MINUTES

AMERICUS CITY COUNCIL

TUESDAY, MARCH 12, 2019

# CITY HALL

BUSINESS MEETING

7:00 PM

**CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL:** Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Mayor Dustin Wright. Council members present were NUESSEN, DYE, MILLER and HINRICHS. Council member absent was HAMLIN. Also present were City Clerk Marcia Johnson, City Treasurer Kelly Siebert, City Attorney Steve Atherton, maintenance Nick Gadino and code enforcement Erick Dean.

**VISITORS/PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD:** Sarah Henning and Veronica Dean.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** *December 11, 2018 and February 12, 2019*. Moved by NUESSEN to approve the minutes of December 11, 2018. Motion seconded by HINRICHS, 3-0-1, MILLER abstained. Moved by NUESSEN to approve the minutes of February 12, 2019. Motion seconded by MILLER, 4-0 vote.

**BILLS TO PAY:** Moved byHINRICHS to pay the March bills in the amount of $14,978.96. Motion seconded by DYE, 4-0 vote.

**REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES:** MILLER reported from maintenance. The water heater in the shop has been replaced.

Approximately 248 ton of rock has been used in February on the roads. There has been 44 pot holes repaired using 5 ton of cold patch. There is enough salt/sand on hand for a couple more winter storms.

Maintenance has been working close with Kansas Rural Water to combat the algae problem in the lagoons. The city has purchased barley straw to use in the lagoons to help control the algae, on recommendation from KRW. Maintenance is also looking to purchase an auto pump to move water from the lagoons to the area surrounding the lagoons through an irrigation system. The estimated cost for the pump is $300.00. Current efforts by the city to control the algae is maintaining the algae to stay compliant with state regulation. The city is looking at a possible KDHE mandate to perform an engineering study. Any defects found in the study will have to be corrected with updates. With constant control of the algae the city hopes to put off any mandate until the current KDHE loan is paid in full. MILLER recommends that if the city can hold off the mandate until the loan is paid then the funds used for the loan payment can then be used for the engineering study and any upgrades in the system.

MILLER would like to publicly acknowledge the maintenance department for their efforts and putting in long hours keeping the roads clear of snow and ice during the winter storms.

NUESSEN reported from the Police Department. At this time the department does not plan to replace Kenny Rodriguez who resigned in February. Code Enforcement will be working hard to bring residents into compliance with city codes.

City Clerk Marcia Johnson reported that the Lyon County Emergency Communications Center is making a change in their policies for testing the tornado siren. Currently the siren is tested on Monday, regardless of temperature. Due to the age of some of the sirens, they have found that it’s not the best practice to test them under 32 degrees, or when we have had icing or a significant amount of precipitation over the last week during winter periods. The sirens will continue to be tested on Monday, unless the temperature is below 35 degrees, there has been icing, a large-scale snow event or significant rain over the past five days in winter periods, when we are in any type of thunderstorm or tornado watch and if it is predetermined by Lyon County Sheriff or on-duty supervisor, that it is not favorable conditions to set the sirens off.

The Dirty Kanza is scheduled for June 1st. The high school, 25-mile and 50-mile groups will be coming through Americus. The DK will be setting up a water station in the park for the riders.

Marcia has been in contact with the Emporia Farmer’s Market, they have approved to expand into the outlying communities. Each vendor would have to have a vendor’s agreement with the market ($25 year) and collect sales tax. The Emporia Farmer’s Market will be able to collect and report to the state any sales tax from a vendor that does not have a tax ID number. With the vendor agreement they will have the opportunity to sell in Emporia and Olpe also. The council will have information for the April meeting for discussion whether or not to join our farmer’s market with the Emporia Farmer’s Market.

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Along with the March sewer bills, there was a questionnaire sent to residents to complete. The questionnaire is one step being taken to control excess water being sent through the sewer system into the lagoons. The questionnaire inquires about sump pumps, sewer sump pumps, drains and where they drain to. We have received back 84 questionnaires so far and have had a very good response.

