

## Official minutes of the City of Dighton Regular Council Meeting held May 23, 2022

Mayor Annita Lorimor called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm in City Hall. Those present included: Council members Christine Birney-Carter, Janet Shapland, Marlene Rupp, Curt Hanna, Craig Doris. Also present were Attorney Dale Pike, Sheriff Bryan Kough, Crystal Hoffman with Lane Eco. Devo, Municipal Judge Jacob Gayer, Steve Porter, Superintendent Craig Collins and Interim City Clerk Nikki Strobel.

Councilwoman Christine Birney-Carter made the motion to approve the consent agenda as printed, Councilman Curt Hanna seconded, yeas by all, motion carried.

Mayor Lorimor appointed Nikki Strobel as City Clerk, Jacob Gayer as Municipal Judge and Dale Pike as City Attorney. Councilman Curt Hanna made the motion to approve the appointments, Councilwoman Marlene Rupp seconded, yeas by all, motion carried.

Crystal Hoffman talked to the council about her helping Nikki with the ARPA Funds reporting since the City was locked out of the portal due to processing late. Crystal reported that the City was finally able to get the reports submitted so they will again be eligible for the next round of ARPA funds. Crystal offered to finish helping Nikki with ARPA. Crystal discussed some of the things that could be purchased or reimbursed with the ARPA funds as long as it was after March 2021.

Crystal Hoffman mentioned June Jaunt was coming up and that the Lane County Kick Off to Summer Event would be Saturday, June 18, 2022.

Chris Harrison with Central Plains Computers phoned in to talk to the council about putting a control panel on the wall in the office for wiring and cable to help with the cleanup of excess bunched up wiring. Chris talked to the council about purchasing a server for the city office he has a used one available for \$4500 that would come with a 3-year warranty, he will send out a spec sheet with details about the server. Chris said that it would take about 6-7 hours labor to set up and run all the wiring. Council will revisit in June.

Jacob Gayer talked about the Court Management Software and to table again for the June meeting. Jacob gave the council a Municipal Court Report and explained it to them.

Steve Porter reported that they are working on Dollar General and that the transmission lines are built.

Craig Collins, City Fire Chief reported that fire prevention materials have been ordered for kids.

Superintendent Craig Collins reported that the big water tower would need to be inspected in 2 years by a dive team and probably 2 years after the inspection will need to be painted on the

inside. Craig reported that the streetsweeper hydraulic and hoses are getting brittle and would like to look into trading it in and possibly demonstrating a couple different streetsweepers. Nozzles for the sewer truck was discussed. Craig talked about the lead and copper rules and how we will have to map the whole system by April 2024. He is waiting on the State to get out literature so he can share to help get the word out. Councilwoman Janet Shapland made the motion for Craig to go ahead and get the nozzles for the sewer truck, Councilman Craig Doris seconded, yeas by all, motion carried.

City Clerk Nikki Strobel discussed the delinquent procedure that the city currently follows: delinquents are mailed on the 11<sup>th</sup>, the day after bills are due and then the day before disconnects a pink notice is hung on doors of accounts not paid, then disconnects are the next day. Nikki would like to see the following changes for a more consistent procedure: delinquent notices mailed out on the 11<sup>th</sup>, discontinue, hang pink notices, and if a customer wishes for an extension on their bill, they would have to make a request 3 days before disconnect day and a hearing would be set for them to meet with two council members. Disconnects will always be on the 19<sup>th</sup> of the month unless the 19<sup>th</sup> falls on a weekend then disconnects would be the following Monday or next working day.

Mayor Lorimor would like to implement a planning meeting with council to talk about upcoming items, maybe meet sometime in October. Mayor Lorimor brought up the fact that there is no letter head for the City of Dighton, she will contact Caleb Schultz to see, if possible, to use what he has on the welcome signs on the outskirts of town.

Councilwoman Janet Shapland discussed the dividend check from our insurance company Rodenbeek & Green it was received because of our safety performance. Janet mentioned that according to Census the population of Dighton has lost 10%. Also discussed was the KS Infrastructure

Hub. Councilwoman Shapland had requested a new Revenue and Expense report that City Clerk Nikki Strobel had gWorks build. Councilwoman Janet Shapland talked about not being able to pay off the 2015 Bond until 2025. Councilwoman Christine Birney-Carter made the motion for Nikki to move the money that was earmarked for early payoff of 2015 bond to a CD or something interest bearing as soon as minutes are found from prior discussion, Councilwoman Marlene Rupp seconded, all yeas, motion carried.

