Official Greensburg City Council Minutes 07.19.21

Greensburg City Council
July 19, 2021
City Hall

A) CALL TO ORDER
Mayor Matt Christenson called the July 19, 2021 meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

B) PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE & INVOCATION
The Pledge of Allegiance was said. Invocation was given by Pastor John Harrison.

C) ROLL CALL & APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA
Council Present: Mark Trummel, Pam Reves, and Chance Little. Harvey Kern was absent. One Council seat remains open. Staff present: Administrator Stacy Barnes, City Clerk Christy Pyatt, Chief of Police Aaron Webb.

Reves made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Trummel seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

D) CITIZEN COMMENTS
Julie Lyon, newly appointed Kiowa County Economic Development Director, introduced herself to the Council.

E) CONSENT AGENDA
Trummel questioned check 29693. The expense was to replace the swing at the Big Well Park. As mentioned at a previous meeting, the cables on the swing had been frayed and it had been taken down, as a safety precaution. Reves asked what product was being purchased from Yoder Meats. Barnes stated that these are beef sticks being sold at the pool concession stand. Trummel made a motion, seconded by Reves, to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Motion passed 3-0.

F) ITEMS OF BUSINESS

1. 2022 Budget Final Review for Publication and Set Public Hearing August 16, 2021
Barnes presented an updated 2022 budget for Council’s review. The suggested increase to electric expenses, to give more allowance for the February 2021 winter storm surcharge, was included. The draft was reviewed by Jim Kennedy, Kennedy McKee. The document shows that the City would fall below the Revenue Neutral Rate. The value of one mill for 2022 will be slightly above the 2021 levy. Barnes reminded Council, and those listening on the live feed, that budget authority does not mean we will spend the total budget. Budget Authority provides authority to spend up to the budgeted amount. For example, $400,000 is budgeted for the Capital Improvement Fund. This does not mean the City will spend $400,000 next year, it simply allows the City the authority to spend up to that amount if there was an emergency and funds were needed for. Barnes requested Council set the required budget public hearing for August 16, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. Trummel made a motion to approve the draft budget and publication of the notice of public hearing August 16, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. Reves seconded, and the motion passed 3-0.

2. Airport Lease Amendment – Farmer’s Spraying Service, Inc.
Farmer’s Spraying Service, Inc. has notified Barnes that they are now interested in 2 acres of airport property, as opposed to the 1 acre approved at the last meeting. The Lease Agreement had not been executed, as Staff was waiting on a legal description from the surveyors, which has now been completed. Barnes is waiting to hear back from Lochner, who is preparing a scope of work for utility access. Reves made a motion to accept the lease agreement with Farmer’s Spraying Service, Inc. for 2 acres of airport property. Trummel seconded. The motion passed 3-0.
3. **2nd Quarter Financial Report**
A report of second quarter financials, including transfers, was provided in the meeting packet. Barnes advised that some expenditures are trending higher than last year. As previously discussed, Police and Court expenditures are up due to increased staffing and increased activity. General Fund and Big Well revenues are trending higher than this time last year. The increase reflected for the Big Well is due to the facility being closed for 2 months last year. Christenson asked if the transfers from the Electric Fund are still happening. The transfer from Electric to General has been being held, to see if it is necessary.

**G) CITY STAFF REPORTS**
Barnes reported to Council on the following topics:

- **KDOT Projects Updates:** Scott Mullen, KDOT area engineer, has updated Staff on the Highway 54/Main Street project and other highway projects in the area. For the Main Street project, they will be finishing the center lanes hopefully in the next week then switch to the outside lanes. Mullen has been in contact with The Crazy Mule and with Alliance Ag as this move will close the alley entrance to the south and the drive way at the fuel pumps. KDOT’s trying to have as minimal impact on business traffic as possible. Staff has received some questions about why the stoplight is flashing red if there is no cross traffic. This was done at the request of KDOT, for work crew safety. Today they began a mill and overlay project that they received emergency funds for, to grind 2 feet of the center line from east of town to the Pratt County line. They are stopping traffic and having a pilot car for that project. As for the mill and overlay project through town to the Ford County line, that will not start until later. They are working in Comanche County now and will move to Kiowa County when that project is complete. KDOT IKE projects were announced the week before last. Coming in 2023 are a new passing lane west of Mullinville, and expansion of passing lanes between Greensburg and Haviland and between Wellsford and Cullison.

- **KSU Grant Funded Research Project:** Towards the end of last year, Barnes had mentioned that she and the Mayor were contacted by professors from Kansas State University who were applying to the National Science Foundation Smart and Connected Communities program to request funding to investigate the potential to grow the use of solar energy in rural communities. Recently they were informed that they were awarded the grant and will be here to meet with Barnes and Christenson August 16th. There is no financial commitment from the City towards this project. The group will be conducting town hall style meetings and surveys for their research.

- **Survey Work Update:** The survey of the west side of the airport has been completed. The survey company will be back in the next week to do the Business Park. A report will follow a week or two after that. The company said they are very backlogged on projects, and that is why it has taken so long.

- **Kiowa County Fair This Week:** Today is the start of the annual Kiowa County Fair. Tonight’s events include a carnival, tractor pull, food trucks and ice cream social. There are meals and events each evening. A full events list can be found on the Kiowa County 4-H and Free Fair Facebook page, or a printed version is hanging at City Hall.

- **City Staff Updates and Projects:** Staff continues to advertise for a Public Works position. The last two weeks Staff has been mowing, repairing a water well issue, repairing some electric issues, repairing streets, reading meters, entering meter reading and preparing utility billing, and doing monthly and quarterly financial reports. The compost site and City facilities recently had state inspections. There were a few items identified, which have been remedied. Visitor traffic at the Big Well Museum has been good this summer. There have been 5,742 visitors for the year so far, 362 last week, from 25 states.

Chief Webb briefly went over the monthly Police Report, which was provided in the meeting packet.

Reves asked if the alley access to The Crazy Mule would be improved during the highway repair process. Barnes advised that KDOT will not be improving the access.
H) GOVERNING BODY COMMENTS
There were no further comments from the Governing Body.

I) ADJOURNMENT
With nothing further to discuss, Christenson declared the meeting adjourned at 6:22 p.m.

Matt Christenson, Mayor

Christy Pyatt, City Clerk