Kimball City Council
Regular Meeting
November 21, 2023

A regular meeting of the Mayor and City Council was convened in open and public session at 5:00 p.m. on November 21, 2023, held at the City Council Chambers, 223 S. Chestnut St. Council members, Ingram, Muench, and Pike was present. Council member Warner was absent. 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, and Pike. Nay: None. Absent: Warner. Motion carried. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Morrison acknowledged the posted Open Meetings Act.

Mayor Morrison led the room in prayer.

Morrison stated that the update on status of Zelle HR would be moved to the bottom of the agenda and be convened in Executive (Closed) Session pursuant to Section 84-1410 of the Revised Statutes of Nebraska.

Motion by Pike, seconded by Ingram to approve the consent agenda items as one which includes, minutes from the meeting held on October 17,2023, with correction of Council member Pike name on page 3. The following votes were recorded: Aye: Ingram, Muench, and Pike. Nay: None. Absent: Warner. Motion carried.

Brower discussed the City of Kimball and County of Kimball Interlocal Cooperative Agreement for Solid Waste & Landfill Disposal Services. The only changes are to paragraph 6, Fees, and Charges. The Board of Public Works recommends that the city take over the billing of County Residents for the Landfill. Currently the Kimball County Treasurer office has been handling the billing, collecting payments, and then remitting the collected fees to the city. For the residents who have paid in advance their credit will transfer over. County will update the city on new address or new residents. Late fees will go from $2.00 to $25.00 as set by City ordinances. Brower indicated that there won't be an increase in income but rather an increase in expenses for printing, and postage. County sends out about 159 monthly bills vs the 350 county residents as they don't bill those who have paid in advance and have credit. Muench offered a thank you to the County Treasurer and staff for doing the billing all this time. Motion by Muench, seconded by Ingram, the following votes were recorded: Aye: Ingram, Muench, and Pike. Nay: None. Absent: Warner. Motion carried.

City of Kimball Chief of Police Jose Ruiz and Community Service Officer Joe Leitz were present to discuss the proposal from Panhandle Auto Group Kimball for a 2019 Dodge Charger Police Pursuit. This has 46, 567 miles, and comes with $10,000 of Whelen lights equipment. And a cost of $36,850. The department would need to spend another $10,600 to put on the police logo, console, Setina parts for full cage & gun lock, and a new statewide radio for a total cost of

$47,451. The BPW will purchase the 2021 Chevy Silverado for $26,000 for the wastewater treatment plant. This would bring the final cost to $21,451. Ruiz stated again that these are the vehicles that the academy is using to train new officers and feels it's a good fit for the department. Motion by Ingram, seconded by Pike to accept the proposal from Panhandle Auto Group Kimball for a 2019 Dodge Charger Police Pursuit, the following votes were recorded: Aye: Ingram, Muench, and Pike. Nay: None. Absent: Warner. Motion carried.

Chief Ruiz next discussed his request to update the body cameras officers wear and the cameras in the patrol vehicles. Ruiz explained that they are looking into purchasing twelve body cameras and explained this would give them extras if they lost theirs during a pursuit, altercation etc. Another benefit to these cameras is that the ones in vehicles will automatically sync up to a cloud storage once the vehicle is pulled up to the police station and it removes the ability to tamper with footage. The body cameras will sync to the cloud storage once it is docked in the station, again removes the ability to tamper with footage, the body cameras will also start to record once the lights in the patrol vehicle have been activated so there isn't a change of forgetting to turn it on in the moment of a pursuit etc. This all just helps to keep the department accountable and transparent. The cost of the equipment is $24,649, and Chief Ruiz stated they would like to do financing for one year and then budget the remaining amount in their next fiscal year budget and pay if off. Motion by Pike, seconded by Ingram, the following votes were recorded: Aye: Ingram, Muench, and Pike. Nay: None. Absent: Warner. Motion carried.

Council member Ingram reported on a meeting that was had with the Keith County Area Development (KCAD) which is an endeavor between the City of Ogallala, Keith County, and the other smaller towns/villages in Keith Conty. Ingram stated that Mary Wilson had a wealth of knowledge and was helpful in answering their questions. KCAD is set up as a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that receives its funding via interlocal agreements from the County, and other city/town/village municipalities. They have their own board that they report to, and any donations are tax exempt. Their office also handles the Chamber of Commerce's housing. Funding is based on a to be determined about and that is for everyone in the county. Ingram indicated that with the loss of LB840 funds the City and County are trying to look at ways to fund this. No action was taken.

