



MINUTES OF MISSION WOODS CITY COUNCIL
Tuesday, June 6, 2023
7:00 p.m.

The City Council of Mission Woods, Kansas met in regular session on Tuesday, June 6, 2023 in person at Westwood City Hall.

Members Present: Mayor Keith Mays
Council Member Don Greenwell
Council Member Robert Tietze
Council Member Erica Hartley
Council Member Carol Thomas

Members Absent: Council Member Ramsay Mohsen

Others Present: John Martin, City Treasurer
Alex Felzien, City Attorney

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Mays called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. A quorum was established.

II. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MAY MINUTES

There were no comments or changes to the March minutes from the Council. Council Member Greenwell moved to approve the minutes and Council Member Tietze seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. (Ayes – IV, Nays – 0).

III. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MAY WARRANTS

Next was review of the May warrants. Mayor Mays noted a repair item for a wall damaged by a vehicle. Having no further comments, Council Member Tietze moved to approve the warrants as submitted, Council Member Hartley seconded the motion which passed unanimously. (Ayes – IV; Nays – 0).

IV. REVIEW OF POLICE REPORT

There were no comments or discussion regarding the May police report.

V. NEW BUSINESS

a. RESIDENT LIGHTING ISSUE

City Attorney Felzien advised the Council that he spoke with the Evergy representative assigned to the project that very day. The Evergy representative advised Felzien that Evergy was awaiting approval from the church regarding the lighting fixtures to be replaced. Felzien advised the Council that he would follow up with the new City Attorney to pass off communications moving forward.

b. STREETLIGHT PROJECT

Councilmember Tietze updated the Council by advising that the Evergy representative previously did not purchase the streetlights, but that the new Evergy representative had, by the time of the meeting, purchased the correct streetlights. Tietze further advised he had a meeting last week with the City Engineer and the Evergy representative to discuss specifics. Lastly, Tietze advised the new streetlights should be installed within the next sixty (60) days; one (1) on Mission Woods Road and two (2) on Mission Woods Terrace.

c. LICENSE PLATE READERS

The Council heard an update from Mayor Mays. Mays advised that the grant writer he had communicated with would not write the grant for the City, but rather that the City would have to write its own grant. After much discussion from the Council, the Council directed City Attorney Felzien to contact a separate grant writer who will write the grant albeit for a larger percentage fee.

d. NEW CITY ATTORNEY SEARCH

Mayor Mays advised the Council that he, Councilmember Tietze, and resident Bill Sanders interviewed two (2) firms for the position, and that this committee unanimously chose Lauber Municipal Law as the next City Attorney. Mays advised Lauber Municipal Law represents 75 cities across the metro area. Mays advised Jeff Deane would be the City's principal attorney, that the legal fees would be similar to Mauer Law Firm's fees. Councilmember Hartley made a motion to approve Lauber Municipal Law as the next City Attorney, which Councilmember Tietze seconded, and all Councilmembers unanimously approved (Ayes – IV; Nays – 0).

e. COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Mayor Mays informed the Council that he was appointing Councilmember Hartley as the Council President. There was no discussion from the Council. Councilmember Tietze made a motion to approve, which was seconded by Councilmember Thomas, and all Councilmembers voted unanimously in favor of the motion. (Aye – III; Nays – 0).

d. Mission Woods Continuity

The Council voted in favor of using the paid version of ‘MailChimp’ for the City’s newsletter (Ayes IV; Nays – 0). Mays advised that Councilmember Tietze filed to run for Mayor, while Mays, Hartley, and Thomas have filed to run for City Council seats. Councilmember Thomas suggested going door to door to ask other to run for office. Mays advised that Councilmember Mohsen has already started a “write-in” campaign, and Councilmember Hartley suggested advising citizens of the write-in process in the next newsletter.

e. Everfast Franchise Ordinance and Fireworks Display Contribution.

The City Council resolved to discuss the Everfast Franchise Ordinance at the July City Council meeting.

Mayor Mays advised the Council that the City has been asked to contribute Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00). City Treasurer Martin advised the Council that the City has previously contributed that amount in years past. Councilmember Tietze made a motion to approve, which was seconded by Councilmember Thomas, and passed unanimously. (Ayes – IV; Nays – 0).

VI. BUDGET PRESENTATION

City Treasurer Martin advised the entire Council on the process ahead of the City in approving the 2024 budget. Martin walked the Council through the various deadlines, and advised the Council that it will need to decide if it wants to exceed the Revenue Neutral Rate (“RNR”) at the July City Council meeting. Martin explained that the County provides the RNR, which the City must then decide if it wants to exceed that rate. Briefly, not exceeding the RNR means the City will levy the same amount of tax dollars as last year, but the citizens may experience different tax liability due to property valuations. Again, briefly, the City exceeding the RNR means the City is raising more moneys if it needs additional funds for budget items. Martin advised the City would still be in fine financial shape if it did not exceed the RNR, but there are valid reasons for exceeding the RNR if the City has budgetary plans for 2024.

There was then a discussion that all Councilmembers agreed citizens should be advised when making online purchases to make sure the billing information lists “Mission Woods, KS” so the City can capture those tax dollars as opposed to other cities receiving the funds. Martin promised there was more to discuss at the July City Council meeting.

VII. Meeting Open to Discussion

The Council then discussed trimming the trees within City right-of-way, because a resident had reached out to Mayor Mays regarding dead wood. This consists of approximately thirty-five (35) trees. Mayor Mays and the Council agreed that he would get bids ahead of the City Council meeting in July.

The Council then discussed the survey results the City received. The Council noted that only 24 citizens completed the survey. Mayor Mays then advised the Council that he would include the survey link in the next newsletter sent to citizens.

VIII. Adjourn

Having no further business, Council Member Thomas made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Council Member Tietze. The motion to adjourn was unanimously passed. (Ayes – IV; Nays – 0). The meeting was adjourned at 8:34 P.M.