

**City of Tonganoxie**  
**City Council Meeting Minutes**  
**01/24/11**

The Governing Body of the City of Tonganoxie met in their regularly rescheduled session at the City Hall Council Chambers on January 24, 2011. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. with roll call showing a quorum and the following members present: Mayor, Jason Ward; Councilmembers: Paula Crook, Chris Donnelly, Andy Gilner, Bill Peak and Jim Truesdell. Mike Yanez, City Administrator; Kathy Bard, Asst City Administrator/ City Clerk and Mike Kelly, City Attorney.

**Consent Agenda**

- a) Approval of Minutes –
  - 1) Regular Meeting Dated January 11, 2011
  
- b) Consider Approval of Bills – Approve Pay Ordinance A-1650

**Motion** by Donnelly to approve the consent agenda items a and b. Second by Truesdell. All Ayes. Aye 5. Motion carried.

**Open Agenda:** John Morgan, 1177 Raintree Park, was present to talk about the School bond issue. He said since the last School bond issue there has been nearly a 20% increase in the student population. Offsite infrastructure for any new school must be funded with a special assessment through the City. They need support of the City if they are going to make this happen. He said the people he has spoken with seem to be in favor of economic development and the development of the industrial park. He said if a business was to approach the City, the City might offer an incentive to get that business here. If they are going to move here, they will be looking at the schools first.

Chris Niemeyer, 17560 188<sup>th</sup> Terrace, said he has three daughters, a third grader, a second grader and a preschooler. He serves as the PTA president and he said he is under the understanding that the City does not support funding of the infrastructure for the School District. He said he is at odds as to why the Council would openly support new business but does not outwardly support the construction of infrastructure for a new school. He continued by stating, you say you cannot afford to finance the streets, I say you cannot afford not to. We owe it to our children to provide a safe and secure environment for their education. They deserve a safe and secure drop off location for the children. We owe it to our kids so they can have open space to play and learn. Currently they have PE in the hallways and have a Quonset hut that was built for storage converted into classrooms. The National average for the square footage per student is 125 sq ft. The Kansas City metropolitan area average is 182 sq ft per student and Tonganoxie Elementary School has 92 sq ft per student. He suggested the council move forward with more public recognizable support for the bond election.

Mayor Ward said there have been several meetings between the City and the School and the City and School are in an information sharing stage. The governing body has not suggested in any meeting that they are not in support of the bond issue for schools. There have not been any votes or decisions made on this issue. One of the biggest concerns remain with the USD 464 and the City debt structures in a down economy. We need to determine what it is that we have to do to pay for these things and how we can make this happen. Councilmember Donnelly said at the end of the day if the taxpayers chose to support the bond issue then we will have to make it

happen one way or another. One way that has been discussed is spreading the debt among the entire School District instead of leaving the tax burden to only the city residents. The farther you spread the debt the less tax burden there will be on each property owner. Chris Niemeyer, 17560 188<sup>th</sup> Terrace said the perception of lack of support by the governing body is out there and people will follow that perception. Councilmember Peak said do not make judgments based on what you read in the paper. Nobody comes to these meetings and these types of big ticket items should be pre-planned. The City Council just heard about this for the first time a month ago. Diane Truesdell, 1120 Washington said nobody pulled 14<sup>th</sup> Street out of the air. That street has been on your long-term radar. Councilmember Truesdell said the City could not afford 4.5 million dollars in additional debt. The City needs to get support from our legislatures and starting working together to make this happen.

With no comments or concerns presented by the public, the open agenda was closed.

**Old Business:** No old business on the agenda

**New Business:** The first item on the agenda was an Ordinance annexing a tract of land into the City of Tonganoxie. The annexation is voluntary and does not require any infrastructure improvements. The property is located on the South side of West Washington. The petition is submitted by Claudia Langston. **Motion** by Gilner to adopt Ordinance 1316 annexing a tract of land into the City of Tonganoxie. Second by Donnelly. All Ayes. Aye 5. Motion carried.

Next on the agenda was an agreement between the State of Kansas and the City of Tonganoxie for Construction of the Pleasant Street Bridge. The Kansas Department of Transportation has presented a formal contract to be considered by the governing body that will establish the formal terms for the construction of the Pleasant Street Bridge. **Motion** by Crook to authorize the Mayor to sign the agreement between the City and the State of Kansas for the construction of the Pleasant Street Bridge. Second by Truesdell. All Ayes. Aye 5. Motion carried.

**Motion** by Donnelly to schedule a special meeting on January 31, 2011 at 7:00 PM to discuss City facilities, security issues and the proposed Building Inspector agreement. Second by Peak. All Ayes. Aye 5. Motion carried.

Next Chief Brandau went over the 2010 crime statistics. He said that the City of Tonganoxie is below the State average and well below the national average for crime. Further he said his goals for 2011 is to increase contacts with citizens and conduct more saturation patrols and apply more emphasis on impaired driving.

Next Council President said the number one driving force for Economic Development is schools. Councilmember Crook mentioned some complaint calls she had received concerning sidewalks not being cleared off.

With no further business to discuss, there was a **motion** by Crook to adjourn. Second by Truesdell. Motion carried. All Ayes. Aye 5. Meeting adjourned at 7:55 PM.

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