

Regular City Council Meeting
August 14, 2012
7:30 PM

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

Council Members Present: Rick Weber, Mary Harris, Verlin Springer and Claire Blackburn.

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

Guests Present: Barbara Lane, Betty Bowlby, Connie Weber, Donna Thompson, Rita Clary, Audra Seyler, Mary Ann Platt, Sister Loretta Roeckers, Marcia Springer, Ed Taylor, Denise Atkinson and Ken Manwarren.

Public Comment: None.

Approval of Minutes of Meetings: Verlin Springer made a motion to approve the minutes from the July 10, 2012, Regular Meeting. Rick Weber seconded the motion. Vote 4-0, motion passed.

Claire Blackburn made a motion to approve the minutes from the August 6, 2012, Special Meeting. Mary Harris seconded the motion. Vote 4-0, motion passed.

Approval of Monthly Expenses: After discussion, Verlin Springer made a motion to approve the bills paid since the July 10, 2012 meeting. Mary Harris seconded the motion. Vote 4-0, motion passed.

ITEMS OF BUSINESS:

1. Review Applicants and Possible Appointment of Council Member to Fill Vacant Position. Mayor Snow announced that we had received several applications for the vacant position. The vacant seat will be up for election in the Spring of 2013. Mayor Snow nominated Mary Ann Platt for the position. A vote by show of hands was 4-0 approving the appointment of Mary Ann Platt.

Mary Ann Platt recited the oath of Richmond City Council Member.

2. Audra Seyler – Central Heights Homecoming Parade. Audra Seyler requested permission to allow the Central Heights Booster Club to have the Homecoming Parade in Richmond this year. The parade would be held on September 26 beginning at approximately 6:45-7:00 PM. The parade would begin at Front Street and end at City Park. Doyle Sobba requested if possible that the parade go in front of the nursing home for the residents to see the parade. It was requested that the electricity be turned on at the bandstand. No bonfire is planned at this time due to the drought and burn ban. The council had no objection and the request was approved.

3. Rita Clary – Kansas Rural Water Association. Rita Clary provided to all in attendance information on the Kan Step Program and explained how the program works. Rita Clary is conducting the Low to Moderate Income survey which was provided to the City residents with their recent water bill. If the surveys are not returned as requested she will be going house to house to gather the information, probably around the end of September. A volunteer will be necessary to take her around town. The survey is necessary for the City to get a CDBG grant from the State Department of Commerce for a water line project. Rita explained the steps to obtaining the grant. The Director from the Department of Commerce will make a site visit and hold a town meeting. Rita will be contacting Southeast Kansas Regional Planning Commission to check if Franklin County is a member so that the City can qualify for a Grant Administrator at no cost. A grant writer is necessary to obtain an Environmental Review. Rita believes the costs for the grant writer and review will be reimbursed through the project. We will need to start getting a volunteer list. Notice will be provided in advance of the town meeting. Although the application will not be submitted until February 2013, the grant administrator will need to become involved in October to get the application and other documents ready for submission. The Director of the Department of Commerce will probably do the site visit in April or May 2013.

4. Recommendation and Appointment of Library Board Member. This item has been withdrawn from the agenda at the request of Connie Weber, Richmond Library Director.

5. Adopt Hazard Communication Program and Personal Protective Equipment Plan. The Hazard Communication Program and Personal Protective Equipment Plan result from the safety audit by the Department of Labor in July. After discussion, Verlin Springer made a motion to approve the Hazard Communication Program as submitted. Mary Ann Platt seconded the motion. Vote 5-0, motion passed.

Rick Weber made a motion to approve the Personal Protective Equipment Plan as submitted. Mary Harris seconded the motion. Vote 5-0, motion passed.

6. Employee Evaluations. Verlin Springer made a motion to go into executive session for 30 minutes to discuss personnel evaluations. Rick Weber seconded the motion. Vote 5-0, motion passed. Time 8:14 PM.

At 8:43 PM Mary Harris made a motion to come out of executive session. Verlin Springer seconded the motion. Vote 5-0, motion passed.

Mary Ann Platt made a motion to go into executive session again for 30 minutes to discuss employee evaluations. Verlin Springer seconded the motion. Vote 5-0, motion passed. Time 8:46 PM

At 9:15 PM Verlin Springer made a motion to come out of executive session. Mary Harris seconded the motion. Vote 5-0, motion passed. No action was taken in either executive session.

After discussion, a motion was made by Verlin Springer to give all city employees (Doyle Sobba, Jake Strobel and Marla Gadelman) a 5% wage increase, 3% applying now and 2% applying in six months. Mary Ann Platt seconded the motions. Vote 5-0, motion passed. After

further discussion, Mary Ann Platt made a motion to make the raises effective January 1, 2013. Mary Harris seconded the motion. Vote 5-0, motion passed.

7. Any Other Necessary City Business. Atrazine Class Action Lawsuit. Mayor Snow announced we had received a phone call from a Dallas law firm concerning a class action lawsuit against Syngenta and several other chemical companies for atrazine in the water. The lawsuit has potentially been settled out of court. The Syngenta testing that has been done on our water and provided in the lawsuit shows small levels of atrazine and makes the city qualified as a class member and entitled to a portion of the settlement if approved by the Court. A claim form must be filed by August 28, 2012, to entitle us to receive any settlement. The law firm indicated we may potentially receive \$92,000. If no claim is filed we will receive nothing from any settlement. The Texas law firm has attempted to contact Blaine Finch, the City Attorney, but has been unsuccessful in talking to him. After further discussion, Rick Weber made a motion to file a settlement claim form in the atrazine class action lawsuit. Mary Ann Platt seconded the motion. Vote 5-0, motion passed.

Staff Reports: City Clerk has nothing to report at this time.

Doyle Sobba reported that we have had five water leaks recently.

Doyle Sobba reported that next month the council would see expenses for backhoe repairs. The backhoe needed two hydraulic hoses replaced, the fuel pump was bad and the pump and filters have been replaced, the belt tension on the fan belt has been repaired, and the seat was broken and has been replaced.

Doyle Sobba reported that the sewer motor we had fixed last October quit and was delivered to Patchen on Monday, August 13. The pump has a one year warranty and should be covered by that warranty.

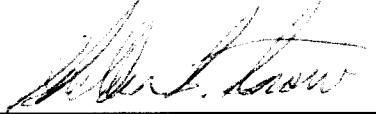
Most items on our safety audit have been fixed except the mower PTO shaft cover. The cover has been ordered, but is on backorder at this time. We can request an extension if not received and taken care of by September 15.

The lake is low but not a problem yet. The water tastes bad and we are doing what we can to fix the taste.


Council Comments and/or Reports. No council comments or reports.

Adjournment: Claire Blackburn made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Verlin Springer seconded the motion. Vote 5-0, motion passed.

APPROVED:

By: 
Shelden Snow, Mayor

ATTEST:


Marla Gadelman, City Clerk