

Atwood City Council
May 19, 2022
Regular Meeting
City Hall, 7:00PM

Atwood City Council met in regular session May 19, 2022, in Council Chambers. The meeting was called to order by the Honorable Mayor Janet Stice. Present were Mayor Janet Stice, Councilmembers Dakota Dunker, Sandy Mulligan, Mark Mosley & Mark Vrbas, City Clerk Dana Philpott, City Attorney Charles Peckham, City Superintendent Rick Kramer, Chief of Police Brian Withington, Linde Kastens, Grace Kastens, Andrea Hagler, Mandy Henry, Tara Hayden, Michelle Moses & Kathy Ross.

Absent – Councilman Dietrich Kastens

The agenda was approved as circulated on motion of Councilman Mosley, seconded by Councilman Dunker, approved by all.

The minutes of the regular meeting on April 21, 2022, were approved as circulated on motion of Councilwoman Mulligan, seconded by Councilman Dunker, approved by all.

The bills were approved as read on motion of Councilman Vrbas, seconded by Councilman Mosley, approved by all.

Public Comments: None

Appearances:

Mitch Beims/Special Event CMB license- did not appear

Old Business:

Procurement policy- the procurement policy was presented with the recommended changes from the last council meeting. Councilman Mosley made a motion to approve the procurement policy as presented seconded by Councilwoman Mulligan, approved by all.

New Business:

Library budget/Grace Kastens- – Atwood City Librarian Grace Kastens presented the proposed budget for 2023. She went over the library year in review for 2021 and the statistics of library usage. They had a total of 128 programs with 873 attendees. The mayor and council thanked Grace for the wonderful job she is doing with the library and all the programs she is providing for the community.

Library Board appointments/re-appointments – Atwood City Librarian Grace Kastens reported that they have two new library board members Lynette Kanak & Lacy Walker and one re-appointment Kim Marshall. Mayor Stice appointed the new members and the one re-appointment with council approving the appointments.

6/16/22 Amended to \$30,000

Economic Development President Linde Kastens appeared before council to request \$30,000 from the city for their 2023 budget as they have in the past. They did not request it for last year's budget but now with a full-time Economic Development Director. They are asking for funding from the county, and they

6/16/22 Amended to \$10,000

are also partnering with the ACE Foundation and received a grant for \$10,000 to reimburse for Deb's time spent working on their projects. Mayor Stice thanked Linde for coming and told her they would take her request into consideration when we prepare the 2023 budget.

Town & Country/Mandy Henry addressed council to inquire what the plan was regarding the protective barrier under the playground equipment at Kelley Park. Mayor Stice told them that no changes would be made until fall when the rubber mulch will be removed as it ends up all over the park, pool, and restrooms. Michelle Moses reported that the reason Town & Country has such an interest in Kelley Park is they helped get Kelley Park started and assisted with paying for the grass seed and assisted financially with the new updated playground equipment. Mandy Henry told council that Town & Country would like to help with project of installing a new protective barrier. Mayor Stice welcomed their ideas and thanked them for their support of the Kelley Park.

Department Reports:

City Clerk Dana Philpott reported that the city-wide clean-up was a great success this year. It went very well, and they completed it all in just a few hours. We fed pizza to the students & staff at the high for all their help with the clean-up. The auditor should be here sometime next week to finish the audit. With our new Frontdesk Online billing system, our customers that are on the automatic bill payment will now have their payments processed on the 10th of each month. This is the actual due date of the bill. We talked to Jerry Holste about receiving his payment on the 11th of each month and he said that would be fine with him. We are struggling to get customers to sign-up as they must confirm their email and phone number to receive an electronic bill or messages. We did check with other cities who are currently using the Frontdesk billing system, and they reported that it did take quite a while to get customers to come around to signing up.

City Attorney Charles Peckham – shared his activities for the month, he attended several special meetings, attended airport meeting, negotiated with defendants, negotiated with attorney's, prepared number of journal entries, appeared in city court. **Jayhawk Theatre**- movie attendance is still not good. Mayor Stice asked about looking into the Friends of the Jayhawk. Charles said they were looking into re-establishing the program. City Attorney Peckham reviewed issue of city vs county power as Mayor Stice asked him to provide a handout to council regarding authority of county resolutions over an incorporated city. The incorporated city has home rule authority from the Kansas Constitution. Counties have home rule as well, but that comes from State Statue KSA 19-101a. County Commissioners can use their power as to unincorporated areas of the county, but not on the incorporated cities. Councilman Mosley explained to council that the county commissioners adopted resolution 2022-09 to limit the number of dogs to 5 per household which included the City of Atwood. Chief of Police Withington stated that the City of Atwood should not have been included in the resolution as the city is incorporated and has its own ordinance and households are limited to 2 dogs. Mosley formally apologized to Chief of Police Withington for the confusion this caused and told him and the rest of the council that this would be corrected at the May 31st commissioners meeting. **Amended 6/16/22 to**

add by Councilman Mosley the county commissioners were aware of the problem with the county resolution #2022-09 regarding limiting the number of dogs and the county commissioners had plans to correct the resolution prior to the city council meeting.

Police Chief Brian Withington presented his report. His department worked 29 reports, from April 21st to May 18th. There were 2 arrests made, 1 non-custodial arrest, 2 juvenile arrests, 10 warnings given, 5 tickets issued, and 11 traffic stops. Other patrol activity included 426 public relations, 16 business checks, & 79 miscellaneous complaints. The pedestrian complaint from the April council was exonerated. The body camera did not show testimony presented to council in its entirety.

City Superintendent Rick Kramer presented his report showing the areas where the city crew has spent their time since the last meeting. They are getting the pool ready, mowing, and cleaning up for Rod Run. Water report is back on track and all equipment is in good condition. Superintendent Kramer asked about the water project since we did not get approved for the Base grant, we now just have the ARPA money available and with that we could do areas 1 & 2 of the project. Following discussion, council agreed to continue to look into grants and we will see how area 1 on Logan Street holds up over the summer.

Council Reports

Councilman Dunker – Housing Authority- reported that they had received a grant to install new CO testers that were purchased from Brown's True Value. They were also approved for a grant to replace all the main doors in the front. They will be installing a cement pad for the dumpster. They are currently remodeling 2 of the 1-bedroom apartments. In 2023 they will be making the parking private for the residents. They are working with Atwood Cable to provide cable to all the apartments.

Swimming Pool – they got the WIFI for scout houses set-up. They are working on getting the camera system working so it can be accessed remotely. Councilman Dunker reported he was asked by some residents about the siren time change to 9:00am on Saturday's. He noted that council did not get the opportunity to vote on the change. After discussion, council agreed to table the issue and it will be put on the agenda for the June meeting. They also discussed holding joint meetings with the county commissioners once a year so that these types of issues can be discussed prior to any changes being made.

Councilman Kastens – was absent

Councilman Mosley – Airport -reported the Roundtop building was sold to a private party and the owner will lease the land but does not own it. He asked where we were at with the compliance officer applications, City Clerk Dana Philpott told him that there was one application picked up, but it has not been returned yet.

Councilwoman Mulligan – Jayhawk Theatre – she reported the board is trying to come up with ideas to get people back to attending the movies and coming up with fundraiser ideas. Councilwoman Mulligan reported that she and Dana will be attending an emergency management meeting at the Lutheran Church on June 9th from 10-12.

Councilman Vrbas no report

Mayors Notes: No report

With no further business to come before Council, Councilman Vrbas moved to adjourn, seconded by Councilman Mosley. The meeting was adjourned at 8:22 PM.

Dana Philpott, City Clerk

Janet Stice, Mayor