

REGULAR SESSION

The Governing Body met in Regular Session in the City Council Chambers at 7:30 PM. Mayor Allison called the meeting to order with the following present: Councilmembers Randy Myers, Ken Roberts, Dana Dawson, Joel Jackson, Bill Berryman, Dale Westhoff, and Allene Owen. Also in attendance were City Administrator Howard Partington, City Attorney Bob Suelter, and Assistant City Administrator Dawn Jaeger. Councilmember Mitch Haney was not present.

A. OPENING PRAYER

The opening prayer was given.

B. CONSENT AGENDA

- a) **Minutes:** Minutes of the Regular Session held on January 17, 2011.
- b) **Claims Warrant Register #02-07-2011:** Covering 2011 bills to date totaling \$367,375.92.
- c) **Payroll Warrant Register # 1-28-2011:** Covering the payroll ending January 28, 2011 in the amount of \$320,081.83.
- d) **Appointments:** Mayor Allison appointed Aidan Koster and Doug Chambers to the Planning Commission.

Mr. Roberts moved, seconded by Mr. Jackson to approve the consent agenda. Motion carried. All present voted in favor of the motion.

C. OLD BUSINESS: None

D. RECOGNITION OF VISITORS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

E. NEW BUSINESS

1. **Councilmember Reports:** None
2. **City Administrator's Update:** City Administrator Howard Partington updated the Governing Body on current city activities.
3. **Economic Development Report:** Jan Peters presented her monthly economic development report.
4. **Abatement Requests:** The abatement requests on the agenda were taken care of. No action is required.
5. **Presentation of D.A.R.E. Essays:** School Resource Officer Mark Bretches stated Harper Camperland and Cox Communication teamed up with the Great Bend Police Department's D.A.R.E. program to recognize and award eight students for writing outstanding essays as part of their D.A.R.E. classes. The following students provided their D.A.R.E. essay:

Ragan Nickless – Eisenhower School
Payton Cannon – Eisenhower School
Ethan Gevara – Lincoln School
Lindsey Newman – Lincoln School

Brittney Birzer – Park School
Dylan Schmidt – Park School
Logan Welcher – Jefferson School
Parker Smith – Jefferson School

Mayor Allison presented each student a plaque and a certificate for their achievements.

- 6. Army Corp of Engineers Presentation:** Levy Safety Program Manager for the US Corp of Engineers for the Tulsa District Jim Martell presented a power point presentation regarding Great Bend's Flood Control. The flood control levy was designed to handle a 500 year flood. The project was constructed in four phases beginning February 1, 1988 and ended in 1994. The operation and maintenance of flood control was transferred to the City of Great Bend April 24, 1995.

The City conducts Routine Annual Inspections. The inspection verifies operation and maintenance, more rigorous standards, and improved communication. Every 5 years a Periodic Inspection is performed. This inspection verifies operation and maintenance, evaluates structure stability, and compares constructed criteria to current criteria. The periodic inspection determines if we are eligible for rehabilitation assistance. The Risk Assessments determines the likelihood and consequences of failure. It will be used to prioritize national efforts. Flood control levies with Acceptable or Minimally Acceptable Rating are eligible for federal rehabilitation assistance at full federal cost if the system is damaged during a flood. Unacceptable ratings are not eligible for federal rehabilitation assistance. The City of Great Bend is currently Minimally Acceptable. Most levies in the country are rated Minimally Acceptable. Jim Martell stated that the Law Regarding Maintenance of the Great Bend Local Protection Project – 33CFR Section 208.10 does not allow unauthorized grazing or vehicular traffic on the levees.

Jim Martell presented the following Annual Inspection Results from 2008 and 2010:

Recommendation from 2008 Annual Inspection

Trespassing traffic over levee is causing erosion to entire berm and crown. Erosion should be repaired and vegetation should be re-established. Unauthorized vehicle traffic should be kept off of levee. The City may consider armoring levee to prevent further damage if unable to keep trespassers off levee. Several areas had this problem along this section.

Recommendation from 2010 Periodic Inspection – From Recommendations Section – South Levee:

Periodic repairs are required to fill ruts and holes and should be done in conjunction with placement of fill to bring the levee crest up to design height as necessary and determined by the settlement survey. Additional rutting, erosion and displacement of riprap are being caused by unauthorized vehicle access. Fences should be repaired and unauthorized vehicle access to the levee should be eliminated. Erosion should be repaired by placement of compacted fill and re-establishment of sod cover. Missing riprap should be replaced.

The rating determines if a levee system is active in the USACE Rehabilitation and Inspection Program. Active levee are eligible for federal rehabilitation funds for damages caused by a flood event. A levee system must maintain an acceptable or minimally acceptable rating to remain active. Great Bend has benefited from federal assistance in past years:

- (1) FY 2008 Great Bend received a \$331,000 repair to the left bank of the Arkansas River.
- (2) FY 2010 Great Bend received a \$55,649.72 repair to its levy.

The Corp of Engineers bottom line is that no unauthorized vehicles can be on the levy. They cause damage to the embankment, kill the grass, causes erosion that may quickly lead to levee failure during a flood event. The Corp will allow traffic over the levee embankment on an approved engineered paved surface that prevents erosion, rutting or damage to the levee embankment or crown. The consequences of receiving an unacceptable rating during inspection includes ineligibility to receive funding for repairs of damage to the flood control project due to flooding through the PL84-00 program and may adversely affect FEMA Levee Accreditation. If the levee is de-accredited a large area of the City will be mapped as a flood plain and all federally backed mortgage holders would be required to buy flood insurance.

Jim Martell stated everyone has problems with ATVs in levee areas. The best solution is to work with them. Possible alternatives are to pave a ramp over levees at locations where ATVs need to cross and the possibility of constructing an ATV Park separate from the levee.

- 7. Broadway and Harrison Intersection:** City Engineer Robert Winiecke stated the engineering department held the first of two public meetings on January 10th to solicit public input regarding the proposed improvements to the Broadway and Harrison intersection. The general consensus of the meeting was not to install traffic signals but to take out the east island and two trees. A left turn lane could then be installed and the intersection would be more open. Brock McPherson stated it was not a consensus because he does not believe any Broadway Island should be taken out. The City Council discussed traffic signals, roundabouts, site triangles, removal of the east island and the removal of the two trees. It was the consensus of the City Council that the traffic lights have been voted on and they were approved. The public meeting to be held in March 2011 will address design and costs.
- 8. Annual Township Fire Contracts:** Mr. Myers moved, seconded by Mr. Roberts to authorize Mayor Allison to sign the four township fire contract as presented. Motion carried. All present voted in favor of the motion.

F. ADJOURNMENT – Ms. Owen moved, seconded by Mr. Myers to adjourn the meeting at 8:52PM. Motion carried. All present voted in favor of the motion.

