

Greensburg City Council
April 6, 2015
City Hall

Item 1: Opening Session**Call to Order; Pledge of Allegiance; Invocation; Roll Call**

Mayor Robert Dixson called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. on April 6, 2015. The Pledge of Allegiance was said. The invocation was given by Dixson. Council present: Matt Christenson, Mark Trummel, Sandy Jungemann, and Haley Kern. Rick Schaffer was absent.

Additions/Deletions to the Agenda

There were no additions or deletions to the agenda. Trummel made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Kern seconded, and the motion passed 4-0.

Mayor's Report

There was no report from the Mayor.

Council Member's Report

There was no report from Council.

City Administrator Comments

City Administrator Ed Truelove advised Council that Stacy Parkin has been hired as the pool manager. She will be assisting with set-up and the purchase of equipment.

Trummel asked how the property abatement with a deadline of April 1st was coming. Truelove has had no interaction with Superintendent Mike Hayes today, but Staff is ready to move forward with abatement.

Item 2: Public Comment

Dixson opened the meeting to public comment. There were no comments made.

Item 3: Consent Agenda

Jungemann made a motion, seconded by Christenson, to approve the consent agenda. Motion passed 4-0.

Item 4: Items of Business**A. Receive Mark Chesney, KPP, for a power resource update and KPP members' governing documents update.**

Mark Chesney, KPP, was not present when the meeting was opened for business items. Agenda Item 4A followed item 4D, upon his arrival.

Chesney updated Council on the KPP planning retreat that was held, which was attended by Truelove. He also advised of a pending Letter of Intent to purchase additional assets of the Dogwood plant. The bond for the purchase will fit into contracts KPP already has with its members. A review of the KPP governing documents is underway, and Council will be asked to approve the proposed changes. There are currently 23 cities in KPP and 8 additional members that do not take service. KPP anticipates a more stable wholesale to their cities, due mostly to a better forecast for 2015 and 2016 budgets. Currently, the city has been receiving a credit for energy cost adjustments on recent KPP billing statements.

B. Consider a contract with American Municipal Services (AMS) to perform collection services for the Municipal Court.

Truelove stated that he and City Clerk Christy Pyatt had met the representative from American Municipal Services (AMS) at the League of Kansas Municipalities annual meeting. AMS does collections for counties and municipalities. Staff presented a contract for AMS to perform collections for the Municipal Court. There are 78 unresolved tickets from 1995-Present that total approximately \$12,000. Staff feels that they will have greater success collecting past due fines through an organization such as AMS, as opposed to the State Set-Off Program, which utilizes tax returns to repay fees. The Set-Off program prioritizes items such as taxes and child support over court fines. Many courts have experienced very little return from Set-Off. AMS charges defendants turned over to them a 33% collections fee. That fee is allowed by K.S.A. 12-4119. Should a defendant attempt to pay their past due ticket to the City after it has already been submitted to AMS, the City will charge them the required 33%. Pyatt, who is also the Court Clerk, is working on a method to attach that fee to the amount owed in her court software, as well as a way to educate defendants that their account will be turned over to collections after a specific date and the 33% fee will be added. Truelove recommended the Court consider an internal policy to hold a past due ticket up to 6 months before submitting it to AMS, allowing defendants to avoid the additional fee. There would be no out-of-pocket expense to the City for this service.

City Attorney Gordon Stull recommended that if a defendant attempts to pay a ticket that has been submitted for collection, they be referred back to AMS and the payment not be accepted.

Trummel and Christenson requested clarification on how Staff plans to educate defendants about AMS. Staff would like to add the information to the required 30 day letter. Dixson asked if there was a statute of limitations on tickets. Stull was unsure and stated that he would look into it. Pyatt stated that AMS staff has said there is not a statute of limitations, but that the further back the ticket goes, the less likely they are to be able to collect on it. Staff will ask the Court to formally close any cases that they are unable to collect on.

Trummel made a motion, seconded by Jungemann, to approve the contract with AMS as presented. Motion passed 4-0.

C. Discuss a proposed lease agreement between the City and Gatehouse Media Kansas Holdings, Inc., d/b/a Kiowa County Signal for the Incubator office space they currently occupy.

