

Regular City Council Meeting
July 9, 2013
7:30 PM

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

Council Members Present: Verlin Springer, Claire Blackburn, Doug McIntosh, Helen Feuerborn and Mary Harris.

Staff present: Doyle Sobba, Jake Strobel and Marla Gadelman.

Guests Present: Betty Bowlby, Connie Weber, Donna Thompson, Marcia Springer, Ricky Wilson and Roy Baker.

B. Public Comment: Connie Weber, Richmond Public Library, the newsletter was not available for the Council packets so it has been provided on the council table. Connie Weber also asked that everyone support the library by visiting the RACO stand at the Richmond Fair this week.

Betty Bowlby wanted to thank the City men for trying to fix the streets.

Marcia Springer believes we have an issue and will have more of an issue as the heat continues to rise, with the dog and cat smells from her neighbor. The smells were already getting bad and it was not hot yet. Other neighbors are also concerned but were unable to attend the meeting. Marcia spoke with the City Clerk earlier and believes we have an ordinance concerning smells offensive to the neighbors.

Roy Baker asked whether we have zoning ordinances and zoning board. The Mayor responded that there are zoning ordinances but the board was put on hold because there has been no request for changes recently. The Zoning Ordinances are available at all times at City Hall.

C. CONSENT AGENDA:

Approval of Minutes of Meetings: Helen Feuerborn made a motion to approve the minutes as written from the June 11, 2013, Regular Meeting. Verlin Springer seconded the motion. Vote 5-0, motion passed.

Approval of Monthly Expenses: After discussion, Verlin Springer made a motion to approve the expenses paid since the June 11, 2013 meeting. Mary Harris seconded the motion. Vote 5-0, motion passed.

D. ITEMS OF BUSINESS:

1. **Franklin County National Wild Turkey Federation – Youth Fishing Tournament.** Ricky Wilson, President of the Franklin County Wild Turkey Federation, stated they would like to hold a Youth Fishing Tournament at the City Lake on August 3, 2013, from 7:00 am to 11:00 am.

He inquired whether they should mow close to the lake or whether the City would mow. Doyle stated the City would mow as close to the lake as possible with the lawnmower, but they were welcome to weed-eat as close as they wanted. Mr. Wilson questioned the use of the shelter house on the north side of the Lake which is being used by a long-term camper. Doyle stated that the shelter house was currently occupied by a homeless person, but options to remove the person are being looked into. A "Reserved" sign will be posted on the shelter house for the August 3 tournament. Mr. Wilson asked about the concession stand and bathroom facilities. Mr. Wilson was told to contact the Recreation Commission about use of the stand and facilities. Doyle Sobba informed Mr. Wilson that there is electricity in the shelter and portable toilets are available. There were no objections by the Council to hold the fishing tournament.

2. Consideration adoption of Municipal Water Conservation Plan. The Clerk reported that this Plan is nearly identical to our current Plan but is updated with current information. Kansas Rural Water Association assisted with the preparation of the Plan. The Kansas Water Office indicated a new ordinance was not necessary since we just adopted the Water Conservation Ordinance last month as part of the Code. Doug McIntosh questioned how we would enforce water rationing if it became necessary. Doyle Sobba indicated that the State of Kansas will help us enforce rationing. After discussion, Doug McIntosh made a motion to adopt the Water Conservation Plan as written. Claire Blackburn seconded the motion. Vote 5-0, motion passed. The Clerk will submit the Plan to the Kansas Water Office.

3. Sewer Rate Review Prepared by Kansas Rural Water Association. Kansas Rural Water Association has prepared a rate study at our request. Each council member has been provided a copy of the letter received from KRWA, which provides two options to make the sewer fund more solvent. Our current rate is \$7.00 per month which includes 1,000 gallons, plus \$2.50 per thousand thereafter. Option 1 proposes raising the sewer rate to \$10.00 minimum which includes 1,000 gallons plus \$2.50 per thousand thereafter; Option 2 proposes the base rate of \$9.00 minimum per month plus \$2.50 per thousand. Doyle Sobba reported that some work will need to be done on the dams at the sewer ponds due to erosion in the future. We are also in need of a generator at the sewer plant. Currently our expenditures are near our revenue amounts each month. After discussion, Doug McIntosh made a motion to adopt Option 2 with Resolution No. 2013-3:

RESOLUTION NO. 2013-3

A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING RATES OF SERVICE CHARGES FOR THE USE OF THE SEWER UTILITY SYSTEM OF THE CITY OF RICHMOND, KANSAS

WHEREAS, the Code of the City of Richmond, Kansas, 2013, provides that the monthly charge for sewer service shall be set by resolution. (Code 2013, Section 15-428)

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the City Council of Richmond, Kansas, in regular meeting duly assembled this 9th day of July, 2013, that the following monthly rates are hereby fixed for the sewer services of the city of Richmond, Kansas:

- (a) The monthly minimum shall be \$9.00 per month.
- (b) In addition to the monthly minimum, for each one thousand (1,000) gallons or part thereof, of water consumed each month, the sum of \$2.50 per one thousand (1,000) gallons or part thereof.

