

City of Great Bend
February 3, 2020

REGULAR SESSION

The Governing Body met in Regular Session in the City Council Chambers. Mayor Cody Schmidt called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. with the following present: Councilmembers Jessica Milsap, Jolene Biggs, Barry Bowers, Cory Urban, and Brock McPherson. Absents was councilmembers Dana Dawson and Alan Moeder. Also in attendance were City Attorney Robert Suelter, City Clerk Shawna Schafer and newly appointed councilmember Junior Welsch. Absent was City Administrator Kendal Francis.

OPENING: PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

A. CONSENT AGENDA

- a) **Minutes:** Minutes of the Regular Session held on January 20, 2020.
- b) **Claim's Warrant Register 2-3-20:** Covering 2020 bills to date in the amount of \$1,405,976.67.
- c) **Payroll Register P/R 1-31-20:** Covering payroll ending January 25, 2020 in the amount of \$298,198.38.
- d) **Appointments:** Mayor Schmidt made no appointments.
- e) **Change of Date for the Next Regular Council Meeting:** The next regular council meeting falls on Presidents Day which is a Holiday observed by the City. It is recommended that the meeting be held on Tuesday, February 18, 2020 at 6:30 p.m.
- f) **Agenda:** Mayor Schmidt amended the agenda to add item #5 - Economic Development Board Report.

Mr. Urban made a motion to approve the amended agenda. The motion was seconded by Ms. Biggs and passed with all voting in favor.

B. OLD BUSINESS: There were no old business.

C. RECOGNITION OF VISITORS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS: Angela Sycz requested to address council. She feels that Ward 4 has been deprived of their voting rights and that the selection process is flawed because the committee ends up selecting the council seat, which silences the voter's voice. She also stated that the council lacked diversity, that 20% of Great Bend is Hispanic and many of them are living in Ward 4. Mayor Schmidt informed her that he is half Hispanic. Ms. Sycz said all she is expecting is that there to be dialogue and action in the future.

D. NEW BUSINESS

1. **Councilmember Ward 4 Appointment and Oath of Office:** The Councilmember Interview Committee recommends appointing Junior Welsch as the 4th Ward Councilmember Representative with the term ending January 2022. Mr. Urban made a motion to approve the appointment of Junior Welsch. The motion was seconded by Ms. Milsap and passed with all voting in favor. City Clerk/Finance Director Shawna Schafer administered the Oath of Office.

2. **Councilmember Reports:** There were no councilmember reports.

3. **KDOT Cost Share Program:** Ben Mabry, with PEC, reported that in October 2019, Great Bend was awarded funding through KDOT's new Cost Share Program to perform a full-depth replacement of the entire SRCA drag strip track, plus mill & overlay a large portion of US-56 (10th St). For ease of management, KDOT separated our application into 2 separate projects, NHRA Resurfacing (Dragstrip) and Road Resurfacing (US-56), and prepared draft agreements for both projects which were reviewed by staff. Minor changes / clarifications regarding project timing and scope were requested. KDOT agreed to those requests and the final documents are now ready for approval. The total construction cost that KDOT will reimburse 75% for the NHRA Agreement is \$1,590,867 and the total construction cost that KDOT will reimburse 75% for the Road Resurfacing Agreement is \$1,461,028. Mr. Urban made a motion to approve the Mayor to sign the NHRA Resurfacing Agreement. The motion was seconded by Ms. Biggs and passed with all voting in favor. Mr. Urban then made a motion to approve the Mayor to sign the Road Resurfacing Agreement. The motion was seconded by Ms. Biggs and passed with all voting in favor.

4. **PEC Agreements – KDOT Cost Share Program:** Ben Mabry, with PEC, reported that the next step is to authorize PEC to begin design, bidding, and administration services on the projects. PEC's fee for the NHRA Dragstrip is \$96,700 and the fee for the US-56 Paving Improvements is \$123,000. Hank Denning, with SRCA, commented that he doesn't understand why the City would pay \$96,700 for the dragstrip design, when NHRA has already provided them the design and specs. He also thought that the project would be completed before racing season and as it stands now this is not feasible with the letting of bids is set for June. After much discussion, Mr. Urban motioned to table the PEC NHRA Dragstrip agreement until the next council meeting so that staff can obtain more information from KDOT/NHRA. The motion was seconded by Mr. Bowers and passed with all voting in favor. Mr. Urban then made a motion to approve the Mayor to sign the PEC US-56 Paving Improvements Agreement for \$123,000. The motion was seconded by Mr. Bowers and passed with all voting in favor.

5. **Great Bend Economic Board Report:** Mark Calcara, President of the Economic Development Board, reported that the board has been meeting weekly and has submitted 2 RFPs to the Department of Commerce. Not only are we competing with other Kansas Cities but also other States. The Board is also attending a Board Retreat on Thursday morning. He also reported that it has been challenging finding an Economic Development Director. The advice they were given is to hire somebody with talent. If they have talent, they will train easily. He is happy to announce that they have found that person and have hired Jessica Milsap as the Economic Development Director.

ADJOURNMENT: Mr. Urban made a motion that the meeting be adjourned. Mr. McPherson seconded this motion and passed with all voting in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 7:25pm.