For the past year, Staff has attempted to obtain a new Incubator lease from Gatehouse Media/Kiowa County Signal. Most recently, Gatehouse has submitted an amended form of the City's lease agreement for consideration. Kern stated that she was not impressed with the recommended changes, and Trummel does not feel that an altered lease is fair to other tenants. One of the recommended changes was to eliminate the wording that allows the City to increase rent for the space. The consensus of the Council was to deny the proposed changes and offer the standard lease to Gatehouse. Should they choose not to agree to the City's terms they can be asked to vacate their office space.

D. Convene as the Land Bank to consider accepting 313 W. Garfield (Smith) and 322 E. Wisconsin (McLaughlin) into the Land Bank.

Dixson recessed the Council at 6:22 p.m. The Council convened as the Land Bank. Truelove had previously discussed the McLaughlin property located at 322 E. Wisconsin. McLaughlin would like to donate the property to the Land Bank and has paid for the title insurance. Truelove requested formal acceptance of the donation to the bank.

Truelove has also been approached by Clorene Smith, regarding a possible donation of her property located at 313 W. Garfield. This property is located directly across from the new city pool. There are unpaid abatement charges on the property taxes, and the property taxes have not been paid for several years. Truelove feels that the property is in a good location and meets the guidelines established by the Land Bank.

Trummel made a motion to accept 322 E. Wisconsin into the Land Bank. Jungemann seconded. Motion passed 4-0. Trummel made a motion to approve Staff move forward with accepting 313 W. Garfield into the Land Bank. Christenson seconded. Motion passed 4-0. Council adjourned as the Land Bank and Dixson called the City Council meeting back in open session at 6:29 p.m.

E. Consider the re-appointments of Mitzi Hesser, Gene McFall, and Sheryl Christenson to the Tree Board for terms ending May 31, 2018.

Jungemann made a motion, seconded by Kern, to re-appoint Mitzi Hesser, Gene McFall, and Sheryl Christenson to the Tree Board for terms ending May 31, 2018. Motion passed 4-0.

F. Consider the re-appointment of Dea Corns to the Public Building Commission for a term ending April 30, 2019. (One additional term must be filled on this commission.)

Christenson made a motion, seconded by Jungemann, to re-appoint Dea Corns to the Public Building Commission for a term ending April 30, 2019. Motion passed 4-0. Dixson noted that Debbie Goering has asked to not be reappointed, leaving an open term. Council was asked to submit possible nominees to Truelove.

G. Consider the appointment of a Council Member to the Public Building Commission for a term to expire April 30, 2016, or until a successor Council Member is appointed. (Matt Christenson currently serves in this capacity.)

Christenson stated that he would be willing to continue serving on the PBC. Trummel made a motion, seconded by Kern, to re-appoint Christenson to the PBC for a term to expire on April 30, 2016. Motion passed 4-0.

H. Consider the re-appointment of Shawn Cannon to the Planning Commission for a term ending April 30, 2017. (One additional term must be filled on this commission.)

Kern made a motion, seconded by Christenson, to re-appoint Shawn Cannon to the Planning Commission for a term ending April 30, 2017. Motion passed 4-0. Dixson noted that Travis Barnes has asked to not be re-appointed, leaving one term open. Dixson believes this board to be one of the most important "arms" of the Council and asked Council to submit possible nominees to Truelove.

Truelove showed Council a city recycling educational video produced by the Kiowa County Media Center. A total of 10 educational videos are planned, at a cost of \$500 each. The hope is to have no out-of-pocket cost to the City, utilizing sponsorships by various city partners. Nisly Brothers sponsored the recycling video (episode 2 of the series). Staff feels that a consistent voice through the videos is important and has asked Dixson to be the spokesman.

Item 5: City Attorney's Report

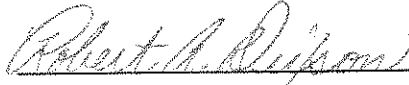
There was no report from the City Attorney.

Item 6: Executive Session

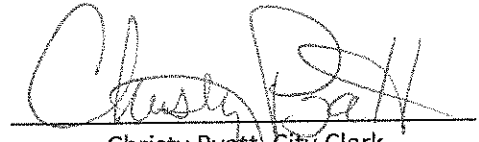
Truelove requested 5 minutes executive session for non-elected personnel. Trummel made a motion to go into executive session until 7:00 p.m. Kern seconded, and the motion passed 4-0. Dixon declared the meeting back in open session at 7:00 p.m.

Item 7: Adjournment

With nothing further to discuss, Dixon declared the meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.



Robert A. Dixon, Mayor



Christy Pyatt, City Clerk