

Official Minutes of the October 13, 2009 Regular City of Dighton Council Meeting

Mayor Torson called the meeting to order at 5:30p.m. in City Hall. Those present included: Council members Jeff Schmalzried, Dan Wick, Jennifer Marsteller, Logan Campbell and George vonLeonrod. Also present were: City Attorney Dale Pike, Municipal Judge Shelley Selfridge, Dan Hartman, Robert Wright, Mary Hartman, City Superintendent Eugene Wilson, Deputy Clerk Nikki Strobel, and City Clerk Chelle Anderson.

Councilman vonLeonrod made the motion to approve the consent agenda as printed, Councilman Schmalzried seconded, yeas by all, motion carried.

Mayor Torson asked for visitors. Robert Wright with Dighton Housing Authority met with Council to give an update on Housing Authority items. Wright stated that they are in the process of installing weather stripping around doors & windows at Sunrise Village and will then move to Green Meadows. Mr. Wright spoke with Wilma Marconnet at USDA concerning grants. Marconnet stated that there are still a lot of USDA funds available. Wright stated that if Dighton Housing Authority were awarded a window grant they would have to pay 25% of the total grant. Wright said that they are trying to increase their residency numbers with 10 vacant apartments at Sunrise Village and 4 vacancies at Green Meadows and moving forward with their audit. Wright was asked as to the condition of the structures and he stated that they are above average with some of the interiors needing carpet and paint. Wright confirmed that Green Meadows is owned free and clear of any liens and that the reserve account with FmHA has a balance of \$32,000.00 with a required minimum of \$16,000.00. Mr. Wright left the meeting at 5:37p.m.

Dan Hartman with Dighton/Lane Co. Economic Development met with Council to give a monthly report on their activities. Hartman stated that they have entered into escrow on 3 lots in the industrial park development with one prospective buyer backing out. Hartman said that the USDA grant paperwork is completed and has been submitted. Since there was a delay on some of the surveying work they were not able to get funded for this year, but USDA is confident that DLCED will get funded next year. Hartman said that they are having the industrial park re-surveyed and some adjustments are being made for the road work. Hartman also discussed wind farm projects in Lane Co. and handed out a report to Council. Hartman told Council that he had recently attended a wind energy conference and knew of 47,000 acres of Lane and Scott County land that has been leased to a wind energy company with most of the land being in Scott Co. Hartman stated that the person who had put in a bid on the former Dal-Comm building has backed out and they are moving on to the next bidder. Hartman told the Council of upcoming meetings DLCED will be hosting and about their newest project "Dighton Cares". This program is part of an effort to produce pride in our community where volunteers come together to beautify our town.

Mayor Torson asked for amendments to the agenda. Councilman vonLeonrod added an executive session to the agenda. Councilman Schmalzried made the motion to approve the amended agenda, vonLeonrod seconded, yeas by all, motion carried.

Councilman vonLeonrod made the motion to go into executive session at 6:06 p.m. for the purpose of discussing personnel matters of non-elected personnel for 20 minutes, Schmalzried seconded, yeas by all, motion carried. Those present for executive session included all Council members, legal counsel and City Clerk.

Councilman vonLeonrod made the motion to reconvene into regular session at 6:26 p.m., Schmalzried seconded, yeas by all, motion carried.

Councilman Schmalzried made the motion to go into executive session at 6:27 p.m. for the purpose of discussing personnel matters of non-elected personnel for 30 minutes, vonLeonrod seconded, yeas by all, motion carried. Those present for executive session included all Council members, legal counsel and City Clerk.

Councilman Schmalzried made the motion to reconvene into regular session at 6:57 p.m., Marsteller seconded, yeas by all, motion carried.

Mayor Torson asked for unfinished business. The proposed contract with Schaben Sanitation was discussed. Councilman vonLeonrod made the motion to approve the contract with the attachment as presented, Schmalzried seconded, discussion was held, yeas by all, motion carried.

The contract for the cultural arts center (former Lutheran Church) was discussed. Due to Mr. Klumpp not being able to be in attendance, Clerk Anderson reported to Council that Mr. Klumpp's donor for the funding of the church needs some time to rethink his donation since the Council has asked for additional funds. Anderson reported that Mr. Klumpp told her the donor will be out of town for a couple of weeks and Klumpp will have to wait until he returns for an answer. Councilman Campbell made the motion to sell the church to Klumpp for \$6,800.00 less \$300.00 rent already paid for a total of \$6,500.00, motion died for a lack of a second. Councilman vonLeonrod made the motion to table the purchase contract of the former church indefinitely, Wick seconded, yeas by all, motion carried.

Discussion was held on the signage on the edges of town. Clerk Anderson stated that the Chamber is still working on getting ideas and they will report back when they have something to report. Councilwoman Marsteller stated that the local Cub Scout Pack will be discussing the idea of donating some of their profits from the upcoming popcorn sales to help with the purchasing of signs. Discussion was held on how to handle the sign purchase within the budget. Anderson stated that she had spoken with our auditor and he suggested that the City either can pay for the signs by check when completed or the City can donate the monies for the signs out of the budget and that it was up to the Council on how they wanted to handle this.

City Superintendent Eugene Wilson reported on the direction signs for the park, library, and schools. Wilson stated that they would cost \$25.00 each and that he has ordered 14 signs to be placed showing where these places are located.

The water and sewer services to the purposed industrial park were discussed.

Schmalzried stated that he believed the discussion by the City in the past was to run the services to the property line and Wilson agreed. Wilson stated that the cost for the water and sewer lines to the property line would cost approximately \$3,000.00 for water and

\$4,000.00 for sewer. Marsteller made the motion to table this discussion until Dan Hartman or other representatives from DLCED are in attendance, Wick seconded, discussion was held with Wilson discussing the possibility of DLCED applying for the Kan Step program, yeas by all, motion carried.

Mayor Torson asked for new business. There was none to come before Council.

Mayor Torson asked for Committee reports. Campbell discussed the payment on the fire truck that we are currently making and suggested that when it is paid off that the amount of the payment be put yearly into a fire department fund for the purpose of upgrading equipment.

City Superintendent Wilson gave the Council an update on the water project stating that a fire hydrant has been abandoned and a new one installed with possible added expense. The current line on the hydrant is only 2' deep and is causing some issues; the City crew will remove the old hydrant. Wilson also reported that as of today, there are 10 working days left on the K-96 project and 20 cleanup days. Wilson understands that APAC has filed for a time extension of 20 days with the State of Kansas.

Clerk Anderson reported that the Midwest Energy franchise fee sheet is in the packet and reminded Council that this is now being paid on a monthly basis. Anderson also discussed the listing of City and County Appointments that is in this month's packet as well as the update from Dennis Burgess on the Lane Co. Charitable Foundation that she received by email. Anderson stated that the League of Kansas Municipalities region supper for Southwest Kansas will be held in Ulysses on November 4th and RSVP's need to be turned in by October 28th.

Mayor Torson discussed the Lane County Charitable Foundation since Dennis Burgess is out of town and could not be here. Discussion was held on the appointment to the board with Schmalzried stating there were still some unanswered questions that the purposed member has.

Councilman Schmalzried, Street and Alley Commissioner, discussed curbs and gutters around town that need to be repaired and where we could get funding for this project.

There being no further business to come before the Council, Councilwoman Marsteller made the motion to adjourn the meeting, Councilman Schmalzried seconded, yeas by all, motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Rebecca Torson, Mayor

Chelle J. Anderson, City Clerk