

City of Tonganoxie
City Council Meeting Minutes
07/12/10

The Governing Body of the City of Tonganoxie met in their regularly scheduled session at the City Hall Council Chambers on July 12, 2010. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. with roll call showing a quorum and the following members present: Mayor Michael Vestal, Councilmembers: Paula Crook, Tom Putthoff, Jim Truesdell, Burdel Welsh and Jason Ward. Mike Yanez, City Administrator; Kathy Bard, Asst City Administrator/City Clerk and Mike Kelly, City Attorney.

Consent Agenda:

- a) Consider Approval of Bills - Approve Pay Ordinance A-1636

Motion by Ward to approve the consent agenda. Second by Welsh. All Ayes Aye 5. Motion carried.

Open Agenda: Bill Peak, 612 Washington, said he had been attending council meetings for three years and has agreed to drive the Mayor, Michael Vestal to the meetings. He wanted to assure the council members that any statements he makes or questions he asks are his opinion alone.

Mary Fare, 420 E 5th Street, said she lives in a rental property and her landlord has not taken care of plumbing leaks. She has a large water bill and requested additional time to pay it. **Motion** by Welsh to authorize staff to negotiate a pay plan with the customer. Second by Putthoff. All Ayes. Aye 5. Motion carried.

Denise Bixby, 704 East Street, announced the cleanup day to be July 31 from 8 am to 5 pm. He plans on staging at the lot east of the Fire Station. Honey Creek disposal has donated three dumpsters, B&J Country Mart and Himpel Lumber has donated gloves and trash bags. The Tonganoxie Mirror has been helping promote the project. E.A.S.T. will supervise the collection. He said the goal is to spruce up the town and make it look better. **Motion** by Crook to authorize the committee to use the city property located to the East of the Fire Station contingent upon liability insurance coverage for the event. Second by Welsh. All Ayes. Aye 5. Motion carried.

Old Business: The first item on the agenda under old business was to correct the Ordinance that was adopted at the last meeting increasing the water rates. The adopted Ordinance had incorrect rates included in it. The Ordinance presented tonight includes the correct rate and repeals the incorrect Ordinance. **Motion** by Welsh to adopt Ordinance 1306. Second by Truesdell. All Ayes. Aye 5. Motion carried.

Next on the agenda was A.W. (Rocky) Himpel, 18831 South Glen Road, Tonganoxie representing David Himpel and his property 521 Pleasant Street. He requested a status update regarding the Pleasant Street Bridge replacement project and the promise in the easement agreement to remove a tree as part of the agreement. Yanez said the City has received one bid to remove the tree and is waiting on two more, before presenting the information to the Council.

New Business: The first item under new business was to consider approval of the purchase of a Police car and authorize the issuance of RFP for financing. **Motion** by Putthoff to approve the purchase and authorize issuance of the RFP and further direct the City Clerk to add the lease payment to the 2011 capital budget. Second by Welsh. 4 Ayes. 1 Nay (Crook). Motion carried.

Next item for discussion was the proposed 2011 budget. The council agreed to take any merit increases or pay for performance increases out of the budget. They opted instead for the budget to include a cost of living increase, to assist keeping the employees whole with the economy, and increasing the minimum and maximum ranges of the payscale. The council agreed the Tonganoxie pay scale is behind that of surrounding communities and if it is not kept current with the cost of living, it would be a step backwards. Tonganoxie tends to train Police Officers and Fire Fighters to have them move on to other cities for more money. The actual cost of living is 2.8 and the council suggested 2.5 be included. Councilmember Putthoff wanted the \$100,000 that is being used to pay debt service to be put back into the operating budgets so the departments can provide adequate service to the citizens. Councilmember Crook said she had a list of recommended cuts for the budget, Longevity pay \$7,800, cut Chamber donation in half would save \$3,500 elimination of the answering service would save \$14,400 and a reduction of overtime in the Police Department. After considerable discussion, the council agreed they wanted the contingency increased to maintain cash balance and wanted the mill levy increase to be five mills, to be discussed further at the next meeting. **Motion** by Ward to schedule a special City Council meeting July 19, 2010 at 6:30 pm to discuss the 2011 budget. Second by Truesdell. All Ayes. Aye 5. Motion carried.

Break at 9:20 PM for ten minutes. Meeting reconvened at 9:30 PM.

Next on the agenda was Fire Chief, David Bennett, he explained to the council the need to upgrade the radio system for interoperability with Leavenworth County. Motorola has made an interest free proposal to the Fire Departments in Leavenworth County. The upgrade will cost \$86,751.98, this equates to \$17,350 for a five-year lease or \$12,393 for a seven-year lease. The life expectancy of the equipment is five to seven years.

Next Mayor Vestal appointed Cody Edwards to fill the unexpired term on the Planning Commission expiring May 2011. **Motion** by Putthoff to accept the mayoral appointment. Second by Crook. All Ayes. Aye 5. Motion carried.

Next the City Administrator Mike Yanez announced the selection committee for selecting candidates to recommend to the council for consideration in filling the Chief of Police position. The committee will include two law enforcement members from outside the City, they are Ron Cranor and Robert Bienieke, a citizen at large, Dan Hopkins and two members of staff, Butch Rodgers and Mike Yanez. Councilmember Putthoff said he spoke to the District Attorney Todd Thompson and he said he would be willing to serve on the committee as well. **Motion** by Ward to accept the recommended selection committee presented by the City Administrator with the addition of the member recommended by Councilmember Putthoff. Second by Putthoff. All Ayes. Aye 5. Motion carried.

Next, there was a **Motion** by Putthoff to enter into an executive session at 10:00 PM for four minutes to discuss a matter of attorney client privilege and request City Administrator, Mike Yanez, Asst City Administrator, Kathy Bard and City Attorney Mike Kelly attend the executive session, to return at 10:04 PM. Second by Crook. All Ayes. Aye 5. Motion carried. **Motion** by Putthoff to exit executive session and reconvene with the regularly scheduled meeting at 10:04 PM. No items were discussed other than that mentioned and no votes were taken. Second by Truesdell. All Ayes. Aye 5. Motion carried.

With no further business to discuss, there was a **motion** by Crook to adjourn. Second by Putthoff. Motion carried. All Ayes. Aye 5. Meeting adjourned at 9:30 PM.

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