

KECHI CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, January 9, 2014

Mayor, Ed Parker; reconvened the meeting that was continued from December 12, 2013. The meeting was continued until this evening for a council workshop at 6 PM

Council present: Debbie Jacobs, Brian Adams, Kevin Opat, David McConnaughay and Margaret McCormick

Staff Present: Robert Conger, City Administrator; Sally Lane, City Treasurer; John Blevins, Chief of Police; Laura Hill, City Clerk;

During the workshop the council discussed setting a schedule for future workshops. Robert Conger, City Administrator said by setting specific dates for council workshops which could be published, the council could avoid having to recess meetings to reconvene on a future date. No action was taken.

The council discussed rescheduling the council retreat which had been schedule in December but postponed due to some unexpected circumstances.

Robert Conger, City Administrator discussed some retreat options with the council. He stated the city has been offered a discount on a municipal leadership seminar at WSU on January 25th 8 – Noon. He thought it would be beneficial for the governing body to attend. He also suggested February 1st from 9-2 at Fulton Valley Farms facility in Towanda, Kansas.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Brian Adams to adjourn the meeting of December 12, 2013 which had reconvened to this evening's workshop. Second by Margaret McCormick. Motion carried 5-0-0. The time was 6:55 PM

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor, Ed Parker called the regular meeting of the Kechi City Council to order.

Council present: Debbie Jacobs, Brian Adams, Kevin Opat, David McConnaughay and Margaret McCormick

Staff Present: Robert Conger, City Administrator; Sally Lane, City Treasurer; John Blevins, Chief of Police; Laura Hill, City Clerk;

Visitors Present: Rogene Matson, Richard Wolf, Mr. & Mrs. Lyle Powers & Joel, Jack McCormick, Fred Dimick, Janet Faust, Virginia Riemann, Sandra McConnaughay, Matt Heilman, Ark Valley News.

A. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

B. APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Kevin Opat to approve the consent agenda. Second by Margaret McCormick. Motion carried 5-0-0.

Consent agenda

- 1. Approve Appropriation Ordinance # 684**
- 2. Approve contract with Utility Safety & Design, Inc. formally E.V. Cathodic for cathodic and gas related services for 2014 at a monthly cost of \$415.00 for 2014.**
- 3. Approve minutes of December 12, 2013.**

C. APPROVE AGENDA

Motion by Kevin Opat to approve the agenda & for the time of the executive session to be following II. D. and for personnel matters for 30 minutes. Second by Margaret McCormick. Motion carried 5-0-0

II. COMMUNICATIONS

A. PRESENTATION/RECOGNITION-Lyle Powers

Mayor Parker gave a brief summary of Lyle Powers employment with the City of Kechi and presented him with a Karg Art Glass piece as an appreciation and commemorative gift for his service to the city.

B. PUBLIC FORUM-None

C. KECHI CIVIC GROUPS/COMMITTEES

1. **Historical Post Office Update** –None

2. **Tree and Park Board** –None

3. **Chamber of Commerce-** Janet Faust, Chamber stated the group had their first meeting of 2014. The Chamber set some objectives for the year, which included plans to enhance the “Shop Kechi” weekends, possible farmers markets, new pole banners etc.

4. **Fair Committee** –none

D. DEPARTMENT REPORTS.

City Treasurer – Sally Lane reported on the December 2013 financial report.

Discussed the deposits with the Municipal Investment Pool.

City Clerk – Reported on the entries for the Natural Gas Public Awareness Survey. Corie Bishop was drawn as the winner for \$100 credit to her utility bill.

Police Department – Chief Blevins provided a written report.

City Administrator – submitted a written report.

D. EXECUTIVE SESSION – Attorney/Client & Personnel Matters

Motion by Brian Adams to go into executive session for 30 minutes for attorney/client discussions. Second by Debbie Jacobs Motion carried 5-0-0. The time was 7:40 PM

Robert Conger, City Administrator made the following recommendations for pay increases as defined by the adopted pay plan. Part time officer Brian Miles level 3 step 3 increase from \$15.50 to \$15.60. Full time officer Jessie Clifton level 3 step 10 increase from \$18.00 to \$18.32 and to make them retroactive to January 1, 2014.

Motion by Margaret McCormick to approve the recommendation of the City Administrator to increase the two officer’s hourly wages as stated and retroactive to January 1, 2014. Second by Brian Adams. Motion carried 5-0-0.

III. OLD BUSINESS

A. Council Retreat

Motion by Kevin Opat to authorize the attendance of the Mayor, council and city administrator to the January 25th Leadership Seminar at WSU and to hold the retreat with council and department heads on February 1st from 9-2 at Fulton Farms in Towanda. Second by Margaret McCormick. Motion carried 5-0-0.

B. Vacation Benefit for 1st year of service employee – Robert Conger, City Administrator re-addressed the vacation benefit for 1st year of service employees, recommending that the policy be changed from 5 days award to 10 days award. He especially thought it was critical now that the city would be recruiting positions for the utility department.

Motion by Margaret McCormick to authorize the vacation policy to be changed to allow for 10 days paid vacation after one year of service. Second by Brian Adams. Motion carried 4-1-0. Debbie Jacobs voting nay.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

A. Health Insurance Renewal- Laura Hill, City Clerk presented a spreadsheet with options for the renewal of the city’s health insurance for the city employees. It was her recommendation to stay with Blue Cross & Blue Shield as it was the better policy/premium. There was approximately a 7% increase over the previous year’s cost.

Motion by Kevin Opat to approve the renewal of the health insurance for city employee with Blue Cross & Blue Shield grandfathered plan. Second by Margaret McCormick. Motion carried 5-0-0.

B. Utility Maintenance Job Titles

Robert Conger, City Administrator recommending changing of the city’s job title for the City Superintendent & Assistant City Superintendent to that of Public Work Director and Assistant Public Work Director.

Motion by Kevin Opat to adopt the job titles as presented. Second by David McConnaughhay. Motion carried 5-0-0.

C. Authorization to advertise for Utility Open Positions

Motion by Margaret McCormick to authorize the City Administrator and the director of public works to list the job opening for the position of entry level and the assistant director of Public Works. Second by Kevin Opat. Motion carried 5-0-0.

V. Adjournment

Motion by David McConnaughhay to adjourn. Second by Debbie Jacobs. Motion carried 5-0-0. The time was 9:05 PM.

Signed: _____
Ed Parker, Mayor

Attest: _____
Laura Hill, City Clerk