

Council Chambers:

- ROLL CALL: The City Council of Lincoln Center convened in regular session at 7:30 p.m. with Mayor Travis Schwerdtfager presiding. Councilmembers present Angela K. Corpstein, Brennan Johnson Elijah Keever and Melodee K. Larsen. Officials present: Attorney Jeffrey A. Norris and Clerk Heather N. Hillegeist. Also, present: Superintendent Jeff Ahring.
- VISITORS: Visitors in attendance for all or portions of the meeting: Lisa Feldkamp, Vikki Hook, Cindy Enriken, Dennis Ray, Jesse Benedick, Mikayla Zamecnik, Kelly Gourley, Becky Rathbun, Jacob Littlejohn, Chris Gerbitz, Dale Romesburg, Mary Ann Stertz and Craig Stertz.
- MINUTES: Upon motion by Corpstein, seconded by Keever, minutes of the December 29, 2022, year-end meeting were approved as written.
- ACCOUNTS PAYABLE: Council reviewed accounts payable lists containing December invoices in the amount of \$3,713.11 and January invoices to date totaling \$72,342.21. Upon motion by Larsen, seconded by Corpstein, all said invoices, in the amount of \$76,055.32, were approved for payment.
- DELINQ. ACCNTS.: Four (4) accounts, totaling \$868.38, were on the list of delinquent utilities reviewed and discussed.
- CITY SVC. AWARDS: Mayor Schwerdtfager announced a City Service Award for City Clerk Heather N. Hillegeist for 20 years of dedicated service to the City of Lincoln Center. Hillegeist was also recognized for receiving her Master Municipal Clerk (MMC) designation October 13, 2022.
- PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL: Upon motion by Larsen, seconded by Johnson, Elijah Keever was elected President of the Council.
- ACTING PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL: Upon motion by Keever, seconded by Corpstein, Melodee K. Larsen was elected acting President of the Council.
- OFFICIAL DEPOSITORIES: Upon motion by Larsen, seconded by Keever, The Bank of Tescott and Citizens State Bank were designated as Official Depositories for City funds.
- COUNCIL VACANCY: Mayor Schwerdtfager provided a name of an individual who had expressed interest in serving on the City Council. After discussion, Larsen moved to appoint Mark Luce, to fill the unexpired term of Ryley Hembry. Motion seconded by Corpstein, carried, 4-0.
- APPOINTMENTS/ CITY OFFICIALS: Mayor Schwerdtfager made the following City Official appointments for the ensuing year:
- City Clerk – Heather N. Hillegeist
Deputy City Clerk – Kristin G. Dail
City Treasurer – Galen L. Liggett
City Attorney – Jeffrey A. Norris
Fire Chief – Jarrod Heinze
Municipal Judge – Jennifer R. O’Hare
- There followed a motion by Keever, seconded by Johnson, to confirm the Mayor’s appointments and recommendation. Motion carried.
- PRIDE COMMITTEE: Pride Committee Member Lisa Feldkamp, reported on the past year’s projects the committee had completed. Pride committee purchased two music park instruments and installed them in

the Lincoln City Park and held a duck race fundraiser at the Post Rock Festival. The committee continues to recognize nice yards and community volunteers, along with planting flowers in the planters and decorating them for the holiday season. Feldkamp requested a monetary donation to help with funding of future projects. Keever moved to approve a \$500 monetary donation to the Pride Committee, seconded by Corpstein, carried.

LCIC PRIDE RES. 23-01: A Resolution No. 23-01, entitled “KANSAS PRIDE PROGRAM 2023 ENTRY GOVERNMENT RESOLUTION,” to make the City of Lincoln Center part of the Kansas Pride Program. This would help with grant funding as the “Pride Committee” would be under the City of Lincoln Center as a governmental entity. Keever moved to adopt Resolution No. 23-01. Motion seconded by Johnson, carried.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION CITY HALL DESIGN: Due to unforeseen circumstances TreanorHL was unable to attend the meeting, therefore Kelly Gourley was asked to present on their behalf to the Governing Body. After discussion, Larsen moved to accept the final ADA drawings for the City Hall project. Motion was seconded by Corpstein, carried. The Governing Body was made aware that the cost estimate included additional construction administrative fees to the overall cost and the 4.5% escalation contingency per year to cover inflation.

