

Kimball City Council
Joint meeting with Kimball County Commissioners
August 6, 2013

A joint meeting of the Mayor and City Council and Kimball County Commissioners was convened in open and public session immediately following the Kimball City/County Park & Recreation Executive Board meeting on August 6, 2013 at the City Council Chambers. Mayor Schnell called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m. Mayor Schnell and Council members Warner, Shields and Christensen were present. Council member Morrison was absent. Also present were City Administrator Ortiz, City Clerk Russell, City Treasurer Strauch and Tourism Director Caskey. The public was represented.

Notice of the meeting was given in advance by publication in the Western Nebraska Observer. 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.

Also present were County Commissioners Tim Nolting, Larry Brower and Larry Engstrom, County Attorney Dave Wilson, and County Clerk Cathy Sibal.

Schnell acknowledged the open meetings act poster.

Discussion was held on community shuttle use for the Junior Golf Program. Wilma Gilliland indicated this year they had a drop off in attendance for the Junior Golf Program and she felt that this was because of transportation needs. It is getting tougher for parents to get away. A few years ago, she had 200 kids involved in the program. This year, 65 kids signed up and 55 participated. It is the older kids that can't drive that seem to be missing from the program. Gilliland commented on the transportation service in Kimball and inquired if it is a County/City transportation service and Brower said it is a County transportation service. Gilliland said the need for transportation would be for the month of June and they would arrange for the children to meet some place for pick up, the shuttle could take the kids out to the golf course and then transport them back to the pick up point. Bower commented that it is a County shuttle and he doesn't have any problem with doing that, but it is very important to get the senior citizens to lunch. It is important not to interfere with some of the things they are doing at the present time.

Gilliland commented on the volunteers and said they can adjust their schedule to fit the shuttle schedule if it would be available to them. Brower said the senior citizens eat about 11:00/11:30 and then are taken home around 12:30. Gilliland said that would work perfectly with what they do now because their program ends at 12:00. Shields inquired who does the schedule now and it was indicated that Erika Loy is the shuttle coordinator and Kelly Duncan is the driver. Sibal said this is a reasonable request if they could adjust the times and Gilliland said they could. Currently, they do an hour at a time and they could easily do 1 ½ hours for two sessions a day.

Further discussion was held and Schnell suggested making a pick up area and a drop off area so the driver can have a schedule. He also commented that maybe the City can help with fuel. Warner commented on having the pickup at the loop at Mary Lynch school.

Gilliland said they can work out some of the details and Schnell suggested the Park and Rec Board coordinate something with the driver and the schedule and Gilliland conduct a survey on how much labor it would be on the driver. Gilliland added that Dix and Pine Bluffs participate in this as well. Members in attendance agree that this could be done and the commissioners will take action at their meeting. Gilliland thanked the commissioners.

Engstrom commented on walking trails and Warner asked if the City has ever taken a census if people actually use the walking trails. Engstrom said if Kimball is trying to be a user-friendly community and health conscious, this needs to be looked at. It is something that is well worth the effort to pursue. Schnell commented on past discussion and irrigation berms. Caskey said there are a lot of grants available for walking trails and Ortiz commented on the AmeriCorp team assisting in his previous city with constructing the trails. Christensen commented on the street lights not being adequate for walking and said creating a walking trail would be awesome. Engstrom said to go for the grants.

Schnell opened discussion on maintenance on Chestnut Street / County Road 41. Discussion was held at a City Council meeting regarding Chestnut Street. One of the issues was the City really doesn't have a way to restrict truck flow; however, businesses commented on how much the trucks really do for their businesses. Schnell had discussion with Roads Superintendent Ryschon and has spoken to individuals from NDOR. He commented on purchasing a tar pot. Schnell said the City is trying to determine ways to put money in the budgets to pay for seal coating. Discussion was held on the 425 feet added to the County and Nolting inquired if NDOR provided any estimate of what it would cost to maintain. Schnell commented on what the budget is for seal coating and suggested getting the City roads superintendent and the County highway superintendent together to discuss the purchase of the tar pot. Engstrom said he will have Dave Hottell get some things together and have him visit with Jim Ryschon and see what makes sense. If the City and County could work together, that would be fine.

There being no further discussion, Warner moved and Christensen seconded to direct the City Roads Superintendent to work together with the County Highway Superintendent to coordinate efforts to purchase and use equipment cooperatively. Roll: Aye: Warner, Shields, and Christensen. Nay: None. Absent: Morrison. Motion carried.

Discussion was held pertaining to reviewing the interlocal agreement for snow removal.

Discussion was held on signage and Warner commented that the Kimball signs that are up should say "Exit 20" on them. Caskey said the Visitor's Committee has four signs and the first one that will be finished is on Warner's property and "Exit 20" will be on those signs.

Jo Caskey was present to provide an update on the Visitor's Center. They have been up and running for four weeks and two days and received a lot of compliments. The blue interstate signs are up and she commented that most of the "low" signs are up. The big panel has been taken out of the lighted sign. The City graciously brought out the bucket truck and helped to remove that.

The Visitor's Center has had 942 people through the doors the first full four weeks, representing 42 different states and Washington DC and visitors from nine foreign countries as well.

There is an open house grand opening scheduled for August 16th from 8:00 a.m. to 7:00

p.m. The Visitor's Center has already received several congratulatory notes from their partners. In May, they received a \$10,000 check from the City of Gering from their 2012/2013 budget and in July they received \$2,000 from the Morrill County Visitors Center. Caskey said she will be visiting with the City of Gering about another \$10,000 donation from their 2013/2014 budget. They have also had over \$9,000 donations from citizens in addition to furnishings and equipment, and AmeriCorp's labor is valued at \$3,000. The City of Kimball has donated utilities until the end of the calendar year and both the City and County contribute towards Caskey's salary.

The outpouring from the region has been incredibly strong. Caskey will be calling on people for letters of support for grants. Schnell thanked Caskey for all she has been doing. Caskey is trying to come up with a way to get some type of a set schedule for volunteers. Shields inquired if volunteers need to be knowledgeable of the area and Caskey said it helps.

Schnell opened discussion of maintenance of outdoor warning systems. The County Commissioners agreed that on the Gotte Park siren, out of the projected \$9,000 expense, they would contribute \$4,500 to that and directed that the County Attorney write up an interlocal on how to maintain the sirens for public safety. Ortiz had a conversation with a company out of Colorado and hopes to put sirens out at the golf course and Castronics area. Ortiz distributed information on the prices. One siren would be located on the Northwest Corner of County Road 45 and Highway 30, which would have three phase power. The prices quoted are for two small sirens, one at the golf course and one at Castronics for approximately \$16,000, and one single larger siren with a larger radius for approximately \$13,000 per unit.

Schnell said he was informed by the Sheriff that there needed to be an upgrade on the communications system and asked that everyone be kept in the loop. Deputy Loy indicated the 911 center will be upgraded, not the radios.

There being no further business, Warner moved and Shields seconded to adjourn the meeting at 6:59 p.m. Roll: Aye: Warner, Shields, and Christensen. Nay: None. Absent: Morrison. Motion carried.

James Schnell, Mayor

Rosemarie Russell, City Clerk