Councilwomen Marlene Rupp talked about the street sealing by B & H Paving. Councilman Craig Doris made the motion to approve B & H Paving to seal the streets, seconded by Councilman Curt Hanna, yeas by all, motion carried.

Councilman Curt Hanna reported that the pool is being filled for the summer.

Councilwoman Christine Birney-Carter talked about the City of Dighton FB page and how we are getting more likes and followers.

Councilwoman Janet Shapland asked for an amendment to the agenda. Add under unfinished business item G. (221 N. Main). Councilwoman Janet Shapland made the motion to accept the motion to accept the agenda as amended, Councilwoman Christine Birney-Carter seconded, yeas by all, motion carried.

Councilwoman Janet Shapland reported that her and Councilwoman Christine Birney-Carter were working on the Employee Handbook and will have a copy at the June meeting for all council to look at and approve.

Councilwoman Christine Birney-Carter reported that she had new email address for council members that will need to be set up before June 8, 2022 for council packets to be emailed to them.

Councilwoman Janet Shapland reported that she had talked to many of the downtown business that have a bulb out on their corner and many of them don't want them. Superintendent Craig Collins will begin filling out permits to send to the State for removal. Councilwoman Janet Shapland made the motion to start the process of bulb out removal pending State approval, Councilman Craig Doris seconded, yeas by all motion carried.

Sidewalk at 221 N. Main was tabled until June meeting. Superintendent Craig Collins will talk with the resident about cost share.

Superintendent Craig Collins reported that he was given a bill for damage done to Tyler Hendrix's sprinkler system during work while replacing sidewalk. After discussion Councilman Curt Hanna made the motion to pay \$207.75 for the cost of the parts, Councilwoman Christine Birney-Carter seconded, yeas by all, motion carried.

Sheriff Bryan Kough talked to the council about purchasing dog poles to help with the capturing of dogs at large. Council will table this until the June meeting.

Discussion was held on foxes at 315 S. High that are aggressive to the resident and her dogs. Councilwoman Christine Birney-Carter reported that she had a conversation with KDWPT pertaining to the foxes. Council will wait until a written complaint has been received.

After discussion about the Sheriff's contract, it was tabled until the June meeting.

Superintendent Craig Collins presented quotes for a water telemetry system that would automate the water wells and water towers. Councilwoman Janet Shapland advised Superintendent Craig Collins to reach out to Western Sprinkler Cooperative for a bid and to bring back to the table in June.

Councilwoman Christine Birney-Carter made a motion to change authorized contacts on the city credit card to the current Mayor and City Clerk, Councilwoman Marlene Rupp seconded, yeas by all, motion carried.

Councilwoman Christine Birney-Carter presented a report from Kansas Rural Water that listed water rates for cities. After discussion, Superintendent Craig Collins will gather more information and report back.

Wage comparisons and health insurance was discussed. Mayor Annita Lorimor will get with Superintendent Craig Collins and City Clerk Nikki Strobel to talk about health insurance.

The City of Dighton Retention Policy from 2016 was discussed and the clerk and deputy will start implementing it.

Pool prices for the 2022 season were discussed. Councilman Curt Hanna made the motion to keep prices the same, seconded by Councilwoman Janet Shapland, yeas by all, motion carried.

Councilwoman Christine Birney-Carter made the motion to recess into executive session for 50 minutes to discuss wages pursuant to the non-elected personnel matter exception, K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(1). The open meeting will resume at 9:45 pm, Councilman Craig Doris seconded, yeas by all, motion carried. Councilman Curt Hanna made the motion to come out of executive session at 9:43 pm, Councilwoman Marlene Rupp seconded, yeas by all, motion carried. Councilwoman Christine Birney-Carter made the motion to increase hourly wage of City Clerk, Councilman Craig Doris seconded, yeas by all, motion carried. Councilwoman Christine Birney-Carter made the motion to give first year lifeguards \$8 per hour, second year \$8.25, third year \$8.50 and the pool manager \$13.50. Councilwoman Christine Birney-Carter made the motion to offer between \$14 - \$17 per hour to deputy/treasurer depending on experience, Councilwoman Janet Shapland seconded, yeas by all, motion carried.

Councilwoman Christine Birney-Carter made the motion to adjourn, Councilman Craig Doris seconded, yeas by all, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 9:45 pm.

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Annita Lorimor, Mayor

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Nicole Strobel, City Clerk