

COUNCIL MEETING 19-11
JUNE 10, 2019

The City Council met in Council Chambers at 7:00 PM with the Mayor calling the meeting to order and the following answering to roll call:

Steve Faber	Council Member
Chris Colomer	Council Member
Michael Yaklich	Council Member
Michael Komnick	Council Member
Gary Moore	Mayor

News media present was as follows:

Mike Helenthal Star Courier
Sean Kernan WKEI

The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

Mayor Moore asked for a moment of silence for our troops still fighting overseas.

Mayor Moore explained that the next items were placed on the consent agenda and were considered to be routine in nature to be passed as a whole with one vote of the Council. Mayor Moore requested that any member of the Council or the audience wishing to have an item removed from the consent agenda for individual consideration to make the request and the item would be removed and considered following the approval of the remaining consent items. The consent agenda included minutes from the May 28, 2019 Council Meeting, payroll for the pay period ending May 25, 2019 in the amount of \$285,287.98, reports from Community Development, and a request from the YMCA of Kewanee and the Henry County Humane Society-Kewanee Chapter for the use of West Park on Saturday, July 13th from 7:30 am to 1:00 pm to host a "Step with your Pet" fundraiser. The consent agenda items were approved on a motion made by Council Member Faber and seconded by Council Member Komnick. Roll call showed 5 ayes, no nays. The motion passed.

Bills submitted for approval totaling \$915,760.06 were approved on a motion made by Council Member Komnick and seconded by Council Member Colomer. Council Member Komnick asked about the bill from Online Solutions. It was explained that this was for the Citizen Serve software licensing. Council Member Yaklich questioned the purchase of the new mowers and asked what departments they would be used in. Grounds Maintenance Manager Newton explained that the purchases were included in the budget and one mower will be used in the cemetery and one in the parks. Council Member Yaklich also questioned a reimbursement check for mileage and asked if a company car was available. He also questioned bills from Hayes Excavating and Orkin. It was explained that Hayes has a bulldozer and uses it to push the spoils piles. The City's equipment is not able to access the area due to the wet conditions nor able to handle the size of the spoils piles. The Orkin bill was an annual bill for pest control treatment at one of the water treatment plants.

The Mayor stated that he has a meeting with Mr. Bockewitz in the next few days and would inquire about the Orkin bill. Roll call showed 5 ayes, no nays. The motion passed.

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

Mayor Moore then asked if anyone wished to speak regarding a non-agenda item. Kathy Pugh from the Shell Station brought the documentation that the Mayor had requested at the last council meeting in reference to a combination liquor license and their expansion.

NEW BUSINESS

Resolution #5166 awarding demolition of 408 N. Park St. to Ratliff Brothers was approved on a motion made by Council Member Colomer and seconded by Council Member Faber. Roll call showed 5 ayes, no nays. The motion passed.

Ordinance #3966 amending the City Admin Code as it relates to residency requirements for employees not covered by collective bargaining units was not approved on a motion made by Council Member Faber and seconded by Council Member Komnick. Council Member Yaklich felt that the change in the code was wrong. He stated that the Department Heads should live in the city of Kewanee and be on-call. He stated that previous discussions had included a one-year probationary period that required employees to move to the city and would not vote for removing the residency requirement. The Mayor felt that by removing the residency requirement we would attract a broader resource of applicants and that the trend is moving in that direction. Council Member Colomer asked if we were having problems getting applicants for positions. Mayor Moore responded that this change was not just for the City Clerk, that we also had another department head that wanted to move outside of town. Council Members Komnick and Colomer expressed their concerns that an employee living outside of the city would not have a vested interest in Kewanee. The Mayor stated that the applicant had extenuating family issues and children in high school that wanted to finish high school at their current school. Discussion continued and the council agreed that a 2-year probationary period to move to Kewanee was fair. City Attorney Raver stated that the reason why he suggested changing the code was because we have to follow our own rules. We need to either change the code for all or not but should not make one-time variances for a one-time occasion. He went on to explain that there have been exceptions made in the past for licenses or personnel with advanced degrees but that was not the case for the City Clerk position. Roll call showed 1 aye, 4 nays. The motion failed.

Resolution #5167 to appoint a City Clerk was approved on a motion made by Council Member Faber and seconded by Council Member Komnick. The council was in agreement to add a 2-year probationary period after which residency would be addressed. City Manager Bradley explained that the resolution included language that references the employment letter attached, so he added the clause regarding the 2-year probationary period. Mayor Moore asked applicant Rabecka Jones if she wished to address the council.

She stated that she does live in Woodhull, 36 miles away, and that the 2-year probationary period would not get her children through high school. They have 3 years of school remaining and other commitments that meant she could not guarantee that she could move in 2 years. She explained that she was not for the probationary period because she understood the position to have a 4-year term and took that into consideration when she gave up her current position. It would be hard to make that commitment to Kewanee after establishing a home and living in Woodhull since 1997. Roll call showed 5 ayes, no nays. The motion passed.

