

The March 27th, 2023, Council Meeting was called to order at 7pm in the Council Chambers. All Councilmembers and the Mayor were present.

The consent agenda items included:

- A. Minutes from the Council Meeting on March 13th.
- B. Payroll for the pay period ending March 11th in the amount of \$219,432.38.
- C. Staff Reports.
- D. Bock Report.

A motion to approve the consent agenda items was made by Councilmember Baker and seconded by Councilmember Komnick. Discussion: None. Motion passed 5-0.

A motion to approve the Bills for Council Meeting of March 27th in the amount of \$701,090.70 was made by Councilmember Faber and seconded by Councilmember Baker. Discussion: Councilmember Colomer asked Fire Chief Welgat was the smart board purchase was for. Chief Welgat explained that it was currently sitting in the Fire Department but ultimately it would be in his truck to be able to take on calls to help keep records while on site. Motion passed 5-0.

Public Comments:

Lorene Daniel of 419 N Grove came forward to ask about the creek/ditch that runs through her property. She stated that she has been asking for years to get the walls around the street repaired. She and her husband are willing to do work and replace and install culverts that run through the area. She would also like trees removed from the area that are a liability due to their condition. She was told that an engineering firm would need to do a hydraulic study on the area to determine what can and cannot be done in the area to not hinder the natural waterway. Gary Bradley stated that he would reach out to our engineering firm to see if one was done or if a letter was sent previously to the resident.

New Business:

- A. Consideration of Ordinance #4129** granting a rezoning request for land located in the 700 block of West South Street, parcel number 25-04-351-003. **A motion to approve was made by Councilmember Baker and seconded by Councilmember Komnick. Discussion: Multiple Councilmembers voiced questions and concerns about the rezoning. City Manager Bradley explained the zoning ordinances and what might be allowed on the property. Thomas Goodwin, representing the residents surrounding the property, came forward to speak about their concerns. Residents are worried about changes to the land and how they may alter the property values or resale ability. Ben LeRoy, the land development coordinator for the applicant, spoke about the plans for the land. Ultimately, the Council wanted more information than Ben was able to give at this meeting. Council asked him to come back with more details for the project. Council members Baker and Komnick rescinded their motions and Councilmember Colomer made a motion to table the discussion until more information could be given. Councilmember Faber seconded and the motion to table passed 5-0.**
- B. Consideration of Ordinance #4130** granting a Special Use Permit to John & Richard Murray, of Kewanee, IL, for property located at 139 Tenney St in the City of Kewanee.

Motion to approve was made by Councilmember Faber and seconded by Councilmember Komnick. Discussion: Councilmember Faber stated that doing something with the home would be better than letting it fall apart. The Mayor stated that at the Zoning Board meeting, nearby residents had concerns about increased traffic in the area. Andrea Webber, the neighbor to the property in question, spoke to the Council about her concerns. She is worried about increased traffic if the home is made into a multiple family dwelling. She is also worried about it becoming a “party house” because of the size of the yard. Nancy Sutton, the real estate listing agent for the home in question, came forward to speak on behalf of the homeowner. The property is currently zoned B3, which would allow a business to purchase the property and put something there. She feels it would be better served as a residential, multi-family. The Council would like to speak to the Murray Brothers to gain some insight on their current properties and plans for this one. Councilmembers Faber and Komnick rescinded their motions and Councilmember Colomer made a motion to table the discussion. Councilmember Baker seconded and the motion to table passed 5-0.

- C. Consideration of Ordinance #4131** rescinding ordinance #4046 granting a special use permit to Robert Barnes, DBA Barnes Trucking, for property located at 1047 N Main St in the City of Kewanee. **Motion to approve was made by Councilmember Baker and seconded by Councilmember Komnick. Discussion: Robert Barnes was in attendance and told the Council he was out of money to finish the property. He said that he has been trying to talk with Keith to get this taken care of. City Attorney Raver stated that he has been working with Keith on this property for the last two years. In November of 2022, Raver sent a letter to Mr. Barnes giving him 14 days to give us a plan for the work. Mr. Barnes did not reply to the letter because he said he had already talked to Keith about the plan. Council questioned if he gave a plan to Raver. He did not. Councilmembers stated that Mr. Barnes has had plenty of time to comply with the stipulations of the Special Use Permit and he failed to reply to Attorney Raver requesting a plan. Motion passed 5-0.**
- D. Consideration of Ordinance #4132** amending Section 155.225 Fees established in the City of Kewanee Code of Ordinances. **Motion to approve was made by Councilmember Faber and seconded by Councilmember Baker. Discussion: None. Motion passed 5-0.**
- E. Consideration of Ordinance #4133** approving and authorizing the execution of a Tax Increment Financing (TIF) District Redevelopment agreement by and between the City of Kewanee and Wager Brothers Inc. **Motion to approve was made by Councilmember Colomer and seconded by Councilmember Komnick. Discussion: Councilmember Colomer clarified that this is the façade grant that was applied for that did not meet the requirements as the work was done before the application. Motion passed 5-0.**
- F. Consideration of Resolution #5391** authorizing Peerless Well and Pump to replace the oil lube pump assembly with a submersible pump at Well #3. **Motion to approve was made by Councilmember Komnick and seconded by Councilmember Baker. Discussion: Councilmember Faber said he thought we had already replaced this pump. City Manager Bradley said we have replaced the pumps at Well #4 and #5. This is the last of the oil pumps that need to be replaced and from here it will just be replacing them as they age out. Motion passed 5-0.**

