Kimball City Council
Regular Meeting
December 3, 2024

A City Council meeting was convened in open and public session at 5:00 p.m. December 3, 2024, held at the City Council Chambers, 223 S. Chestnut St. Council members present were, Greg Robinson, and Craig Pike. Absent: None. Also, present was Mayor Morrison, City Administrator Annette Brower, City Clerk Jean Klassen, and City Clerk Paula Tarango. The public was represented at 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.

Council member Austin Garner took the oath of office and was seated with the Council.

Council member Jamie Murdoch took the oath of office and was seated with the Council.

Morrison opened a discussion on electing the new Council President. Motion by Garner, seconded by Pike to invite the public to comment, ask questions and/or provide their input regarding this decision. The following votes were recorded: Aye: Robinson, Pike, Murdoch, and Garner. Nay: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Robinson, seconded by Garner to elect Pike as the new Council President. The following votes were recorded: Aye: Robinson, Murdoch, Pike, and Garner. Nay: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

No public comment.

Motion by Robinson, seconded by Pike to approve the mayor's appointment for City Administrator Annette Brower. The following votes were recorded: Aye: Robinson, Murdoch, Pike, and Garner. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Murdoch, seconded by Pike to approve the mayor's appointment for City Clerk Paula Tarango. The following votes were recorded: Aye: Robinson, Murdoch, Garner, and Pike. Nay: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Pike, seconded by Murdoch to approve the mayor's appointment for City Treasurer Jean Klassen. The following votes were recorded: Aye: Robinson, Murdoch, Garner, and Pike. Nay: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Pike, seconded by Garner to approve the mayor's appointment for Chief of Police Jose Ruiz. The following votes were recorded: Aye: Robinson, Murdoch, Garner, and Pike. Nay: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Robinson, seconded by Pike to approve the mayor's appointment for Boards and Committees, Newspapers, Radio Stations, and Banks. The following votes were recorded: Aye: Robinson, Murdoch, Pike, and Garner. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Morrison welcomed Rodney Sterkel; he was hired as the new Building Inspector for the City of Kimball as of October 2024. Discussion only, no action taken.

Motion by Robinson, seconded by Pike to ratify the Kimball Police Department Active Police Officers for the 2025 year, Jose Ruiz (Chief), Jose Barboza (Sergeant), Colton McKenzie (Officer), Logan Luft (Officer). The following votes were recorded: Aye: Robinson, Murdoch, Pike, and Garner. Nay: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Robinson, seconded by Pike to ratify the Volunteer Fire Department active members for the 2025 year. Autrey L David, Autrey A Jordan, Andrew Bremer, Andrew S Bohac, Taylor S Brown, Timothy S Culek, Tyson S Culek, Robert D Dunkin III, Jaden Emerson, Kain Hart, William P Hinton, Casey R Hottell, Austin H Janicek, Daniel J Laughlin, Nathaniel J Lousberg, Darin A Lukassen, James R McDonald, Robert M Muench, Mark A Nelson, Marvin A Nelson, Brock Nollette, Rodney L Rasgorshek, Joshua A Thompson, Aaron M Uglow, Jordan Wages, Stephen H Watson, Mark D Whetham, and Rick A Wynne. The following votes were recorded: Aye: Robinson, Murdoch, Pike, and Garner. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Robinson, seconded by Murdoch to approve payment of invoice to NMC CAT for Power Generation project – Foundations and Underground Electrical work per contract. The following votes were recorded: Aye: Garner, Murdoch, Robinson, and Pike. Nay: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

Morrison opened a discussion regarding the building permit fee schedule, roof permits and fence permits. Per City Administrator Annette Brower, we are simply looking to update the rates to be competitive, Rodney Sterkel has been doing research and gathering data to determine where we need to be. These rates have not been reviewed in years. Discussion only, no action taken.

Motion by Pike, seconded by Murdoch to approve the use and filing of the ARPA/SLRF funds received in 2021 for the project obligation filing deadline of December 31, 2024. The following votes were recorded: Aye: Murdoch, Garner, Pike, and Robinson. Nay: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Pike, seconded by Robinson to approve the 2023 Police Charger 2WD to be replaced with a 2024 Dodge Durango AWD through ESU Pursuits, NO funding to be expended, direct swap-out of vehicles. The following votes were recorded: Aye: Robinson, Murdoch, Pike, and Garner. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Morrison opened a discussion on Economic Development. Board members were provided with documentation from the previous program that the City of Kimball had. Morrison encouraged Council members to review those for further conversations during the upcoming meetings.

Reports –

Mayor Morrison – Welcome to the new Council members, looking forward to next year, there will be several projects that we will be working on. There are still a few openings with a few boards and committees, if anyone is interested, you are encouraged to apply.

City Administrator Annette Brower - Submitted the application to the power review board for the project generation project, we should hear back within 30 days. The power generation project is moving forward, they are moving quickly, and are right on time, the projected end date will be June of 2025. There was an accident at the Cemetery that took out quite a bit of fence, we are still waiting on insurance from the driver's side so we can get an adjuster out there to get started in getting this fixed. Please know that we are working diligently to get this taken care of. Rodney Sterkel has been working hard to get our Building Department up and running, he has issued his first certificate of occupancy to the 7th Street apartments. We are moving ahead with the Wastewater Treatment Plant, the bid notifications are out, we are looking at January 9th bid opening day. We've had a couple of small power outages in the last couple of days, we have lines above ground which causes birds and squirrels to run along the lines and cause these outages. Thank you to our electric crew for working so fast at fixing these and thank you to the public for understanding as these issues are complex to fix due to having to run the entire line through town. Additional updates given.

Chief of Police Jose Ruiz – The last time we gave a report was on October 15, from the last time I was here to today, the Police Department has taken 241 calls for service. 6,740 calls for service, that includes Sheriff's Department, EMT, Kimball Police, and Fire Department. The calls range from Parking complaints, civil standbys, dog at large, alarms, hang up calls, harassment welfare checks, shoplifting, fraud, trespass, suicidal person, suspicious person, Narcotic violations, traffic stops, we've assisted the Sheriff's Department with traffic stops and other. Some of the larger calls range from: A missing person, we want to thank the State Patrol, Kimball County Sherrif's Office, Region 21, Emergency Management, Cheyenne County, Scottsbluff County CERT, Kimball County CERT. There was an arrest for DUI as well as one for disturbing the peace. Update on hiring, we have a new person that we recently hired, they will be attending the academy in January, we've also had a couple of laterals express interest in applying for openings with our agency. The Police Department hosted a class for the cadettes, this includes a wide range of training and learning opportunities. The Kimball Police Department has attended several trainings that were hosted by the Sidney Police Department such as Domestic Situations, barricaded person, a certified negotiator was brought in and was a part of that training, mass shooter and casualty event. It was a very successful event, and I would like to thank the volunteers. Several agencies participated in the training such as State Patrol, Cheyenne County Sheriff's Office, The Kimball Police Department, Sidney Fire Department, Sidney Regional Ambulance Service, and Cheyenne County Communications Services Department. This training is of high importance to our department, if we don't train, we become a liability and the safety of our staff as well as the public is a priority.

There being no further business, motion by Pike, seconded by Murdoch, to adjourn the meeting at 5:36 p.m. The following votes were recorded: Aye: Pike, Robinson, Murdoch, and Garner. Nay: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

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John Morrison, Mayor City Clerk