

**The August 28th, 2023, Council Meeting was called to order at 7:00pm in the Council Chambers. Councilmembers Baker and Komnick were present along with Mayor Moore, City Manager Gary Bradley, City Attorney Justin Raver, and City Clerk Kasey Mitchell. Councilmembers Colomer and Faber were absent.**

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

**The consent agenda items included the following:**

- A. Minutes from the Council Meeting on August 14<sup>th</sup>
- B. Payroll for the pay period ending August 12<sup>th</sup> in the amount of \$215,614.77.
- C. Staff Reports
- D. Bock Report
- E. Step Ladder Tutoring Tag Days

**A motion to approve the consent agenda items was made by Councilmember Baker and seconded by Councilmember Komnick. Discussion: None. Motion passed 3-0.**

**Bills for the Council Meeting of August 28th were presented in the amount of \$371,701.92. A motion to approve was made by Councilmember Komnick and seconded by Councilmember Baker. Discussion: None. Motion passed 3-0.**

**Kewanee's new Police Officer, Lauren Roof, was sworn in by City Clerk Kasey Mitchell. She then received her badge from Police Chief Nicholas Welgat and Deputy Police Chief Stephen Kijanowski.**

There were no Public Comments

### **New Business:**

- A. Consideration of Bill 23-36:** Resolution authorizing the Mayor, City Manager, Fire Chief, and City Clerk to execute a purchase agreement and other documents that are necessary and proper in the procurement of battery powered extrication equipment. **A motion to approve was made by Councilmember Baker and seconded by Councilmember Komnick. Discussion: Councilmember Komnick asked about the batteries for the equipment. Fire Chief Stephen Welgat stated that each piece of equipment comes with two batteries and a charger. They also carry multiple batteries on the fire engines. The equipment can also be used with Milwaukee batteries. The Mayor mentioned that this is equipment we hope to never have to use but the community should feel good that we have it if needed. Motion passed 3-0.**
- B. Consideration of Bill 23-37** Resolution accepting the lowest responsive and responsible bid from Brand Construction Co. for the 2023 Sidewalk Replacement Program. **A motion to approve was made by Councilmember Komnick and seconded by Councilmember Baker. Discussion: None. Motion passed 3-0.**
- C. Consideration of Bill 23-38:** Resolution to authorize and ratify the use of funds to make emergency repairs to well 1 at the north water treatment. **A motion to approve was made by Councilmember Baker and seconded by Councilmember Komnick. Discussion: None. Motion passed 3-0.**

- D. Consideration of Bill 23-39:** Resolution to authorize the City Manager to enter into an agreement with Hopkins & Associates, CPAs for auditing services for the City of Kewanee. **A motion to approve was made by Councilmember Baker and seconded by Councilmember Komnick. Discussion: None. Motion passed 3-0.**
- E. Consideration of Bill 23-40:** Resolution authorizing the City Manager to execute an agreement with Hutchison Engineering for professional services related to the development of a Safe Routes to School grant application. **A motion to approve was made by Councilmember Komnick and seconded by Councilmember Baker. Discussion: None. Motion passed 3-0.**
- F. Consideration of Bill 23-41:** Resolution authorizing the Fire Chief to execute documents that are necessary to accept and AFG Grant towards a new fire engine. **A motion to approve was made by Councilmember Baker and seconded by Councilmember Komnick. Discussion: Mayor Moore said that it is not often that you receive such a large grant that only requires a 5% match. Chief Welgat explained that this is a very competitive grant, so it was a blessing to receive. He and City Grant Writer Kathleen Weber completed to work for the grant. As of right now, the lead time is 18 months. Motion passed 3-0.**
- G. Consideration of Bill 23-42:** Resolution authorizing Hoerr Construction, Inc to make emergency repairs to a 30-inch storm tile located between the 100 blocks of Lyle St and East Oak St. **A motion to approve was made by Councilmember Baker and seconded by Councilmember Komnick. Discussion: The Mayor questioned why there was such a difference in the submitted bids. Kevin Newton stated that one of the bidders was going to reevaluate their bid to see if they misunderstood something. Motion passed 3-0.**
- H. Consideration of Bill 23-43:** Resolution authorizing the Mayor, City Manager, Police Chief, and City Clerk to purchase a 2023 Ford Escape from Gustafson Ford of Kewanee. **A motion to approve was made by Councilmember Baker and seconded by Councilmember Komnick. Discussion: None. Motion passed 3-0.**

#### **Council Communications:**

**Baker:** He asked Gary Bradley about the curbs around the Wethersfield School Dist. He wanted to know if that was something we take care of or if the school does. Mr. Bradley said it is the City's responsibility but that curbs were a lower priority than streets and sidewalks.

**Komnick:** He thanked the Public Works Department for putting concrete on the curbs near Prospect and East St. He then asked that residents keep in mind that it will be Hog Days weekend so there will be a lot of extra traffic and people in town. Please keep that in mind when traveling and attending. Councilmember Komnick then thanked everyone in advance that helps during Hog Days. Not only do they have their crew, but all the Police and Fire that help as well. He said that when he leaves the fair each night, he sees the mess that needs to be cleaned up. The Public Works crews that come in and take care of that do a great job and they aren't appreciated enough.

#### **Mayor's Communications:**

The Mayor wished everyone a fun and safe Hog Days celebration. This is one of the most highly anticipated events of the year.

Some of the money awarded to the City from the grant applications are finally being released by the state. Money from the OSLAD grant is now available so we will begin some of the work at Francis Park this year and should get the planned improvements completed early next year. To be clear, the

OSLAD grant does not allow us to work on the palace, but we have a lot of other updates planned for the park.

We are still working with architects to develop cost analysis and priorities for the preservation of the Woodland Palace at Francis Park. A lot of this information is available in our council packets in Gary Brandley's memos, but for our listeners at home that have not had a chance to read the packet this will give them the updates.

He and Gary Bradley met with representatives from Hutchison Engineering last week, and are finally seeing some movement on DCEO grant, and could see work on the downtown renovations begin in the spring of 2024.

Engineering has begun on the Safe Routes to School grant, as well as a second grant request that will allow us to complete that project on Lake Street.

It was nice to see both local high school teams begin their seasons on a winning note. And on another note, he had the privilege of coaching both the head football coaches in baseball; Matt Taylor who coaches at Kewanee, and Tony Gripp who coaches at Wethersfield.

**Announcements:** Open burning will begin on Wednesday September 6<sup>th</sup>. Burn days are Wednesdays and Saturdays, weather permitting as determined by the fire department. You can check the City's website, call City Hall and press 6, or check the City of Fire Department Facebook pages to see if burning is allowed. Please note that burn barrels are not allowed at any time.

There are two Saturdays left for the Transfer Station this year. Those dates are September 9<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>. They will be open from 9-noon.

City Hall and the Transfer Station will be closed Monday September 4<sup>th</sup> for Labor Day. There are no changes to the trash/recycling schedule, however landscape waste will not be picked up that week.

**A motion to adjourn was made by Councilmember Baker and seconded by Councilmember Komnick. Discussion: None. Motion passed 3-0 and the meeting was adjourned at 7:24pm.**

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