

The June 12th, 2023, Council Meeting was called to order at 6pm. Councilmembers Colomer, Faber, Baker, and Komnick were present along with Mayor Moore. City Manager Gary Bradley and City Clerk Kasey Mitchell were also in attendance. City Attorney Justin Raver attended by phone.

A motion to go into closed session to discuss Personnel Section 2(c)(1), Purchase or Lease of Real Estate Section 2(c)(5), Sale or Lease of Real Estate Section 2(c)(6), and Litigation Section 2(c)(11) was made by Councilmember Colomer and seconded by Councilmember Komnick. Motion passed 5-0.

A motion to adjourn to regular session was made by Councilmember Colomer and seconded by Councilmember Baker. Motion passed 5-0 and the closed session adjourned at 6:40pm.

The June 12th, 2023, Council Meeting was called to order at 7:00pm in the Council Chambers. Councilmembers Colomer, Faber, Baker, and Komnick were present along with Mayor Moore. City Manager Gary Bradley and City Clerk Kasey Mitchell were also in attendance.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited followed by a moment of silence for the troops.

The Consent Agenda included the following items:

- A. Minutes from the Council Meeting on May 23rd.
- B. Payroll for the pay period ending May 20th in the amount of \$220,825.42 and payroll for the pay period ending June 3rd in the amount of \$226,582.63.
- C. Staff Reports.
- D. Street Closures – Prairie Chicken Arts Festival
- E. Francis Park Car Show

A motion to approve the consent agenda items was made by Councilmember Faber and seconded by Councilmember Komnick. Motion passed 5-0.

A motion to approve of the Bills for Council Meeting of June 12th in the amount of \$814,109.87 was made by Councilmember Komnick and seconded by Councilmember Baker. Discussion: Councilmember Colomer asked what the bill for Westrum Leak Detection was for. City Manager Bradley stated that they are under contract with the City to find water leaks underground. This helps reduce our water losses. Motion passed 5-0.

The City Clerk swore in the new Fireman, Kyle McCready and the new Policeman, Austin Stroud.

Police Chief Nick Welgat promoted Andrew Kingdon to Sergeant and Justin Reed to Lieutenant.

Public Comments:

* **Jessica Fornander** approached the Council to thank the community for their participation in the Pride Festival recently held at Northeast Park. She also thanked the Commission on Human Relations for their push to get this event started. Jessica mentioned the chairs of the event,

Taurean Bond, August Wolf, and Sarah Hughes-Calhoun and all their hard work. She also listed many of the organizations and people who helped make the event a success.

* **August Wolf** who is on the Commission of Human Relations and was a co-chair of the event, read a letter from another co-chair, Sarah Hughes-Calhoun. In it, she expressed gratitude for the people and groups that helped with the event. She was able to speak with many of the attendees who felt welcomed at the event. He then read a letter that he prepared for the Council in which he stated that he is a transgender man that grew up in Kewanee. It is because of the love and support that he received that he could share that love with this community. Kewanee's first Pride Festival was a day of love and pride. He thanked the Commission, Council, Mayor, and other sponsors and organizations that took part in the event.

* **Charlene McLemore** lives on Lake St near the tavern in the neighborhood. She stated that the noise level on Friday and Saturday nights is getting out of hand. She can hear it in her home when the television is going. She has called the Police Department who came out to check the complaint. The officer suggested that she come to the Council to ask that they adjust the ordinance that governs the acceptable decibel levels. Police Chief Nick Welgat came forward to let her know that the ordinance the officer was addressing does not actually govern that location. It is easier to mitigate the problem. He will inform that officer of the correct processes. In the future, if she has a noise complaint, she should call the Police Department and they can cite the business in question.

New Business:

- A. Street Closure Request from Mark Guthrie Auctions. A motion to approve was made by Councilmember Komnick and seconded by Councilmember Faber. Discussion: None. Motion passed 5-0.**
- B. Street Closure Request from Bradford Car Club. A motion to approve was made by Councilmember Colomer and seconded by Councilmember Faber. Discussion: None. Motion passed 5-0.**
- C. Consideration of Bill 23-11: Ordinance granting a Special Use Permit to Robinson Outdoor, LLC for property located at 630 Tenney St in the City of Kewanee. A motion to approve was made by Councilmember Baker and seconded by Councilmember Komnick. Discussion: Councilmember Colomer asked the representative present where the sign was going to go. The pictures used did not have the new Scooter's Coffee location present. The rep showed the Council where it would be, farther back towards the ice machine that is located on the property. He does not want to block any other sign or building. That is why it is planned for that location. It will also be higher than the Scooter's sign. Councilmember Komnick noted that he read the sign will have automatic dimming capabilities so that it will not be too bright or distracting. The rep mentioned that he has to abide by State guidelines concerning off premise signs and that the State will often inspect the signs to make sure they are compliant. Councilmember Faber asked Community Development Director Keith Edwards if there was an ordinance regarding sign height. Edwards stated there is and the plan is within the regulations. He will verify again when the building permit is turned in. Motion passed 4-0 with Councilmember Colomer voting no as he did not like the placement as it will clutter that corner.**
- D. Consideration of Bill 23-12: Ordinance granting a Special Use Permit to Kenneth Westfer for property located at 325 West Fourth St in the City of Kewanee. A motion to**

