

The April 10th, 2023, Council Meeting began with a discussion about the budget, where various budget items were discussed.

**The April 10th, 2023, Council Meeting was called to order at 7pm in Council Chambers. Councilmembers Colomer, Faber, Baker, and Komnick were present along with Mayor Moore.**

- The City Clerk conducted a swearing in of Mayor Moore, Councilmember Komnick, and Councilmember Colomer as they were re-elected to their positions on the City Council.

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

- A. Minutes from the Council Meeting on March 27th.
- B. Payroll for the pay period ending March 25th in the amount of \$210,863.34.
- C. Staff Reports.

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

**A motion to approve the Bills for Council Meeting of April 10th in the amount of \$479,663.25 was made by Councilmember Faber and seconded by Councilmember Komnick. Discussion: None. Motion passed 5-0.**

**Public Comments:**

- **Dianne Packee** approached the Council on behalf of the Prairie Chicken Arts Festival. They are seeking approval from the Council to have a 40ft x 80ft tent in front of Cerno's on W Third St during the festival. The tent would need to be staked into the street and the company that would install the tent would be responsible for filling the holes made. Public Works Director Kevin Newton stated that he would reach out to the company to discuss the process and report back to the Council his recommendations so that they can decide on the request.

**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: City Manager Gary Bradley stated that this item was back on the agenda as the Council had previously voted to table the discussion. Council can choose to discuss it further or allow for public comment. Bradley did mention that the property owner plans to be at the next meeting to provide Council with more information on the plans for the sight. Paul Estes of 476 Val Mar Dr. came forward to speak in opposition to the project. He and other residents feel that this is not going to be beneficial for the City or the neighboring residents. Councilmembers Colomer and Faber reiterated their positions from the last meeting. Mayor Moore said he had been talking to Councilmember Colomer and they were working on possible solutions to the problem but ultimately, he thought it best to table this again until the property owner could be in attendance to discuss things. Councilmembers Baker and Komnick rescinded their prospective motions to approve. Councilmember Colomer**

**made a motion to table the discussion and it was seconded by Councilmember Faber. No further discussion was made. Motion to table was approved 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. **A motion to approve was made by Councilmember Faber and seconded by Councilmember Baker. Discussion: John Murray was present to answer questions from the Council. He said that he wants to take the home and turn it into four one-bedroom apartments. Mr. Murray had talked with one of the neighbors about her concerns and said that he could talk to the other neighbors if they wanted. He wants to be a good neighbor. The owners on both sides of the property in question came forward to share their concerns. They are all opposed to the property becoming apartments. Nancy Sutton, the selling agent representing the property, told the Council that she believes this is the best option for the property. She doesn't feel that anyone else would be able to afford to flip the home. Motion failed 0-5.**

**C. Consideration of Resolution #5394** ratifying the expenditure of funds to purchase two (2) Stryker Power Load Systems for installation on the City's new ambulances. **A motion to approve was made by Councilmember Colomer and seconded by Councilmember Baker. Discussion: Councilmember Colomer asked Fire Chief Welgat to explain to the public what these are. Fire Chief Welgat stated that these mechanisms will lift the cots up off the ground to be put into the ambulances. They are back saving devices and will help lower health care costs and work comp claims from staff injuries that may occur without the devices. Motion passed 5-0.**

#### **Council Communications:**

**Councilmember Faber:** Nothing at this time

**Councilmember Baker:** Congratulations to Mayor Moore and Councilmembers Komnick and Colomer on the re-elections. He thanked the Police and Fire Departments for their help with the clean-up after the recent storms. He also asked City Manager Bradley if he had contacted the owners of the mobile home parks yet. Bradley has reached out but has not heard back from anyone.

**Councilmember Komnick:** Thank you to everyone who voted. Congratulations to Mayor Moore and Councilmember Colomer on their re-elections. Also, Arbor Day is approaching. There are a ton of resources out there that will teach you about trees and those native to our area. With the older trees that are being taken down by the storms, if we do not plant new ones, there will be fewer trees in the future.

**Councilmember Colomer:** Thank you to everyone who voted. Congratulations to Mayor Moore and Councilmember Komnick on their re-election. Recently Kiwanis held their pancake day event, and he thanked them for all they do. With the weather getting nicer, people will be out more riding bicycles and walking. Please be aware while driving.

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

He congratulated both Mike Komnick and Chris Colomer on being elected to another term on the City Council. He thanked them both for their continued service to Kewanee.

Our current tornado sirens are not being heard by a lot of people. We need to come up with a solution that will allow as many people as possible to be warned of the possibility of bad weather. It is understood nothing is going to be 100%, but we need to make every attempt to get as close to that 100% mark as possible. Sirens alone are not a viable solution. He would like to investigate some type of hybrid option where we are using audible sirens as well as

using the technology of cell phones. He will investigate possible solutions and see what can be found that will not break the city budget while still being effective.

He hopes everyone had a great Easter holiday. The weather was beautiful. With that beautiful weather there are more kids out playing, and many motorcycle enthusiasts have been out and about. Please be mindful of the children and motorcycles as you are out traveling.

**Announcements:**

- The Transfer Station will begin Saturday hours starting on April 22<sup>nd</sup>. They will continue the second and fourth Saturdays of the month through September and be open 9am-noon.

**A motion to adjourn was made by Councilmember Colomer and seconded by Councilmember Faber. Motion passed 5-0 and the meeting was adjourned at 8:09pm.**