

City of Walnut
City Council Meeting Minutes
March 3rd, 2025, 6:30 P.M.

Mayor: Brian Kirkpatrick City Attorney: Timothy L. Fielder
Council Members: Jonathan Westhoff, Melissa Smith, (Vacant Seat #3), 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, Cory Scott and Bobbie Norris in attendance. Also in attendance were City Superintendent Craig Kirkpatrick, City Clerk Saralyn Boyd, City Treasurer Samantha Guy, and City Attorney Timothy Fielder. Council Member Jonathan Westhoff was absent.

Approval of Agenda

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

Approval of Minutes

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

Approval of Bills

Cory Scott made a motion to approve the bills. Bobbie Norris seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Clerk's Report

The account balance as of March 3rd was \$30,001.75. The savings account balance as of March 3rd was \$120,268.55. As for delinquent utility accounts for February, all were collected. A brief discussion was had regarding the meeting start time starting at 7pm in April due to time change and everyone was in agreement to return to the 7pm start time.

Treasurer's Report

City Treasurer, Samantha Guy, reported all was accurate for the reports for February.

Samantha gave a brief summary of the Kansas Department of Commerce Towns Grant that she, Marena Kirkpatrick and Saralyn Boyd submitted on behalf of the City for the Mike Fox Memorial Park on Main Street. She noted that Backyard Discovery heard about the project and graciously donated the gazebo and assembly. The grant applied for a concrete pad, 4 picnic tables (1 ADA table), a trash can, planter box and the electrical cost to run power to the gazebo for the power ports. There has already been a memorial bench spoken for to be placed in the park and we are welcoming others to also add to the park. She also noted that next Monday, March 10th will be the first Food Truck Monday at the park

and encouraged everyone to come!

Old Business

The Emergency Water Supply Plan was reviewed for the 2025 Year. The only change was to remove Brian Crapson from the contact page as he is no longer on the council. Melissa Smith motioned to approve the plan with the change. Cory Scott seconded the motion. All were in favor.

The City Fire Department ISO Rating was discussed as the city is starting to get calls from insurance providers and residents about the increase. Jamie Scott noted that she had just sent in all the paperwork that was requested before the meeting and was hoping to hear back soon.

New Business

The 2025 Mowing Bid Applications were reviewed by the Council. The bids were Vicki & John King at \$230/mowing; Kepley Lawn Care at \$275/mowing; Dean Ewan Mowing at \$300/mowing; and Patrick O'Brien at \$330/mowing. Bobbie Norris motioned to select John and Vicki King at \$230/mowing for the 2025 season. Cory Scott seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Don Smith with Neosho Valley Insurers presented the City's Annual Insurance Policy renewal to the Council. There was an increase but that was to be expected. Cory Scott motioned to renew the policy. Bobbie Norris seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Saralyn presented the information for the loan, terms, payments, interest rate, etc. for the Viking Water Tower project that is slated to begin the week of March 17th. She noted that the \$38,300 of the quote would be paid out of the sewer savings account and the other \$100,000 would be financed through a loan through Farmers Bank. The interest rate is quoted at 5.25% on a 5-year note. The payment would be approximately \$1,900 per month but she encouraged the council to pay more each month to pay it off early since we have the funds available to do so. Saralyn noted she would bring the loan to sign at the April meeting for the Council to sign and they would determine how much the city would pay monthly at that time.

Tim Fielder noted that he had received the information about the four easements the city is needing to obtain to run a water main to some properties along 30th Street. He noted he would be in contact if and when he needed anything further.

Maintenance Report

Craig noted that the water leak near Trish Norris' house was fixed. The new street banners are in and they will be hung once we have some nice weather.

Librarian's Report

Librarian Jamie Scott noted the January pancake feed would be Saturday, March 15th. Jamie also noted that Brian and Craig had painted the cabinets at the Community Center.

Councilmember Concerns

There were no council member concerns.

Public Comment

Quinton Parsons from Crawford County Emergency Management attended the meeting. He is new to the position and just wanted to introduce himself to the council and left his contact information if the city needed anything that he could help with.

Call for Adjournment

Cory Scott made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Melissa Smith seconded the motion. All were in favor.