Kimball City Council
Regular Meeting
October 17, 2023

A regular meeting of the Mayor and City Council was convened in open and public session at 5:00 p.m. on October 17, 2023, held at the City Council Chambers, 223 S. Chestnut St. Council members, Ingram, Muench, Pike, and Warner was present. Also, present was Mayor Morrison, City Administrator Annette Brower, City Treasurer Klassen, and City Attorney Matt Turman. The public was represented in the meeting.

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.

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

Pastor Randy Bohac led the room in prayer.

John Shepard, Marvin Planning, joined the meeting via Zoom and reviewed the working draft of the city's comprehensive plan and the draft zoning. Comments were heard by the council members and the public. No action was taken.

Brower gave an update regarding the contract for HR Services through Zelle and that our local representative is no longer with the company. After a meeting with Zelle it is evident that they will not have a representative in the Panhandle to meet with staff but rather, will have someone available by phone and personal representation on a quarterly basis. Turman indicated that they are in default of the contract and the City could cancel it. Motion by Warner, second by Ingram to cancel the current contract with Zelle HR. Following additional discussion about the position being moved in house and upon roll call the following votes were recorded. Aye: Ingram, Muench, Pike, and Warner. Nay: None.

Terri Strong, Cunningham Recreation, joined the meeting via Zoom and presented a plan for new playground equipment at Gotte Park. The proposed plan would be inclusive for all children of all abilities. Strong discussed the grant funding from the company that expires October 27, 2023. Upon discussion it was moved by Ingram, seconded by Pike, to accept the two proposals from Cunningham Recreation for the Gotte Park Playground using the recycled rubber mulch and applying for the grant to offset the cost. Roll call the following votes were recorded. Aye: Ingram, Muench, Pike, and Warner. Nay: None. Comments were heard from the public.

Motion by Muench, seconded by Pike to approval the Demo Grant by the Loan Advisory Committee for Tarango Franco. Roll call the following votes were recorded. Aye: Ingram, Muench, Pike, and Warner. Nay: None.

Jim Shoup, Street Superintendent, was present to review the snow removal routes for the upcoming winter. Shoup indicated that as the new hospital starts up then the routes will change to accommodate the new location. No action was taken.

Shoup led the discussion on the need for Council to request NDOT to conduct a traffic study at the East & West end of Highway 30. Following discussion, a motion was made by Ingram, seconded by Pike to request NDOT to conduct a traffic study at the East & West end of Highway 30. Roll call the following votes were recorded. Aye: Ingram, Muench, Pike, and Warner. Nay: None.

Shoup presented four bids for a mini excavator for the streets/parks. With the repairs of water there has been a need for a second digger as there are times the cemetery needs the current one as well. After reviewing the quotes from Panhandle Machinery, Sandberg Implement Inc. Murphy Tractor & Equipment, and Titan Machinery (with a revised quote) motion by Warner, seconded by Ingram to accept the quote from Sandberg Implement Inc for a E35 25HP R2-Series Bobcat Compact Excavator. Roll call the following votes were recorded. Aye: Ingram, Muench, Pike, and Warner. Nay: None.

Brower led the discussion on the intersection of 2nd and Chestnut. UNL is assisting with this study at no cost to us. They are currently counting the number and type of vehicles that go through the intersection. They will collect this data for a few weeks. They have also pulled the crash data for the past 10 years for this area. UNL will also look at the downtown parking and sightlines. The council discussed if they could lower the weight limit on City streets or even reach out NDOR on raising the interstate weight limit on the one mile of I-80 between the two exits. Shoup demonstrated highly visible signs to put on 2nd & Chestnut that would remind drives to look out for pedestrians in crosswalk etc. Possibility of even putting up a sign that would say local truck traffic only to reduce the amount of truck traffic through the downtown area. No action was taken.