Brower gave an update on the new playground equipment for Gotte Park purchased through GameTime. The colors of equipment will be red, white, and blue, delivery will be in early spring, and we are responsible for removal of the old equipment and leveling out the area. Next thing that needs to be voted on to make pricing deadline is what type of surface. The choices are interlocking rubber tiles or loose fill shredded rubber or rubber nuggets. Discussion ranged from the ability to keep the shredded or nuggets contained in the play area, cost between the two, temperature, ADA accessibility and concerns of burns, council agrees which ever surface they choose it needs to be on the lighter side to help with controlling temperatures. Mayor Morrison stated that Sidney and Ogallala have both been successful in reaching out to businesses for donations to their parks and that could be an option with the price difference between mats and loose. Donny Lonsdale in the audience stated he would kick off the donations with $2,000 from his business and $1,000 personally. Motion by Ingram, seconded by Pike to approve the choice of rubber mats, and if possible, do the same red, white, and blue colors as the playground equipment the following votes were recorded: Aye: Ingram, Muench, and Pike. Nay: None. Absent: Warner. Motion carried.

Mayor Morrison stated that due to the resignation of Gregg Fossand from the Board of Public Works he is nominating Tim Carlson to fill the vacancy. Following discussion motion made by

Ingram, seconded by Pike the following votes were recorded: Aye: Ingram, Muench, and Pike. Nay: None. Absent: Warner. Motion carried.

Mayor Morrison opened the discussion on the Council Meeting dates for January, February, March 2024. Morrison stated that the Thursday, December 14, 2023, meeting was set and needed to be held after the Board of Public Works December meeting. Morrison feels that the first meeting in January on the 5th is so close to the holidays that it can be pushed to the 3rd Tuesday on January 16th. February and March plan on just one meeting on the 3rd Tuesday of the month. If business needs to be handled prior to this then Council can be flexible about other meeting dates. No action was taken.

Reports –

Mayor John Morrison – Out for a week due to COVID. The city is running well with everyone doing their jobs and getting the business of the city done. Morrison commented on the generosity of the community during recent fundraisers for community members who are battling an illness. The city is busy with projects and plans are moving ahead and once spring comes, we will be able to move forward quickly. Wishing all a Happy Thanksgiving.

Councilmen Don Muench - Rural Workforce Committee funds are not exhausted as they rejected one grant proposal, though there is a waiting line of other grant proposals, and it's first come first serve. Thus far there are no new applicants from Kimball.

Councilmen Creg Pike – Planning Commission canceled due to lack of quorum. The airport is open, had a State Patrol officer bring out one of their pursuit vehicles and did the quarter mile on it. There could be a possible award coming to Kimball for how well the runway was done. Leases are coming up and need to review the process and payment on those.

Councilmen Gabe Ingram – School board announced that they had received their new activities bus.

Councilwoman Christy Warner – Absent

City Administrator Annette Brower – Will be hosting the auditors 11/30 and 12/1. Generally, it's only one day as we prepare for them all year. The Board of Public Works has 60% of design for the new wastewater treatment plant and 65% of the new power plant design done. Recycling center will get a fresh look, new stucco and old windows will be framed out and covered. 2nd street all has new valves on the water lines. New duplexes are going up on Nadine St and they were a recipient of the Rural Work Force grant. The location for the new Anderson Car Wash has had its footings poured. Engineers have come back on comments from the Clean Harbors apartment complex. The Road Dept did a great job helping with correcting issues with the Janicek Damn and working with the State Inspector.

Chief Of Police Jose Ruiz – Between 10/17 and 11/21 have answered 195 calls for service including trailers on parked streets, parking complaints, medical assist, dog at large, fraud, shoplifting, missing person, many thanks to the citizens and other agencies for their help in locating the juvenile, child abuse, deceased person, traffic stops, juvenile disturbance, truck vs pedestrian accident, felony warrant, shooting call, assist state patrol with a drug bust and other calls. Ruiz addressed the question of why the department is not fully staffed and went through the rigors of screening and hiring that happens for a potential hire. The applicant submits a

resume, then fills out an application, there's an interview with the Chief, there is a 2–3-month background check, physical exam, psych evaluation etc. There were three candidates that were scheduled for the physical test, one withdrew their name as they knew they couldn't pass it the other two did not show up. Chief Ruiz would rather take his time and get quality candidates that want to be in Kimball for the long run and be a good fit vs just hiring to say the department is full and have a high turnover rate and officers that aren't a good fit.

Public Comments – Roger Gilming apologized for not being here for the prayer.

The next regular scheduled meeting will be on Thursday, December 14th, at 5:00pm.

At 6:15 pm motion by Ingram, seconded by Muench to convene in Executive (Closed) Session pursuant to Section 84-1410 of the Revised Statutes of Nebraska and requested that City Administrator Brower and City Attorney Turman remain, the following votes were recorded: Aye: Ingram, Muench, and Pike. Nay: None. Absent: Warner. Motion carried.

At 6:29 pm motion by Ingram, seconded by Pike to exit the Executive (Closed) Session the following votes were recorded: Aye: Ingram, Muench, and Pike. Nay: None. Absent: Warner. Motion carried. No action was taken during the Executive Session.

There being no further business, motion by Ingram, seconded by Pike to adjourn the meeting at 6:30 p.m. The following votes were recorded: Aye: Ingram, Muench, and Pike. Nay: None. Absent: Warner. Motion carried.

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John Morrison, Mayor City Clerk