

City Council Meeting Minutes
City of Larned
April 3, 2023
6:30 PM

Mayor William Nusser called the regular session to order with the following Councilmembers present: Councilmember Kim Barnes, Councilmember Terry Clark, Councilmember Jason Murray, Councilmember Jacques Molleker, Councilmember Gary Rainbolt, Councilmember Sharon McGinness, Councilmember Josh Riedel.

Councilmember Carroll Bennett was absent.

City Manager Bradley Eilts, Finance Director Monica Steiner, City Clerk Kara Rath, Inspector Will Tice and City Attorney Ron Smith were also present.

Approval of Agenda

Councilmember Barnes asked that "Public Safety" be added to the agenda and Councilmember Riedel asked that "Grass Dump" be added to the agenda. Councilmember Murray motioned to approve the agenda, Councilmember Riedel seconded.

Motion passed.

Consent Agenda

Councilmember Murray motioned to approve the Consent Agenda; Councilmember Riedel seconded.

Motion passed.

Appropriation Ordinance #3

Finance Director Monica Steiner reported on the expenses listed on the financial report. On a motion by Councilmember Barnes and seconded by Councilmember Molleker and carried for Appropriation Ordinance #3 in the amount of \$1,126,937.96 and transfers more or less were approved for payment.

Motion passed.

New Business

Request by Housing Opportunities

Callie Miller, Director of Housing Opportunities Inc. requested funds to cover the deficit for outstanding bills at one of the Larned Dream homes where significant damage had been done from a water leak. Callie asked that the Council pay off the outstanding bills and suggested that they consider paying an excess amount to be deposited into their

unrestricted reserve account. If they have to draw out of that account and the amount is over \$500 they would reach out to the City Manager.

Mayor Nusser asked that Callie supply the City Manager a budgeted amount for their annual expenditure so that the Council can adequately plan for next years budget.

Councilmember Rainbolt motioned to pay HOI \$25,000, \$10,000 to be deposited into the HOI reserve account. Councilmember McGinness seconded.

Motion passed.

Update on Electrical System Improvement Plan

Fred Taylor of MWE introduced the new Great Bend branch manager, Barrett Freund. Barrett has worked in the City of Larned since the merger with MWE and is familiar with our current system. Barrett gave an update on the projects that the Council approved in December of 2022.

Consultant Agreement with Olsson

Last fall, the County Commission and the City Council voted to proceed with Airport Improvement Project NO. 3-20-0046-020/021. Bids were let for this project, and a bid opening was conducted on March 29th. Three bids were opened. The winning bidder was American Pavement Solutions, Green Bay, Wisconsin with a bid of \$288,579.34.

The City and the county split the 10% of the total cost at \$44,650. Most of the costs will occur in late 2023 or 2024.

Councilmember Murray motioned to approve the bid by American Pavement Solutions for the Airport Project for \$288,279.34, the amendment No. 1 with Olsson on Agreement for consulting services on the Airport Project, and authorize the Mayor and City Manager to sign the FAA documentation. Councilmember Riedel seconded the motions.

Motion passed.

Wage Study Report

City Manager, Eilts reported on the Wage Study that was conducted in early January. The report summarizes findings and recommended range adjustments. It also shows the City's competitiveness with other communities regarding fringe benefits.

Mayor Nusser would like to meet with City Manager Eilts, Human Resource Director Steiner and Councilmember Murray to come up with options to present to Council.

Server for 911/Dispatch CAD System

In 2018, the City Council approved purchasing a Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) System with a server. It is recommended that the server be replaced every five years. Hardware storage changes are recommended as well. Cost for replacement for the Server Rack would

come from 911 funds and total \$4,610. The Server costs would be split between 911, Dispatch and Police at a cost of \$10,740.

Councilmember Barnes motioned to approve the Server for 911/ Dispatch CAD system. Councilmember Riedel seconded.

Motion passed.