City of Kimball Police Sargent Jose Barboza and Community Service Officer Joe Leitz were present to discuss the proposal from Panhandle Auto Group Kimball for a 2021 Dodge Charger Police Pursuit. This vehicle would be used by the incoming trainee who starts in December. Barboza indicated that as a driving instructor he feels that this is the right vehicle as it is what they train on at the Police Academy. The AWD makes it safe to use during the winter months. Barboza indicated that the term “Pursuit” is the package type of the vehicle and not that it is intended for high-speed pursuits. Motion by Ingram, seconded by Warner to accept the proposal from Panhandle Auto Group Kimball for a 2021 Dodge Charger Police Pursuit. Roll call the following votes were recorded. Aye: Ingram, Muench, Pike, and Warner. Nay: None.

Motion by Ingram, seconded by Muench to approve the mayor’s signature on Revision No 1. Exhibit A, B and E to the WAPA Firm Electric Service Contract No. 14-RMR-2559. Roll call the following votes were recorded. Aye: Ingram, Muench, Pike, and Warner. Nay: None.

Morrison opened the discussion on the N Highway 71 Relinquishment Agreement Supplemental No. 2 from the County to the City of Kimball. This will give the city sole jurisdictional responsibility over the parts of Highway 71 from approximately 50 feet north of the I-80 ramps at reference post 15+37 all the way to reference post 17+08. Following discussion motion by

Warner seconded by Pike to approve the mayor's signature on the Relinquishment Agreement Supplemental No.2. Roll call the following votes were recorded. Aye: Ingram, Muench, Pike, and Warner. Nay: None.

Reports –

Mayor John Morrison – Topping out ceremony at Clean Harbors last week where they placed the highest piece of steel. It will be another year before the new incinerator is up and going. A discussion was held with Lighthouse Subdivision and what that will look like moving forward. Clean Harbors wants to get going on the apartments by the Manor and add apartments to the Lighthouse layout. Met with individuals involved in the Antelope Ridge subdivision and looking at what their timeline is.

Councilmen Don Muench reported that the Rural Workforce Committee funds are exhausted with the remaining money probably going to two sites in Gering. There have been two loans that have defaulted, and it will be a bit before money is available again. Upon his research Muench has discovered a grant that pays someone to build a house and then sell it to a low-income family. Muench will look more into this and bring it back to the Council.

Councilmen Pike reported that the Airport runway is open and lit.

Councilmen Gabe Ingram stated that the school is working on new playground equipment for Mary Lynch. Ingram attended the police training and expressed it was enjoyable to watch and nice to see the officers practicing different scenarios.

Councilwoman Christy Warner had no updates to give.

City Administrator Annette Brower – They have interviewed one applicant for the Building/Health Inspector, two other candidates removed their names due to the drive. One new application was just received. Brower and Waster Water Treatment crew met with engineers about the updates to the plant. Bids will go out in the summer of 2024 with building being done in 2025. They discussed the two new subdivisions and what would be required for the sewer side of things. Brower will be meeting with the dam inspector in the morning to review the Janicek Dam and the walking trail area. There are some updates that need to be done. Northrop Grumman held a briefing; the biggest issue is still the rumors. Many pieces are still in play as they work with the Department of Defense, one thing to point out is that the housing hub cannot be built until the construction on FE Warren Airforce Base is completed. The timeline is still being finalized.

Chief Of Police Jose Ruiz was not present but gave his report to Brower to read. In the last few weeks have answered 84 calls for service including vandalism, fraud cases, traffic complaints, assist military with a convoy and a lock down at the schools due to a suspicious person. The new trainee will start in December and has completed her paperwork, will be starting the academy in January.

Public Comments – None.

The next regular scheduled meeting will be on Tuesday, November 21st, at 5:00pm.

There being no further business, motion by Pike, seconded by Muench to adjourn the meeting at 7:20 p.m. The following votes were recorded, Aye: Ingram, Muench, Pike, and Warner. Nay: None.

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John Morrison, Mayor City Clerk