



City Council Meeting
February 16, 2015
7:00 p.m. Regular Meeting

Mayor Jason Ward opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m. with the pledge of allegiance. Council members present were Jim Truesdell, Bill Peak, Chris Donnelly, Andy Gilner, and Kara Reed. Also in attendance were City Administrator Nathan McCommon, Assistant City Administrator Jamie Shockley, and City Attorney Michael Kelly.

Consent Agenda

- Mr. Peak moved to approve the consent agenda. Mr. Gilner seconded. No discussion. All ayes. Motion carried.

Open Agenda

- Shaun Gee of 612 E. 4th Street addressed the Council regarding the trash receptacles on 4th Street not being dumped by Honey Creek in over two months. He stated that they've contacted the City several times and nothing still has been completed. Mr. Ward asked staff for an update regarding the receptacles. Ms. Shockley stated that she spoke to Monica Gee on Friday, February 13 and it was the first she had heard of the issue. She then asked staff about the issue, who stated that they contacted Honey Creek several times. We called them again and they said that they would take care of it this week. Ms. Shockley stated that she would follow up with them on Tuesday to ensure the issue is taken care of.

Old Business

- Nothing at this time.

New Business

Request for public funding for Entrepreneurs Achieving Success Together (E.A.S.T.)

- Mr. McCommon stated that there is a request from the E.A.S.T. group for funding. J.W. Evans addressed the Council and informed them that they are asking for funding because E.A.S.T. sponsors several events in Tonganoxie that are of great benefit to the City, including the St. Patrick's Day Parade, Spooktacular, and the Mayor's Christmas Tree Lighting. He added that the business owners of Tonganoxie get hit up for funding quite a bit and the dues associated with being a member of EAST are not sufficient to fully fund all of these events. He formally requested that the City make a one-time donation of \$2,000 to the EAST group.
- Mayor Ward thanked the EAST group for everything that they do and asked for clarification in whether or not they were asking for funding in the 2015 budget or the 2016 budget. Mr. Evans clarified that they would like the donation to go towards 2015 events. Mr. Truesdell stated that he thinks we need to wait until budget season and consider the allocation in the 2016 budget. Mr. Donnelly stated that the three major events the EAST group hosts bring a lot of people to Downtown Tonganoxie and the City should be a partner in supporting these events financially. Mr. Peak inquired as to how the EAST group arrived at the \$2,000 request. He stated that he would like to see a line item budget and know how much is needed for each event.
- Mr. Donnelly made a motion to approve the \$2,000 donation to the EAST group for use as they see fit, specifically for the three downtown events. Mr. Gilner seconded. Ms. Reed stated that she would like to discuss the request further.
- Ms. Reed stated that she strongly believes the EAST group does important work for our community and she is fully supportive of the group's efforts and would even be willing to personally donate her time and money to their events; however, she stated that there are other groups in this community that do valuable things, as well, and she wanted to know how the City would distinguish this donation among other donations we receive requests for in the future. She asked the Council to proceed with caution because of the precedent this may set with future groups.
- Ms. Reed asked if there was a reason the group was asking for a \$2,000 donation rather than asking the City to sponsor particular events versus simply making a donation. Mr. Evans stated that he would be supportive of the City sponsoring various events versus just making a one-time donation.
- Mr. Donnelly stated that he agreed and would be happy to withdraw his motion if the EAST group wanted to come back with a budget for each event and a request for sponsorship from the City. Keyta Kelly of 512 E. 4th Street said that EAST would be happy to put together a budget with the specific line items.
- Monica Gee of 612 E. 4th Street said that she commits a lot of her time and money to these events, and with St. Patrick's Day just around the corner, she doesn't agree that they should have to come back with a line item budget for these events.
- Mr. Peak thanked all of the audience members for being there to express their concerns about this important issue. He went on to say that donating the full \$2,000 to EAST tonight would create a slippery slope, and he likes the idea of sponsoring the events versus just donating.
- Mr. Donnelly withdrew his motion. Ms. Reed moved to co-sponsor the St. Patrick's Day Parade with the EAST group and contribute \$500 to the event. Mr. Peak seconded. No further discussion. All ayes. Motion carried.

