. Bright asked if the Power Plant was still needed. Porter stated that MEAN would really like the Power Plant to have the capacity to generate. Porter went on to say that the plant is beneficial to economic development. Discussion was held on the 3% charge to credit cards. Baliman asked if it would be beneficial to remove the 3% charge to encourage more payments. Brower stated that she would put some figures together.

Next regular meeting will be held August 18, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. There being no further business, Baliman moved and seconded by Bright to adjourn the meeting at 6:15 p.m. On roll call vote, the following votes were recorded on the electronic voting board. Aye: Baliman, Bright, Pike and Shields. Nay: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

Keith B. Prunty, Mayor

Katherine Terrill, City Clerk