Federal Appropriations-Fire trucks & Mobile Communication Unit

Senator Jerry Moran placed a Federal Appropriation in the Senate Appropriations Bill for the FY 2023 Federal Budget. It was signed into law at the end of last year. These are funds that have been approved and dedicated explicitly to Larned. The Appropriation is for \$1,142,000 and does not require matching funds. This funding will be accessible through USDA Rural Development and be available in 2023. The City does have the option of not accepting the funds or not accepting all of the funds.

Dispatcher Vanessa Feldman, Dispatcher Jane Bleakney, and Fire Chief Lennard Herrman have been working together on allocations for these funds that will significantly impact their departments.

Based on research done for the two fire trucks it was thought that the cost for the Rural Pumper would be \$577,000 and City Pumper at \$800,000. Two qualifying bids were received on the fire trucks and came in under what was anticipated. The estimate for the Mobile Communications Project is significantly higher than anticipated, it is expected to be just over \$500,000 and requires approximately \$400,000 addition funds injected into the project; the source for these funds has not yet been identified.

A representative from E1 spoke to the Council regarding his company and the work he has put into be considered a bidder; although no actual bid was received.

Councilmember Barnes motioned to approve the appropriation amount of \$1,142,000, and asked that staff come back with recommended bid acceptance. Councilmember Rainbolt seconded.

Motion passed.

Changes to City Code

Code Enforcement Officer/City Inspector Will Tice has been reviewing City Codes and evaluating them for consistency with adopted standards and codes.

Will walked the Council through 7 possible changes to the City Code. Mayor Nusser asked that Will bring back clear recommendations to these codes that will make navigating the changes simpler.

Lift Larned 2023

Lift Larned was created in 2021 as a beautification program available to residents inside City Limits. The Council renewed the program in mid-2022 with \$50,000 in funding and made a few program adjustments to expand the application reward pool. Allocations of funds have been exhausted. Staff has received more projects requesting assistance through this program.

Councilmember Riedel motioned to table the renewal of the program until the third quarter of 2023. Councilmember Molleker seconded.

Motion passed.

Request by the Pawnee County Fair Board

The Pawnee County Fair Board has requested the City's assistance with a 140 ft x 6ft cement walk project that addresses ADA issues at the Fair Grounds Barn. The 4-H club has offered to pay for the material (est. \$3,000) and are asking if the City would provide the labor.

After discussion, Councilmember Riedel motioned to direct staff to contact the County and see if their crew would supply half the labor for the project and the City supply half the labor. If the County defers, staff will bring the item back for Council consideration. Councilmember McGinness seconded.

Motion passed.

Request by Councilmember McGinness

Councilmember McGinness is concerned about the park at 3rd street and Park Street. There has been complaints about the basketball goals and the condition of the playground equipment.

Parks Superintendent Josh Kraisinger informed the Council that new basketball goals and nets have been ordered for replacement. He has been in contact with a company to dismantle the playground equipment and sandblast and re-paint. He spoke regarding the amount of vandalism that occurs in our parks.

Currently this park has been closed due possible liability lawsuits.

CDBG Grant Discussion

City Manager Eilts is requesting the consideration of submitting a possible grant to CDBG for playground equipment. Matching funds would be 25% of total cost. Funds are available up to \$750,000.

Mayor Nusser suggested that the application be made, and that a larger portion of the funds be allocated for Doerr Vernon Park and also allocate funds to 3rd and Park Street Park.

Public Safety

Councilmember Barnes spoke regarding the City's budget for public safety and use of funds.

Grass Dump

Councilmember Riedel spoke regarding the Grass dump located at the City Sanitation grounds. The dump was closed last month due to the area becoming a dumping ground for trash along with other items. Since that time, City Staff have hauled off the compost and trash. Councilmember Riedel asked staff when the grass dump would be re-opened, and would like to place signs for rules and regulations. It was said that the County Landfill has expanded their hours and have a compost pile that is available for public use.

City Manager Eilts will speak to staff regarding the City Grass Dump and whether or not it will re-open.

Meeting adjourned.



Kara Rath, City Clerk



Mayor, William Nusser