This Resolution shall take effect upon its adoption by the Richmond City Council at which time Resolution No. 2013-2 shall be repealed.

Verlin Springer seconded the motion. Vote 5-0, motion passed. The new sewer rates will be effective on the September 1 billing for August water usage.

4. Other necessary city business. Mayor Scott Snow passed out to each council member for their review a copy of a proposed 2014 City budget and a copy of the 2013 budget for comparison. The Clerk stated that the 2014 budget is based upon the maximum dollar amount so as not to require a resolution to increase the mill levy. The proposed dollar amounts for library and recreation funds are based on the previous mill levy. The year 2012 actual numbers will change because the auditor has provided the Clerk with the correct numbers. Anita Goertzen and Steve Seawall from Governmental Suites, our software company, are assisting us with the budget this year. The Notice of Budget Hearing must be published at least ten days before our budget hearing. The budget must be turned into the Franklin County Clerk by August 25. A study session may be scheduled to discuss the proposed budget prior to our budget hearing. The Mayor scheduled a special meeting for the Budget Hearing on August 13, 2013, at 7:00 P.M.

The Clerk reported that she received a phone call and email from Brian Kingsley late this afternoon with his projection of initial project estimates for the proposed water line project. Council members were provided a copy of Mr. Kingsley's email and initial project estimates. Several alternatives have been proposed. Funding Options have also been provided. The City Clerk explained that Mr. Kingsley was unable to attend this meeting due to a prior meeting commitment, but would be available for a special meeting on July 10 or July 18. The City Clerk did not feel comfortable trying to explain the project estimates and funding options. Mr. Kingsley would like to get whatever alternative we would like to pursue, if any, on the KIAC (Kansas Inter Agency Committee) agenda for July or August. After further discussion, Mayor Snow called for a special meeting to be held on July 18, 2013, at 7:00 p.m. for consideration and discussion of proposed water line project estimates with BG Consultants.

Doug McIntosh asked if an ad hoc group could be set up to discuss what we should do for the Employee Appreciation Day that was established at our June meeting. The Mayor stated that any meeting discussing city business, or any meeting held by any committee established by the City, would be subject to the Kansas Open Meetings Act.

Doyle Sobba reported that the clutch went out on the tractor today. Doyle has received an estimate for repair of the tractor for up to \$2,200.00, which exceeds his authorized spending limit. After discussion, Verlin Springer made a motion to authorize repair of the clutch on the tractor. Mary Harris seconded the motion. Vote 5-0, motion passed.

E. Staff Reports. Doyle Sobba reported that there is a valve at the Lake on the west high service pump that pushes water to town that is not functioning correctly. If the repair is under \$300.00 he will get it fixed so that if we have problems with the other pump we will be ready to go.

Doyle Sobba reported that we are having problems with a camper at the Lake. Ricky Wilson, who spoke earlier, is on the Franklin County Sheriff's Department and has been

working with the local Game Warden to see what can be done to alleviate the problem. The problem in he is on our public property that is open to the public. Mr. McIntosh has talked with the camper and reported that he isn't living anywhere. The camper is also causing issues at the ball fields. The camper has money so he may not be considered a vagrant. The public should call to report complaints to the sheriff's department. Mr. McIntosh will check with the Sheriff's Department about what, if anything, we can do to remove the camper. The City Clerk will also check with our City Attorney.

Marla Gadelman, City Clerk, reported that Rob Pearce has completed the purchase of the previous RV Park and Poss Real Estate properties and wants to proceed with annexing the property into the City. The City Attorney has been notified and he will proceed when the legal description is provided by Mr. Pierce. It may be necessary to pass a resolution to annex the property.

The City Clerk would like to mail a letter to the city residents with the September 1 utility billing and provide a copy of the new sewer rate resolution adopted tonight, a copy of the new water resolution and statement with the new policy regarding delinquent bills and that all bills must be paid by the end of the month unless prior arrangements have been made. Additional postage will be necessary but she feels providing an explanation will help the residents to understand.

The Clerk is currently working on the budget for 2014. All quarterly reports have been completed and submitted.

F. Council Comments and/or Reports. Claire Blackburn questioned where the water meter is located on the property purchased by Rob Pearce. Doyle Sobba stated that the water meter is located within the City limits, along with the Brown and Garber meters.

Doug McIntosh stated that if we are going to annex the Pearce property into the City, that he would like to obtain a map from Roy Baker showing the current city boundaries, and possibly annex a straight line versus annexing chunks. Some properties are partly in the city and partly in the county. Resistance from property owners is a concern to the Council.

Mary Harris questioned what has been done on the nursing home issue. The Clerk will ask the City Attorney what action has been taken.

Adjournment: Claire Blackburn made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Helen Feuerborn seconded the motion. Vote 5-0, motion passed. Time 9:15



ATTEST:


Marla Gadelman, City Clerk

APPROVED:

By: 
Sheldon Snow, Mayor