

CITY OF ELWOOD, KANSAS
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
JUNE 20, 2023

At 7:00pm Mayor Timmy Kieser, Sr. called the regularly scheduled meeting to order. Those attending: council members Travis Holcomb, Dennis Smith and Sam Meers. Also attending; Brandon Whetstine, Charles Baskins, Wayne Hall, Jeff Smith, Roger Murphy, Trina Earl, Josh Crandell and Pam King.

Council members Dustin Robinson and Darrell Lamme were absent.

INVOCATION

Travis Holcomb gave the invocation.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Sam Meers moved, Travis Holcomb seconded, to approve as written the June 5, 2023 regular council meeting minutes. Dennis Smith, yea.

ALCOHOL PERMIT

Travis Holcomb moved, Sam Meers seconded, to issue an alcohol permit to Beth Lewis for the shelter on June 25, 2023. Dennis Smith, yea.

VISITORS

Trina Earl, Doniphan County Pet Rescue, ask the status of the dog kennel the governing body approved to have at the City shop to hold stray dogs until Trina can pick up the animal. Clerk Pam King told Earl after discussing the issue, the police department and the crew were not sure how the kennel would be taken care of. Someone needs to be responsible for the care of the animal, and we weren't certain there would be 24 hour care. Council member Sam Meers agreed the care of the animals was an issue. Earl said the hold in the kennel would be short term, until she can get to Elwood to pick up the animal. A discussion including how many dogs the Pet Rescue takes in from Elwood, Earl picking up dogs in the middle of the night, and room at the rescue to hold the animal was held. Chief Brandon Whetstine suggested the city purchase the dog kennels and place them at the Pet Rescue, where the animals will be taken care of. Meers said he was in favor of building the kennels at the Pet Rescue. Earl said she would present this option to her board of directors and get back with the City at the next meeting. Council member Dennis Smith said he was told someone is trapping cats and dumping them in Elwood. Mayor Kieser said Chief Whetstine has found out who was doing it and had issued a ticket to the person.

Josh Crandell appeared before the governing body saying he lived at 205 N. 2nd Street and was interested in purchasing vacated Kentucky Street. Crandell said his neighbor was interested in

purchasing the vacated street also. Crandell said he has had issues with a neighbor and this would help solve the problem. It was decided to talk with Joel Euler and get back with Crandell.

Roger Murphy showed the governing body pictures of a ditch along Dogwood Lane. The ditch was dug by the county, goes in front of Murphy's property, and ends at Billy and Brandy Bruce's property. Murphy said when it rains he has a mess with standing water. Murphy said by looking at the pictures you can see the ditch stops at the Bruce property, it also runs behind Sam Meers property. Murphy said he feels by the way the ditches were dug, leaving only his property with standing water, it was done purposely. Murphy asked the governing body if the ditches have to be there, because when it rains his property is the only one with water. Murphy went on to say if the ditches need to be there, the ditch needs to continue on to empty out, not stop at his property. Murphy said he pays some of the highest residential taxes in Elwood, and for him to have to deal with this issue is ridiculous. Travis Holcomb said the issue is you can't drain water from flat land-a problem Elwood has. Mayor Kieser said he will show Bobby Hall the pictures and get back with Murphy.

Roger Murphy asked why Billy Bruce did not get a building permit for sidewalks. The permit was approved June 9, after the project was complete. Murphy said he was stopped 5 times during his projects because he didn't have approve building permits. Murphy contacted the City on June 5, but the permit wasn't approved until June 9. Murphy said the favoritism in this City has to be stopped. Murphy went on to say if people don't start getting fined, they will keep doing it. Murphy said he is sick of the City catering to the "names" in Elwood, just because they are a council man, or have a "name" in Elwood, they get preferential treatment. Murphy said if he is forced he will get an attorney and get this treatment stopped. Travis Holcomb said he understood Murphy's frustration, but residents were complaining it took too long to get the permit approved when the governing body handled the process. Sam Meers agreed with Holcomb, saying if the resident doesn't get the building permit before starting construction, there should be a fine assessed. Holcomb asked what the fine is for not getting a building permit. Clerk King said a ticket will be issued, and you will be fined every day you are in violation. Meers said if the City requires permits, then penalties need to apply if residents don't get the permit before construction starts. The City will discuss with Joel and get back with Murphy.

CHIEF OF POLICE

Chief Brandon Whetstine gave the governing body his department's activity report.

Whetstine would like to purchase a radar sign, helping with speeding. Sam Meers moved, Dennis Smith seconded, to authorize Brandon Whetstine to purchase a radar sign in the amount of \$3414. Travis Holcomb, yea.

CITY SUPERVISOR

Wayne Hall told the governing body the new water valves are scheduled to be put in by St. Joseph Concrete.

APPROVAL OF CHECKS

Sam Meers moved, Travis Holcomb seconded, to approve checks numbered 65889-65944. Dennis Smith, yea.

GOVERNING BODY

Mayor Kieser said the police department is doing a great job.

Mayor Kieser reminded everyone of Bobby Hall's retirement lunch July 28, starting at noon.

Travis Holcomb asked about the property where the drug bust happened. Holcomb wondered who was responsible for the clean up. The property owner is aware and will clean the property.

Dennis Smith asked if the City would send out a letter with the utility bill reminding residents of the fireworks ordinance. Roger Murphy asked what dates can you legally shoot fireworks. July 3, 4 and 5 are the days you can legally shoot fireworks. Murphy asked if the governing body would change the ordinance and allow fireworks on July 1. It was decided the Mayor would allow fireworks on July 1,2,3,4, and 5, with no shooting fireworks after 11:00pm.

Sam Meers said Chief Whetstine is doing a great job.

ADJOURNMENT

At 7:55 Travis Holcomb moved, Sam Meers seconded, to adjourn. Motion carried.

Mayor Timmy Kieser, Sr.

Pam King, City Clerk