Update on Uses of Existing Elementary School

- Dr. Lynn Rantz, Superintendent of Tonganoxie Schools, addressed the Council to inform them of possible uses that the school board is considering for the old elementary school. She stated that one option the school board is seriously considering is finding a

new purpose for the building and partnering with the Tonganoxie Recreation Commission. She stated that a company named Selden is interested in buying the building and repurposing it into a 37-unit independent senior living facility. The company is not interested in the gym, however, and the Recreation Commission has expressed interest in taking over the gym and 4 classrooms to serve as a community center/gym. She went on to say that Selden is currently conducting a study to determine the costs of utilities, etc. at the building and will be providing this information to the Recreation Commission.

- Mr. Peak asked for clarification if a commitment has been made to sell to Selden. Dr. Rantz said that there has been no commitment made at this time and the Recreation Commission wanted to get the City Council's blessing.
- Mr. Ward said that he thought this sounds like a great idea and he thinks this is a good time for the Recreation Commission to do some cost-scoping and find out exactly how much this would cost them.

City Administrator Agenda

Update on First Responders

- Mr. McCommon stated that in the previous Council meeting, the Council asked about how first responders would know where mixed-use building sleeping units are located in town. He stated that there is a memo in the Council packet that basically explains that emergency responders evaluate whether or not they make entry into a building based on the strength of the fire, regardless of the type of building and whether or not they think it is vacant. Fire Chief Holcom stated that there is no official way of knowing of all apartments throughout town; however, the Fire Department does building familiarization to become familiar with structures throughout town in case of fire or other emergency.

January Financial Report

- Mr. McCommon presented the January Financial Report to Council. He informed them that in January, May, and October, Tonganoxie receives its distribution of the real estate ad valorem tax. He stated that staff did an analysis to determine if it has increased since last year, even over the amount that we would expect to see with the tax levy increase. He stated that the payment came in close to normal. He went on to say that there is one item that we plan to watch closely, which was the retailer's sales tax, which came in about \$9,000 less than we would have expected. City staff plans to closely watch expenditures and keep an eye on this revenue in the coming months. Mr. Ward asked when the increased WOW franchise fees will kick in. Ms. Shockley stated that Wide Open West pays the City quarterly for franchise fees and that the increase from 3% to 5% would kick in as of February 2015.

City Council Agenda

Tonganoxie Live/Public Forum

- Mayor Ward brought attention to the Tonganoxie Live event that is occurring on February 26, 2015 at 6 p.m. at Tonganoxie High School in the Chieftain Room. Mr. Ward stated that he would like to continue to have a forum like this quarterly each year. Mr. Peak moved to hold a work session/public forum in conjunction with the Tonganoxie Live event on February 26 at 6:00 p.m. Mr. Gilner seconded. All ayes. Motion carried.

Retail and Commercial Development Committee

- Mr. Peak informed the council that the RFQ for the painting of murals in Downtown Tonganoxie has been sent out and they have already had some inquiries from several artists. The community is invited to provide input on what they would like to see in the murals. They can provide input via social media, by stopping in to City Hall, or by sending an email to info@tonganoxie.org.

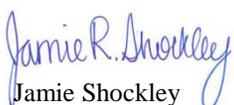
Mayor's Agenda

Discussion on building permits discount program

- Mr. Ward mentioned that at the January 20 Council meeting, he asked members to touch base with Nathan if they want to know any further information regarding a building permits discount program.
- Mr. McCommon stated that he had nobody reach out to him since the last meeting.
- Mr. Ward asked if the council has anything further to discuss regarding a building permits discount program. No discussion. Mr. Ward asked if the general consensus is that we do not want to move forward with a program like this until we can see a return on investment. All council members agreed.

Mr. Gilner moved to adjourn. Ms. Reed seconded. All ayes. Meeting was adjourned at 8:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Jamie Shockley
Assistant City Administrator