

Regular City Council Meeting
March 13, 2012
7:30 PM

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

Council Members Present: Mary Harris, Rick Weber, Verlin Springer and Claire Blackburn. Mayor Jim Heaney was absent from the meeting.

Staff present: Jake Strobel and City Attorney Blaine Finch

Guests Present: Barbara Lane, Connie Weber, Betty Bowlby, Sister Loretta Roeckers and Donna Thompson.

Public Comment: Sister Loretta Roeckers commented that the large planters placed around town by the Ruritans look nice. She suggested that everyone look around their homes and when the large dumpsters are in town we should clean up items no longer needed, remove old vehicles, plant some flowers, and it will lift the spirits of all of us.

Approval of Minutes of Meetings: Verlin Springer made a motion to approve the minutes from the February 14, 2012, Regular Meeting. Claire Blackburn seconded the motion. Vote 4-0, motion passed.

Approval of Monthly Expenses: After discussion, Rick Weber made a motion to approve the bills paid since the February 14, 2012 meeting. Mary Harris seconded the motion. Vote 4-0, motion passed.

Richmond Fair Association Agreement from 2004: A copy of the Lease Agreement was provided to all Council Members. Blaine Finch explained the purpose of the Lease Agreement was for the City to take title to the property where the fair is held and lease it back to the Fair Association for 99 years at \$1.00 per year. The property was deeded to the City but the Lease Agreement was not executed at the time. After discussion, Rick Weber made a motion to ratify the Lease Agreement from 2004. Verlin Springer seconded the motion. Vote 4-0, motion passed.

Collette Spencer – Coates building. Collette Spencer was not present. Jake Strobel reported that Ms. Spencer was concerned about bricks falling off the Coates Building and landing on the Post Office. No action was taken.

Richmond Community Building – Barbara Lane. Barbara Lane, President of Richmond Community Building, Inc., reported that they have been informed that the meter at the Community Building is not working. The Community Building would like a new meter that serves the Community Building only. Jake Strobel reported that they can turn the meter on and off, but the meter is not registering the water usage. The Community Building is only being charged the minimum usage. The meter will be replaced soon.

Barbara Lane – Discuss water bill. Barbara Lane believed a new ordinance needed to be published twice in the newspaper before it was effective. Blaine Finch reported that an ordinary ordinance only needs published one time. Barbara Lane questioned publication of the budget. Blaine Finch explained the budget publication and charter ordinance publication requirements.

Barbara Lane asked what "WPF" stands for on the water bill. Jake Strobel phoned Marla Gadelman, City Clerk, (absent from meeting attending Clerk's Spring Conference) to ask what "WPF" stands for. Marla Gadelman reported it is Water Protection Fee, a fee the City pays the state of Kansas quarterly.

Other City Business: Scott Snow reported receipt of letter from Franklin County Solid Waste that the dates for spring cleanup for cities west of Highway are April 12-14. The Council discussed scheduling a roll-off dumpster and what it will cost the City. Jake Strobel reported that there is no cost except for some items like tires and boats. We need to post no dumping of some items. Free public dumping will also be available on April 27-28 from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the transfer station. After discussion, Verlin Springer made a motion to schedule roll-off dumpsters for the city cleanup. Mary Harris seconded the motion. Vote 4-0, motion passed. Items not accepted will be posted.

Jake Strobel reported that we have some big expenses coming up that will need to come from the water fund. 1) We are required by the State of Kansas to clean our tanks every two years. Bids are about \$5,000 to clean the tanks. 2) We have a water inlet meter at the water plant that is not working properly. The meter is still metering some water, just not as much as we are probably pumping. According to the State once you realize the meter is not working properly you have two weeks to replace it. The bid to replace the meter is \$3,780. 3) When Jake turned on the pumps today to send water to town, one of the high-service pumps quit. The person that services the pump did not give an estimate, but Doyle recalled that the last time it was about \$5,000. Jake wanted the Council to be aware of the problems. Blaine Finch explained the Kansas budgeting requirements and hopefully we will be able to start accumulating some cash reserves to help pay for unexpected expenses and equipment. Blaine Finch will check into how we can pay for these upcoming expenses. Jake and Doyle will contact President Snow and Mayor Heaney when prices are received and a special meeting will be scheduled if necessary.

Staff reports: Jake reported for Marla that the City has received from Kansas Setoff Program \$640.96; the fee was \$140.10 to receive those funds. We have received additional notice that we will be receiving another \$606.26 less fees and charges.

Jake reported on Doyle Sobba's recent injury.

Sewer ponds – Jake reported that he met with Gary Armatrout from Kansas Rural Water concerning a grinder for our sewer system. Grinders are expensive and Jake is still checking prices. If we installed a grinder it would help our sewer system tremendously and we could also install a dump station and possibly get some revenue from the dump station.

Jake also discussed with Gary our generator at the sewer ponds. We are required by the State to have a generator at the lift station. Our generator does not work. We will be checking into why the generator doesn't work and what we can do about it. Gary is aware of another city that has a generator for sale for about half the cost of a new generator. Jake will do some more checking and will report back to the council.

Syngenta has contacted Jake about monitoring the Atrazine level in our lake. There will be no cost to us. This is just an additional test to make sure our water is safe.

The "no-jake brake" signs have been installed.

We changed the bulk water rates to conform to the ordinance.

Dogs running. Jake has talked with Countryside Vet in Garnett and believes they may be a little cheaper than what we are now using. The State requires that all dogs turned in must be held for three days before adoption or euthanized. Countryside Vet stated \$10 per day and after three days the animal would probably be euthanized which would be an additional \$30. Prairie Paws requests donations of over \$100 per animal. Jake will verify the cost that would be charged by Countryside Vet and report back to the council.

Council Comments and Reports: Verlin Springer wondered where the Recreation Commission now stood.

Verlin Springer asked where we are on the codification. Blaine Finch reported Marla had provided all of our comments and he will be working on it.

Prior to adjournment, Betty Bowlby wanted to know what can be done about all the cats in her area.

Adjournment: Verlin Springer made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mary Harris seconded the motion. Vote 4-0, motion passed.



APPROVED:

By: _____

Jim Heaney
Jim Heaney, Mayor

ATTEST:

Marla Gadelman
Marla Gadelman, City Clerk