

Kimball City Council
Special Meeting
July 11, 2017

A special meeting of the Mayor and City Council was convened in open and public session at 5:00 p.m. on July 11, 2017 in the City Council Chambers. Mayor Prunty and Council members Warner, Shields, and Baliman were present. Council member Schnell was absent. Also present were City Administrator Dean, Police Chief Bremer, Special Projects Coordinator Sapp, City Treasurer Sisk and City Clerk Russell. The public was represented.

Notice of the meeting was given in advance by publication in the Star Herald. Notice of the meeting was given to the members and a copy of their acknowledgement of receipt of notice and the agenda is on record at the office of the City Clerk. Availability of the agenda was communicated in advance notice and in the notice to the members. All proceedings hereafter shown were taken while the convened meeting was open to the attendance of the public except as otherwise indicated.

Prunty called the meeting to order at 5:01 p.m. and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Baliman moved and Shields seconded to excuse the absence of Council member Schnell from this meeting. On roll call vote, the following votes were recorded on the electronic voting board. Aye: Warner, Shields, and Baliman. Nay: None. Absent: Schnell. Motion carried.

The posted Open Meetings Act poster was acknowledged.

Dean reported on capital items for the 2017-2018 budget. One of the items is the underpass for \$170,000. Another is a new Police vehicle for \$60,000. Prunty commented on the digger derrick, a capital item for the Electric Department. He said that the Water Department needs a backhoe. Jim Cederburg, BPW Chair, said that the digger derrick is needed.

Dean indicated that the Landfill cell #2 has about 2½ years remaining life. An engineer's estimate for a new cell was \$1.6 million and includes a 40% contingency from the engineer. Dean feels that amount is extremely high. The current bonds for the Landfill go through 2020.

Dean said he has looked at the list for capital items but no one has shown him how they are going to be funded. If there is going to be a five-year program, funds need to be set aside for it. He commented also on planning for the cell expansion. The five-year program is just a wish list until there is a way to fund it.

Baliman said that the City needs to start looking at a new swimming pool. She commented on the pool admission and suggested a \$2.00 admission instead of \$1.25 to make it easier to give change.

Dean said the Cemetery has identified the need for a new pickup for \$10,000. Dean said when going through the budget things may come up continuously. He suggested earmarking the ACE funds towards a flag project at the current missile location.

Prunty commented on abatements for capital items. There are many properties that need to be taken care of and Baliman suggested a separate line item for that.

Discussion was held on the future of the Event Center. Sapp distributed information on the changes to the Event Center and the events held and planned, revenue and expenses 2014 to year to date, and profit/loss from weekend of 6/2/2017 and 6/30/2017.

Sapp asked that before any decisions on the future of the Event Center are made, that council understand that the City was not given a full year to demonstrate the possibilities of the Event Center. Sapp asked that the Event Center be given back sales tax revenue and occupation tax revenue and will a full year, the Event Center will definitely make positive strides.

Sapp indicated that Board of Public Works capped the utilities at \$1,500 a month. Warner said that holiday parties were missed last year due to the uncertainty. Prunty commented on the general fund subsidizing the utility fund by paying for utilities and commented on all City facilities paying a reduced utility rate. Cederburg commented that if utility rates for the City are reduced, it ultimately increases rates to the citizens.

Sapp has spoken with the owners of Days Inn and they are sold out when there are big events at the Event Center. Having events at the Event Center gives back into the sales tax stream.

Baliman said that Sapp and Echo Kizzair have done a great job with the Event Center; however, she doesn't know how long the City can afford to subsidize it. At some point the City will have to say they cannot keep doing so. However, she is leaning towards giving another year to see how it works.

Warner said if the City is providing a service to people that they appreciate and want, they don't mind being a little "in the hole". The City needs to be able to keep doing things to keep people using the Event Center. Sapp said that until they can show someone that there is potential, she doesn't know that it will even be sold, if that is the avenue that the City Council wants to go.

Warner commented that at some point there needs to be discussion on combining services, whether City/County or just City services. Some ideas she had suggested previously were combining the Event Center and the Library.

Discussion was held on the remodeling and Dean indicated that the building has issues that need to be addressed. The City either needs to use the grant or return it. The need for a community center exists and the community needs it. Discussion was held

on room sponsors.

Cederburg commented that the numbers are great and the events are great. The Event Center is a key for growth in the future. He has definitely changed his attitude towards the Event Center remaining open.

Warner suggested a new marque in the capital items and Sapp indicated she has included \$1,000 in the budget for that. Baliman said that the Kimball County High School alumni group had talked about contributing funds towards a new marque.

Dean indicated he wanted to have the discussion to get clear direction and commented on the grant and needing to have something definitive done with it. Warner strongly suggested that it be determined the threshold of remodeling that can be done without having to bring the building up to code. Warner said the two pieces that were tied to the grant were the front door and the ADA restrooms.

Prunty opened discussion on the strategic planning process. Dean indicated that Sapp is in the process of getting the City designated as a Leadership Certified Community and has scheduled some strategic planning meetings for that. He would like to think about having a broader, more in-depth process which would require resources. He would like to put some money into the budget to conduct a strategic planning process in addition to the Leadership Certified Community strategic planning. Dean estimated \$70,000 to conduct an on-going process. It would require a lot of education up front for community leaders. The success of a community depends on the community's involvement in developing the plan. It is a community-pride process. Warner commented on researching the Marketing Hometown America planning process. There were people that participated in it until it got to the action plan and it did see some struggles. Dean indicated that the last time he took part in a strategic planning process, it was successful experience and the reason it took so long was to work through the struggles.

John Morrison, 510 South Webster Street, commented on grants from Kelloggs. He said the City has had successes and the key is to have a paid leader to keep everyone on track.

Baliman indicated this is a good thing to have in the line item. Warner inquired if some of the cost could come out of Economic Development and Dean indicated he has not gotten that far, but it certainly could.

Morrison indicated Kimball needs sidewalks and the City needs to come up with a program that would initiate that. Dean said he looks at it as something like that becomes a community strategic goal. He added that it is something he hopes would come out of the strategic plan but the City's job is to motivate some pride.

Prunty opened discussion on other council directives. Baliman agreed with Morrison on the need for sidewalks. Prunty commented on using rail spur funds for matching grants to assist homeowners. Morrison commented on paving districts and Dean said that

paving districts are easy to do if the property owners agree to them.

There being no further business to come before the Council, Warner moved and Baliman seconded to adjourn at 6:07 p.m. On roll call vote, the following votes were recorded on the electronic voting board. Aye: Shields, Warner, and Baliman. Nay: None. Absent: Schnell. Motion carried.

Keith Prunty, Mayor

Rosemarie D. Russell, City Clerk