**ADOPT THE AGENDA:** Moved by HINRICHS to adopt the agenda. Motion seconded by MILLER, 4-0 vote.

1. **SARAH HENNING:** *Easter Egg Hunt*. Sarah Henning is coordinating the Americus Easter Egg Hunt. The hunt is scheduled for April 20, 2019. The city has donated 500 eggs towards the hunt. Sarah has reserved the park for the event. Moved by HINRICHS to donate $200.00 towards the Easter Egg Hunt. Motion seconded by Nuessen, 4-0 vote.
2. **PARKS & RECREATION:** *Ball field*. David Devore of B&G Consultants will be in town on Tuesday, March 19th to meet with City Clerk Marcia Johnson and whomever else is available to look at the proposed ball field site. (Old swimming pool park location) City Clerk has spoken with Justin Carlson, Recreation Director with Council Grove. Justin has been hands on in building their ball fields and is willing to give information and suggestions if needed.
3. **CONDEMNATION:** *Compiling a list of properties to be condemned.* Code Enforcement and the Planning & Zoning Board gave to the council their recommendations of properties to be considered for condemnation. Properties include: 115 Main lots 3, 9, 10, 11 and 15 at 102 Main lots 2, 11, 17 and 18. The clerk will work with Lyon County to determine the owners of each mobile home. Other properties include 518 Main (owner is planning to do work to it), 612 Main (owner plans to cleanup and fix), 418 Main, 503 & 511 Main, trailer at 560 Maple (owners plan to tear down), 501 Maple, 404 Walnut (recently sold, new owner plans to fix it up), 612 Hackberry, 401 Main, 555 Orange (owner plans to tear down). These properties are in addition to properties that have already received a letter stating their property is being considered for condemnation that were sent out on January 24th. A letter will be sent to the for mentioned that their property is on a watch list to be considered for condemnation. The building inspector will do inspections and file reports to the council on the following properties: 1017 Main, 1010 Main, 507 Elm and 410 Sycamore. The council will begin the process once they receive the report from the inspector. A title search will be needed for each property. A hearing will be held for each property after a notice of hearing has been published.
4. **ORDINANCE 592:** *Dog regulations.*  Ordinance 592 would change the yearly dog registration to a life time registration per dog for a fee of $25. Dogs that are registered with the city on January 1, 2020 may continue with a yearly registration with a $5.00 registration fee. Any new dog registration that is not on the registration on January 1st would only be able to do a lifetime registration. Clarifications in the ordinance is needed before passage. Moved to the April agenda.
5. **ORDINANCE 591:** *Enhanced Cereal Malt Beverage.* Ordinance 591 allows the sale of enhanced cereal malt beverage and beer containing not more than 6% alcohol by volume within the city of Americus. The council is to set the fee for a change of location. Moved by NUESSEN to adopt ordinance 591 with a $25.00 fee for change of location. Motion seconded by MILLER, 4-0 vote.
6. **STEVE’S TRASH SERVICE:** *2019 contract.*Moved by HINRICHS to approve the 2019 contract with Steve’s Trash Service. Motion seconded by NUESSEN, 3-0-1 vote, DYE abstained.
7. **LIQUOR SHED:** *Liquor License renewal.*Moved by HINRICHS to approve the liquor license renewal for the Liquor Shed. Motion seconded by DYE, 4-0 vote.
8. **COLLEGE BLOCK:** *Update*. At this time Mark Schreiber is working on legislation that would allow the city to move forward to use the land for other purposes than what the land was originally dedicated for. It is unclear if anything will be able to happen during this legislation session. The ground is currently being hayed under a contract. The first of 2020 the contract will be visited by the council.
9. **SPRING CITY WIDE CLEANUP:** DYE has been in contact with Tim Delcamp with the Lyon County Transfer Station on when the Free Dump Days are for 2019. The tentative dates are April 27th through May 5th. A letter will need to be sent asking for the City to be allowed to dump in excess of the limit, also to use the dump truck and to make more than one trip. Consensus of council to schedule the Spring City Wide Cleanup to be on May 4th from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Items would need to be brought to the city shop. The service is for residents of Americus only.

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Moved by NUESSEN to adjourn at 8:32 p.m. Motion seconded by DYE, 4-0 vote.

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Dustin R. Wright, Mayor

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Lea Hamlin, Council President

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Nicky Nuessen

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Marie Miller

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Britney Hinrichs

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Jason Dye