Resolution #5168 appointing Matthew Douglas to the Airport Authority Board was approved on a motion made by Council Member Colomer and seconded by Council Member Faber. Roll call showed 5 ayes, no nays. The motion passed.

Resolution #5169 authorizing an intergovernmental agreement between the Henry County Sheriff's Department, Geneseo Police Department, Colona Police Department and the Kewanee Police Department to operate a multi-jurisdictional group known as the Henry County Trafficking Enforcement Group within the county of Henry in the state of Illinois was approved on a motion made by Council Member Yaklich and seconded by Council Member Komnick. Chief Ainley explained that officers from all groups involved will be working together and we would start out at 4 to 8 hours per week using our K9 officer. Council Member Yaklich requested that a report be given to the council after group begins working. Chief Ainley stated that the board will meet monthly at first and he would request information regarding the number of stops, etc. to provide to council. Roll call showed 5 ayes, no nays. The motion passed.

Ordinance #3967 to establish parking restrictions on the West side of the 200 block of South Vine Street was approved on a motion made by Council Member Colomer and seconded by Council Member Faber. Mayor Moore explained that the intersection does not qualify for a 3-way stop currently, but the parking restrictions would give a better line of sight and make it safer. Roll call showed 5 ayes, no nays. The motion passed.

Ordinance #3968 amending Schedule III of Chapter 78 of the City Code "Handicapped Parking Spaces" was approved on a motion made by Council Member Faber and seconded by Council Member Komnick. Roll call showed 5 ayes, no nays. The motion passed.

A Proclamation recognizing June 10, 2019 as the 100th anniversary of Illinois being the first state to ratify the 19th Amendment was read by Mayor Moore.

OTHER BUSINESS

Council Member Faber requested that something be done on the West end of Williams Street in the first block from Vine Street. He said the parking is horrible and questioned whether an ambulance, snow plow or fire truck would be able to get through the street. He stated that people are parking in areas where parking is not allowed. Chief Ainley stated that the Police Department will patrol the area and issue citations if warranted.

Council Member Colomer asked who is responsible for the handicap ramp work and the final dirt work that was done. He has received complaints that residents are not able to mow the right away due to mounds of dirt and uneven ground after the ramps were installed. City Manager Bradley explained that the City would speak to the private contractor and have him go out and fix those areas.

Council Member Komnick asked if the City had had any luck contacting farmers to take the sludge from the WWTP. City Manager Bradley reported that he had not received any takers for the sludge after it was broadcast on the radio, etc. and that it could be a timing issue with the crops at this time. Council Member Komnick also asked what the process was for weed notices. Community Development Director Edwards explained that the new process starts with a complaint or a proactive violation of the property. A notice is then posted and mailed giving the owner 7 days to mow the property. After that point, we do a follow-up visit and assign a work order to the contractor, who has 7 days to mow the property. Edwards explained that he has concerns that the process is working great, however we will burn through our budget by the end of July at the current rate. He asked for direction from the council as to how they want to proceed.

Council Member Yaklich expressed concern with the sludge situation. He stated that the situation with the EPA is not new and historically the City had lined up farmers ahead of time to spread the sludge. He wanted to know who dropped the ball on lining up the farm ground and why did we just find out a month before the situation is an emergency at the WWTP. He felt that the City was at a crossroads and that the council needed to give direction and demand accountability for those who are paid to serve Kewanee. As a first step in demanding accountability, Council Member Yaklich handed out a listing with questions that he felt had not been answered over the last year. He stated that we need answers in order to make good decisions. He requested that the City Manager provide the promised feedback in 2 weeks regarding the items on his list.

Mayor Moore stated that he has a meeting with Stan Bockewitz later in the week to discuss the sludge situation at the WWTP. The Mayor also expressed his disappointment with finding out about the sludge problem with only 30-45 days to address the problem. Mayor Moore also gave Community Development Director Edwards 2 addresses that had nuisance problems with junk cars and overgrown bushes. Council Member Faber also expressed concern about a property on Eleventh Street that is dilapidated. Edwards stated that he has been working with the family regarding the clean-up of that property and would discuss the situation with Council Member Faber after the meeting. Mayor Moore reported that he had met with Duane Lempke regarding his proposal to rename the 11 Avenues in Pleasantview Cemetery for the 11 lives lost in the Vietnam conflict. Mr. Lempke offered to pay for the signage. Council Member Yaklich stated that the Mayor may want to speak to the Legion

and VFW first to get their feelings. Mayor Moore also brought up the outstanding Murphy's transfer station bill. The City of Kewanee is not a bank and it is unfair to ask us to carry this type of bill. He stated that we need to take the necessary steps to move forward and collect this bill.

Delores Nanninga from the Kewanee DAR Chapter presented a flag to the Mayor in honor of Flag Day, June 14, 2019.

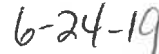
ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

There being no further business, Council Member Colomer moved to adjourn the meeting and Council Member Faber seconded the motion. Roll call showed 5 ayes, no nays. The meeting adjourned at 8:17 PM.



DEBORAH JOHNSON, DEPUTY CITY CLERK



DATE APPROVED