G. Consideration of Resolution #5392 awarding the construction of the 2022 watermain extension project – Red Adams Road to Miller Trucking & Excavating, Inc. as the lowest responsible bidder. **Motion to approve was made by Councilmember Faber and seconded by Councilmember Komnick. Discussion: The Mayor asked if this had to do with the runoff for this location. City Manager Bradley informed that this would help with volume and pressure on the other side of the tracks. This will help water for Ameren’s expansion and any future projects in that area. This will be covered by ARPA funds. Motion passed 5-0.**

H. Consideration of Resolution #5393 authorizing a reciprocal reporting agreement between Wethersfield Community School District 230 and the Kewanee Police Department. **Motion to approve was made by Councilmember Colomer and seconded by Councilmember Faber. Police Chief Welgat let the Council know that under Illinois law there is a Reciprocal Reporting Agreement between schools and the Police Department that allows them to share information with each other when there could be a danger to either entity. By law, that is already in place, but we prefer to have it on record and signed by all parties. We already have one with Kewanee School district. This agreement states what information can and cannot be shared and the methods to do so. Motion passed 5-0.**

Council Communications:

Councilmember Colomer: Spring is near and kids will be outside and on bikes. Please pay attention when out. Kids will be walking to school more as well.

Councilmember Faber: He asked Public Works Director Kevin Newton if he had a plan for potholes this year. Mr. Newton stated he did. We have already been proactive with filing them and have a new process in place for sharing details with the Public Works Department. Faber also asked if the street sweeper will be ready to go. Mr. Newton stated that it will be ready and used when we have the time and manpower to do so.

Councilmember Baker: He asked about the trailers that have been brought into the trailer parks. They are not in good condition. City Manager Bradley stated that there are higher incentives for the trailer park to bring in new trailers but that he did need to have a discussion with the park about the conditions of the ones that are being brought in.

Councilmember Komnick: He participated in Biz Town with Central 5th graders. He was put in the City Hall so he was able to answer questions the kids had as they related them to Kewanee. The kids’ biggest concern was how much it cost to vote. They were able to have a great conversation about voting and that there is no cost. He reminded residents that there is an election coming and it doesn’t cost to vote, so vote.

Mayor’s Communications:

Congratulations to Kewanee High School Group Interpretation Team who competed at the State Competition. While they did not advance to the second round, six team members received All-State Cast awards for their performances. They were Bethany Olalde, Cooper Bates, Isaac Lynes, Laryn Conley, Bethany VanWassenhove, and Tessa Mitchell.

Three children and three adults were killed at a school shooting in Nashville. Our hearts go out to the school and all the families involved.

Closer to home there were 6 Western Illinois students injured at a shooting in Macomb. This was a scary event for many that have connections to the school.

Recently Quarter Madness took place at the Elks. It was a huge success for Rotary and the Prairie Chicken Art Festival. Congrats to Diane Packee and all that helped organize the event.

The Commission on Human Relations recently held a Fundraiser Trivia Night. This will help them with funds for future events. As a reminder, this Commission is not in place to sway people to become something they are not. They are in place to bring awareness of our cultural differences and the wide diversity we have in Kewanee. Their goal is to educate people to bring about understanding. Just because someone is different than you, does not mean they are wrong.

Announcements:

- The Illinois Department of Transportation will hold an Informational Open House to present the proposed roadway improvements for IL 81. The open house will be held Thursday April 6, 2023, from 2:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the Kewanee Public Library, 102 S. Tremont. Generally, the project is from just west of Union Street to just west of Main Street.
- Burning of landscape waste will begin again in April. Burn days are Wednesdays and Saturdays as permitted by the Fire Department. To check if it is a burn day, please call City Hall or check our website after 8am that day. A few reminders: Only dry landscape may be burned, no grass or clippings. Burn piles should be greater than 10ft from any structure and constantly attended.
- City Hall and the Transfer Station will be CLOSED Friday April 7th.

A motion to adjourn was made by Councilmember Baker and seconded by Councilmember Colomer. Motion passed 5-0 and the meeting was adjourned at 8:56pm.