

Regular City Council Meeting  
October 14, 2014  
7:30 PM

**A. Call to Order:** The Regular Meeting of the Richmond City Council was called to order by Mayor Sheldon S. Snow.

**Council Members Present:** Karen Peters, Verlin Springer, Helen Feuerborn, and Doug McIntosh.

**Staff present:** Doyle Sobba, Jake Strobel and City Attorney, Jeff Wilson.

**Guests Present:** Sister Loretta Roeckers, Betty Bowlby, Connie Weber, Barbara Lane and Ken Manwarren.

**B. Public Comment:** None.

**C. CONSENT AGENDA:**

**Approval of Minutes of Meetings:** Doug McIntosh made a motion to approve the minutes as written from the September 9, 2014, meeting. Karen Peters seconded the motion. Vote 4-0, motion passed.

**Approval of Monthly Expenses:** Helen Feuerborn made a motion to approve the expenses paid since the September 9, 2014, meeting. Karen Peters seconded the motion. Vote 3-1, motion passed.

**D. ITEMS OF BUSINESS:**

**1. Sewer Adjustment for Broken Water Line – Michael Meldahl.** Mr. Meldahl reported that at some point during the last billing cycle he had a water leak and used approximately 56,000 gallons of water. Mr. Meldahl is requesting an adjustment to his sewer charge since the water did not enter the sewer system. Mr. Meldahl reported that his normal bill is for the minimum sewer and water charge. After discussion, Doug McIntosh made a motion to adjust Mr. Meldahl's sewer charge to the average of his last three months sewer charge. Karen Peters seconded the motion. Vote 4-0, motion passed. Mr. Meldahl asked if he could pay his bill in two payments. The Council does not object. Mr. Meldahl will get with Doyle Sobba to make payment arrangements due to the City Clerk's absence.

**2. Active Transportation Committee – Midge Ransom.** Ms. Ransom explained that Franklin County Health Department and other partners received a grant about a year ago for a Healthy Community Initiative and the Initiative is focusing on active transportation and getting people more active for their health. The Franklin County Commission has allowed the Initiative to develop a food policy council which focuses on how we make more healthy food accessible, affordable, and make it easier to get healthy food throughout the county. There are many grants available from Federal Government, State Government or National Foundations for things like community gardens which the Initiative can assist the communities in obtaining.

Other options are for assisting people to access the Prairie Spirit Rail Trail more easily, or assisting with enhanced sidewalks in the area to allow people to feel safer walking in the community. The Initiative would like to develop a long-range plan for the county to make access to the rail trail and access from the communities safer. Ms. Ransom would like volunteers from the City Council or Richmond community to sit on the Food Policy Council and Active Transportation Committee to help decide what needs to happen and how to make it happen. Verlin Springer inquired whether the Food Policy Council would have any impact on the Meals-on-Wheels program Richmond currently has. Ms. Ransom reported that it is a totally separate program but the Food Council could assist with any difficulties people may have in accessing that program. Mr. McIntosh suggested that some things that could be done would include taking the fees off of accessing the Rail Trail; going to the State and asking why local farmers raising vegetables are not allowed to sell the fresh vegetables to restaurants and similar places. Ms. Ransom believes there is no fee to access the Rail Trail within the city limits but she will make additional inquiries and let us know what she learns. No action was taken at this time.

**3. Consider Annexation of State Right-of-Way.** Verlin Springer made a motion to go into executive session for 20 minutes with the City Attorney. Doug McIntosh seconded the motion. Vote 4-0, motion passed. Time: 7:50 PM.

At 8:10 PM Doug McIntosh made a motion to come out of executive session. Verlin Springer seconded the motion. Vote 4-0, motion passed. No action was taken during the executive session.

Doug McIntosh made a motion to go back onto executive session for 30 minutes to discuss State right-of-way and items in the expenses that we pay. Verlin Springer seconded the motion. Vote 4-0, motion passed.

At 8:40 PM Doug McIntosh made a motion to come out of executive session. Karen Peters seconded the motion. Vote 4-0, motion passed. No action was taken during the executive session.

**4. Disabled Person Parking Spaces – Doug McIntosh.** Doug McIntosh stated that he asked Marla who painted the handicapped parking spaces in front and she indicated that she came in one morning and they were there. Mr. McIntosh would like the handicapped space in front of City Hall taken out. It is unknown whether private entities are required to provide handicapped parking, but it is believed that government entities are required to provide a space. Although a parking space has been provided, access to the sidewalk is not available in front of City Hall. No action was taken at this time.

**5. Insurance.** Mayor Snow has provided to the council additional information on the Firemen's Relief Association insurance. Mayor Snow explained that this is an accident and life policy that is a benefit for the volunteer firemen provided by the Relief Association. Every year they come to us and ask us for 7-1/2% of the premium. They also ask the township for 7-1/2%. This is for 24-hour per day coverage to encourage some longevity within the volunteer fire department. The statutes provide that no more than 85% shall be paid by the FRA and no less than 15% shall be paid by the firefighters if the premiums are unknown. The mix up for this year is because, on the handwritten note from Dornes Insurance, shows that we have a known premium of \$846 for the 24-hour coverage rider on top of the on-duty portion. The amount

asked for this year should have been \$423 from the City to match the \$423 from the township, the same as we paid last year. The check will need to be payable to Firemen's Relief instead of Dornes because FRA went ahead and paid the money to keep the policy in effect. After further discussion, Doug McIntosh made a motion that we write a check in the amount of \$423.00 to the Firefighter's Relief Fund to be handed over upon receipt of the \$238.13 Dornes check that we originally wrote that is no longer necessary. Helen Feuerborn seconded the motion. Vote 4-0, motion passed.

6. Any other necessary city business. A study session was scheduled for Monday, October 20, 2014, at 7:30 PM to discuss the emergency water agreement.

**E. Staff Reports.** Doyle Sobba reported that he had talked with Rita Clary and had given Scott Snow's phone number to Rita so she could contact him about a bill from BG Consultants. Scott Snow stated that he had not heard from Rita Clary. Jake Strobel reported that he had talked with Donna Crawford about some bills also and that she was working with Rita and BG Consultants. Doug McIntosh asked if either Doyle or Jake knew when our project was going out for bids. Doyle understood that BG Consultants would get our approval on the plans and then show the plans to the Council for their final approval and then the project would be let for bids. Doyle has not heard anything from BG Consultants.

Doyle Sobba reported that since we are a member of Kansas Rural Water Association we could probably get a representative from KRWA to attend the meeting on the water agreement without any charge and they might have some valuable information. Doyle will talk to Rita Clary to see who she recommends we contact.

Jeff Wilson, City Attorney, reported that he had provided information to Marla about condemning houses. Jeff will make a copy for the council members tonight.

Jake Strobel asked whether we should start looking for someone to be Marla's backup. Doug McIntosh reported that he had provided a name to Marla who was willing to work part time if necessary, but did not want another full time job. Marla did not pursue the matter. Scott Snow reported that since this happened with Marla, Williamsburg has contacted him since they use the same software and offered to work out some kind of help arrangement. Doug McIntosh reported that he had talk with Peg Wichman and she was willing to work part-time.

**F. Council Comments and/or Reports.** Doug McIntosh asked whether the Mayor had intentionally skipped number 5 on the agenda. The Mayor stated that since they had been in executive session and with what was talked about in the other executive session, he didn't believe it was necessary until the other parts are figured out.

**Adjournment:** Doug McIntosh made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Helen Feuerborn seconded the motion. Vote 4-0, motion passed.

APPROVED:

By:   
Shelden Snow, Mayor