

**City of Tonganoxie**  
**City Council Meeting Minutes**  
**01/25/10**

The Governing Body of the City of Tonganoxie met in their regularly scheduled session at the City Hall Council Chambers on January 25, 2010. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. with roll call showing a quorum and the following members present: Councilmembers: Tom Putthoff, Jim Truesdell, Jason Ward and Burdel Welsh. Mike Yanez, City Administrator, Kathy Bard, Asst. City Administrator and Mike Kelly, City Attorney. Mayor, Michael Vestal and Councilmember Paula Crook were absent. With the absence of the Mayor, Council President Jason Ward presided as Mayor.

**Consent Agenda:**

- a) Approval of Minutes -
  - 1. Regular Meeting dated January 11, 2010
  
- b) Consider Approval of Bills - Approve Pay Ordinance A-1625

**Motion** by Welsh to approve the consent agenda items a through b. Second by Putthoff. All Ayes. Aye 4. Motion carried.

**Open Agenda:** First under open agenda, JW Evan, Evans Real Estate, spoke concerning the sale of the City owned property in Linwood. The parcel has been advertised for 30 days and he also visited with all the neighbors to see if there was any other interest in purchasing the farm land with a higher bid. There was no other interest. Elder & Sons, LLC is a father and son operation. They have farmed the land for the last 32 years, with the last 10 years leasing the property from the City. They have offered \$100,000 to purchase the 44.8-acre property.

**Motion** by Welsh to enter into a contract to sell the property to Elder & Sons, LLC for \$100,000. Second by Putthoff. All Ayes. Aye 4. Motion carried.

Next under open agenda was Cheryl Hanback and Victoria Rowley representing the Chamber of Commerce. Cheryl is the Executive Director and Victoria is an ex-officio member. They were looking for support for the St Patrick's Day celebration. The committee would like to expand the parade to be more of a festival with leprechaun games, moonwalks, entertainment and beer and food tents. By expanding the celebration, they are hoping to get more people downtown. Councilmember Ward said he would like to see it become more of an event rather than just the parade. The council agreed they would be in support of the venue. The permits will be considered at the next meeting.

Laurence Hill, 501 E 13<sup>th</sup> Street was checking on the welfare of the missing governing body members.

With no additional concerns presented, the open agenda was closed.

**Old Business:** The first item under Old Business was to consider Ordinance 1292 encouraging economic development and initiation of construction of new housing by offering a refund/rebate to the buyer. The Ordinance allows for a refund of \$3,000 to the home buyer of a newly constructed home with a valuation of \$220,000 or more. It allows for the first ten building permits to be eligible and will expire in one year or when the then permits are issued whichever occurs first. **Motion** by Putthoff to approve Ordinance 1292 to

encourage economic development by offering a refund of \$3,000 at closing. Second by Truesdell. All Ayes. Aye 4. Motion carried.

**New Business:** The first item under new business was to consider purchase of service trucks to replace aging equipment. A memo from City Superintendent, Butch Rodgers said in the 2010 CIP there was budgeted \$35,000 each for two new service trucks. The trucks that are being replaced both have over 100,000 miles on them and maintenance is becoming an issue. Over the past 15 years, the goal has been to replace service trucks when they reach ten years old to avoid large maintenance costs. Bids were received from four different dealerships in an effort to receive the best bid. In addition to purchasing the trucks, public works also recommends purchasing two snowplows for the trucks. The plows would add to the efficiency of the snow removal process. Bid pricing is as follows:

2011 Ford F250 Super Cab 4X4

Shawnee Mission Ford	\$24,180
Danny Zeck Ford	\$24,175
Laird Noller Ford	\$25,572
Bonner Springs Ford	\$30,900
Western Snow Plow 2@ \$4,700	\$9,400
Bar Light 2 @ \$270	\$540
Tool Boxes	<u>\$1,300</u>
Sub Total	\$11,240
Low Truck bid 2@24,175	\$48,350
Total Purchase	<u>\$59,590</u>

Council noted that the total purchase was at least \$10,000 less than budgeted and directed the City Superintendent to look into purchasing salt and sand spreaders to completely outfit the truck. Staff will bring information back to the next meeting. **Motion** by Putthoff to purchase two 2011 Ford F250 Super Cab 4X4 pickup trucks from Danny Zeck Ford in an amount not to exceed \$48,350 and the additional equipment from Western in an amount not to exceed \$11,240. Second by Welsh. All Ayes. Aye 4. Motion carried.

Next on the agenda was an ad to advertise for an open position in the water department. Council tabled the item to the next meeting.

Next on the agenda was the City Administrator Report. Yanez said in compliance with adopted personnel policies and the adopted pay plan several employees have received an annual performance evaluation. The evaluated employees received a satisfactory or better evaluation and are eligible for a 2.5% merit increase. **Motion** by Truesdell to approve the City Administrator recommendation to increase the salary by 2.5% of those evaluated employees with a favorable evaluation effective January 1, 2010. Second by Welsh. All Ayes. Aye 4. Motion carried. Councilmember Putthoff then led a discussion concerning employees that have topped out their pay scale. He said he is aware of one employee and there may be two that do not receive merit increases and only receive an increase when the cost of living actually increases. In the 2010 budget the cost of living had actually decreased so there was not an increase budgeted for so that employee did not receive any pay raise. Ward said some companies give bonuses at the end of the year in lieu of a pay increase so it does not increase

the salary but rewards the employee. He said he would rather give pay increases than bonuses to retain employees. Staff reminded the council that employees do receive longevity pay based on years of service. Welsh said we need to review the entire benefit program as Tonganoxie may not be competitive in the market and he suggested a work session be scheduled at a later date to further discuss.

Next Yanez said the he and Councilmember Crook will be going to Washington DC to advocate for federal funding to support City projects. Proposal No 1 is for water, sewer and gas lines to the Tonganoxie Industrial Park. The project total is \$1.138 million and we are asking for \$1 million dollars in Federal funding. The second proposal is for 14<sup>th</sup> Street and US 24/40 highway improvements. It includes geometric improvements at 24/40 & 14<sup>th</sup> Street and building 14<sup>th</sup> Street from 24/40 to East Street. This project cost estimate is \$3.329 million and we are seeking 1.3 million in Federal support. **Motion** by Putthoff to direct the proposals be submitted to Federal representative in Washington, DC, for Federal support. Second by Welsh. All Ayes. Aye 4. Motion carried.

Next Councilmember Putthoff said the council recently discussed advertising for a new Chief of Police. Page 53 of the personnel policy states fill from within first. He thinks we need to stay within the Police Department and promote from within the organization before posting the position for others to apply. City Attorney, Mike Kelly said the statement in the policy may not apply to the Chief of Police position because it is an appointed position rather than hired. He will research and bring back information to a later meeting.

With no further business to discuss, there was a **motion** by Putthoff to adjourn. Second by Welsh. Motion carried. All Ayes. Aye 4. Meeting adjourned at 7:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kathy Y. Bard, City Clerk  
Asst City Administrator