

City of Walnut
City Council Meeting Minutes
January 8th, 2024, 6:30 P.M.

Mayor: Brian Kirkpatrick City Attorney: Timothy L. Fielder

Council Members: Jonathan Westhoff, Melissa Smith, Brian Crapson, Bobbie Norris, Cory Scott

Clerk: Saralyn Boyd

Treasurer: Samantha Guy

Superintendent: Craig Kirkpatrick

Call to Order

Mayor Brian Kirkpatrick called the meeting to order with Council Members Melissa Smith, Brian Crapson, and Cory Scott, in attendance. Also in attendance were City Attorney Timothy Fielder, City Superintendent Craig Kirkpatrick, City Clerk Saralyn Boyd, and City Treasurer Samantha Guy. Council Member Jonathan Westhoff was absent.

Oath of New Council Members

Treasurer Samantha Guy performed the Oath of Office for Mayor Brian Kirkpatrick, Council Seat No. 2 Melissa Smith, and Council Seat No. 4 Bobbie Norris.

Approval of Agenda

Brian Crapson made a motion to approve the meeting agenda. Cory Scott seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Approval of Minutes

Cory Scott motioned for approval of the minutes from the previous regular meeting. Melissa Smith seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Approval of Bills

Melissa Smith made a motion to approve the bills. Cory Scott seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Clerk's Report

The account balance as of January 8th was \$35,085.02. As for delinquent utility accounts for December, all account balances were collected. The number of utility bills for January was to be determined at the time of the meeting as they are due on the 10th.

Treasurer's Report

City Treasurer, Samantha Guy, reported all was accurate for the reports for December. She also noted that she had been in contact with Rusty Atkins with the Crawford County Emergency Management Dept about getting city personnel IDs in case of an emergency.

Old Business

City Clerk, Saralyn Boyd, provided the council with a list of projects that had been discussed at previous meetings that we hadn't taken any action on as a starting point for projects for 2024.

The City Clerk and City Treasurer presented a list of houses within city limits to be considered for dilapidation and condemnation process. It was recommended to pick a few of the worst houses to consider for 2024. It was noted that Bennie Augustin offered to bring his backhoe into town to demolish the houses for the city. It was requested for the City Clerk to call Green Environmental to get a quote for how much dumpsters would cost. City Attorney, Tim Fielder, noted that some property owners may be willing to just sign a waiver for the structure to be demolished so we wouldn't have to go through a condemnation hearing. There was discussion of starting with the house on Front Street that had caught fire late in 2023. It was noted that with state statute, it needs to be taken care of soon due to being a hazard being that close to the highway. This topic was tabled until costs per demolition could be figured and to see which properties would be on the Tax Sale this year.

Maintenance Report

The Mayor mentioned Lowrie Sheet Metal & Air was supposed to install the unit before the meeting. Tim Fielder noted that it is probably time to find someone else to complete the installation as he has tried contacting him multiple times to see if he is still planning to complete the job. There was also concern that not all the parts were present for the unit.

The Mayor also mentioned they had received the new stop signs, no ATV/UTV in Park and MPH signs for Maple Street and that they would work on getting them installed. The City Treasurer has been trying to contact Bruce Blair about new street name signs at the intersections that would be reflective. There may be 911 funds available through the county that would pay for these instead of the city paying for them.

There was discussion about an awning for the front of City Hall and a new door frame. This will help with saving the deck and with making coming into City Hall more pleasant when it's raining or hot out. The sun causes the door to be extremely hot in the summer which is a hazard to those coming in to do business with the city. Bobbie Norris said she would see about having Chad Norris come up and take a look to potentially place a bid for the work.

Craig Kirkpatrick brought up an issue with the Water Salesman equipment at the Maintenance Building, as there has been a lot of needed maintenance done on it recently. Craig noted they recently had to replace the timing mechanism, which is what makes it run and it was \$1,800. He also noted that parts for the Salesman are becoming hard to find due to the age of the mechanism. He was given information about a quote for a new equipment box that includes the coin mechanism, for around \$5k. The new equipment would have the ability to take dollar bills and other currency than just quarters. He also noted that the Fire Department would also have a key that would be able to turn it on instead of having to put money into the machine which would be a good use during structure fires.

The Mayor noted that all the repairs to the scissor lift have been completed.

The Mayor also noted that the Sewer Pump motor had been fixed and has been put back in the hole. There is a hole in the pipe down in the sewer line that will eventually need to be repaired. Craig noted the guy from KRWA would crawl down there and assess the issue but would not repair it. Craig said he would call Jason with KRWA to see about

getting it looked at.

The City Clerk had mentioned there is another new requirement from KDHE, requiring inventory for all lead service lines for water systems, with inventory reporting due by October 2024, at the last meeting. Craig noted there was a survey that has to be mailed to all water customers. The customers have to fill it out about their personal lines as this report for KDHE is for personal and city maintained lines.

There was a brief discussion about the water tower. There was a local contractor who had done work for Farmers Bank that noted he would place a bid to paint the water tower. This would include painting the full structure as well as the "WALNUT" on the tower. The City Clerk said she would get the quote from him so the city would have some numbers for options.

Librarian's Report

Pancake Feed will be held on January 20th, 7:30 - 10am.

Councilmember Concerns

There were no council member concerns.

Public Comment

There was no public comment at the time.

Call for Adjournment

Cory Scott made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Brian Crapson seconded the motion. All were in favor.