approve was made by Councilmember Faber and seconded by Councilmember Baker. Discussion: Mayor Moore said that he went to look at the property and was able to speak with the owner about the current and future plans for the property. Councilmember Colomer asked if the owner had a current liquor license and the City Clerk verified that he did. Colomer then asked if the plan was to have eating and the beer garden available outside. Mr. Westefer stated that many of his patrons smoke and this would allow them to take their drinks outside with them instead of leaving them unattended inside. Councilmember Faber stated that he likes the idea of businesses expanding. Mr. Westefer stated the building itself would probably not allow dining to be an option, but he hopes to be able to offer a back room as a rental venue for small gatherings. The motion passed 5-0.

E. Consideration of Bill 23-13: Resolution affirming the Mayor's Recommendation for appointments to various commissions and boards. **A motion was made by Councilmember Faber and seconded by Councilmember Faber. Discussion: None. Motion passed 5-0.**

F. Discussion Only: Garage Sales Ordinance. **Community Development Director Keith Edwards** told that Council that this proposal stems from issues with residents that are having perpetual yard sales. He has received complaints about these properties. This ordinance would not require extra permitting or costs for residents. It is on the honor system, but nuisance sales will easily present themselves. This ordinance would allow Mr. Edwards to cite properties defying the ordinance. Councilmember Colomer asked for clarification on the exclusions of More on 34 and Hog Days. Mr. Edwards stated that a resident would be allowed to have three yard sales throughout the year, plus have one during More on 34 and Hog Days, essentially giving them 5 opportunities. Mayor Moore told Mr. Edwards to bring the ordinance for further consideration at the next meeting.

Council Communications:

- **Councilmember Baker:** He asked if there is any update on the mobile home parks. City Manager Gary Bradley stated that we have made many attempts to contact the owners. There has been some movement on the mowing but not much. At this point, we are unsure of the involvement of the group that was to be taking ownership as the recent owner is now becoming more involved. Mr. Edwards stated that he is seeing progress on the grass but not on the trash or conditions of the homes. He has sent notices for all issues to the owner on record. He tries to work with owners as much as possible before having to refer them on to legal.
- **Councilmember Komnick:** He attended the Pride Fest this last weekend with one of his sons, who happened to win the library's give-a-way of a Pride Flag. He also attended neighboring towns Neponset, for their Picnic Days, and Galva for their Levitt AMP Music Series. He feels it is important to support not only our community but those around us.
- **Councilmember Colomer:** He welcomed Fireman McCready, Police Officer Stroud and congratulated Sergeant Kingdon and Lieutenant Reed on their promotions. He then reminded the community that this coming weekend is the Nolan Keene Memorial Tournament. This will mean more traffic in the area as well as lines and stores and food locations. It is a great event for the community.
- **Councilmember Faber:** He has received complaints from residents about the storm drains being plugged and asked if the street sweeper is currently being utilized. Public Works Director Kevin Newton said it is running but they have not made it a priority but will be sure to get it out. He then mentioned that the Kewanee Prairie Chicken Festival is coming up on

July 21-22. He appreciates the partnership with other organizations, and they have a lot planned for the weekend.

Mayor's Communications:

He attended the Pride Fest this last weekend that was organized by the Commission on Community Relations. It was well attended and successful. He hopes it gets bigger and better every year.

He offered condolences to the family and friends of Tony Perkins who recently passed away. Tony loved decorating his house for Christmas and it became a spot for many to visit as Santa was often present.

Lastly, he was approached by someone with the YMCA asking about the possibility of installing bathrooms at West/Liberty Park. He would like to see us work with the Park District to see if that can happen.

Announcements:

- The City Hall Front Office will be CLOSED Wednesday June 14th from 8am-1pm for Staff Development. All other City departments will be operating as normal.
- City Hall and the Transfer Station will be CLOSED Monday June 19th in observance of Juneteenth. There will be no large item pick up or landscape pick up due to the Holiday. There are no changes to the trash or recycling schedule.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Councilmember Colomer and seconded by Councilmember Faber. Motion passed 5-0 and the meeting was adjourned at 7:54pm.

Prepared by: *Kasey Mitchell*
Kasey Mitchell, City Clerk