LC DILAPITADED BLDG: Lincoln County Commissioner Dennis Ray requested the City to allow the contractor hired to demolish 132 W. Lincoln Avenue, to put two feet of dirt on the sidewalk and street in the front of the building, provide barricades and terminate the sewer connection. The project is estimated to begin mid-February and last approximately 2 weeks. Commissioner Ray said the County would repair any damages to the street or sidewalk. After discussion, Keever moved for the city to provide barricades, terminate the sewer connection and allow the contractor to place two feet of dirt on the sidewalk and street in front of the property. Motion seconded by Johnson, carried.

WBP DRAINAGE STUDY: Jesse Benedick, Schwab-Eaton, presented the Governing Body with a proposal for a drainage study on West Lincoln Avenue. Benedick explained this would allow the city to know realistic cost estimates to reduce flooding to the West Ball Park. The proposal for the drainage study is \$14,500. After discussion, the Governing Body tabled the discussion at this time.

CITY PARK RESTROOMS: Jesse Benedick, Schwab-Eaton, presented the Governing Body with a proposal for engineering for the City Park restrooms project planned to use American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funds. Benedick explained this turn-key proposal included; engineering for site prep, ADA access, utility connections, bid letting, contract administration and construction inspection. The proposal for engineering on the City Park restroom facility is \$19,500. Keever moved to accept the proposal as presented, seconded by Larsen. Motion carried.

LINCOLN FARM DRIVEWAY: Craig Stertz questioned the Governing Body on reopening a block of West High Street between the former Pizza Hut and Lincoln Farm Supply. Stertz explained there is a grant opportunity available for them to help with costs of the entrance off of highway 14 with a deadline of January 31st. Clerk Hillegeist explained she could not find any records indicating this block of high street existed historically. Attorney Norris explained that it is different to do new infrastructural rather than simply adopting an Ordinance to reverse a street vacation. The decision was tabled until further information could be obtained. Stertz acknowledged he could always apply for the grant due to the deadline and pull the application if the city did not move forward.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: At 9:00 p.m., Keever moved to recess to executive session pursuant to justification (b)(1) of K.S.A. 75-4319 with City Attorney Norris and City Clerk Hillegeist present, for a period of

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five (5) minutes for discussion of personnel matters of nonelected personnel. Motion seconded by Larsen, carried. The City Council returned to regular session at 9:05 p.m.

PERSONNEL:

Keever moved to promote Jeff Ahring to City Superintendent with an hourly wage of \$30.00 effective immediately, seconded by Corpstein. Motion carried.

Ahring reported on recent applications he had received for lineman and power plant operator. He was instructed to set up interviews and Mayor Schwerdtfager and Councilmember Keever would try to attend.

Clerk Hillegeist requested the Governing Body to clarify the pay of the Public Officer position and reported that an application had been received. Hillegeist was instructed to offer this position as part time with no benefits at the starting wage of \$18.00 per hour with up to 20 hours a week.

TRANSFER FUNDS:

A motion was made by Keever, seconded by Johnson, to transfer \$25,000 from the General Fund to the Recreation Fund for 2023 Rec Appropriation. Motion carried.

TRANSFER FUNDS:

A motion was made by Keever, seconded by Corpstein, to transfer \$50,140 from the Light Fund to the Bond and Interest Fund for 2023 GO Bond Payments. Motion carried.

INDY PARK LEASE:

The Governing Body reviewed a notice prepared by Attorney Norris for the Industrial Park Building. It was approved for publication in the newspaper and on Live Lincoln County website with the \$1800.00/month lease amount.

LABOR & EQUIP. RATE:

Due to the current costs associated with services provided, the labor and equipment rates charged by the City were reviewed. The last adjustment had been made in 2016. Keever moved to increase the labor rate from \$40.00 to \$60.00 per hour and the equipment rate from \$60.00 to \$80.00 per hour. Motion seconded by Larsen, carried.

CDBG WATER PROJ.:

Clerk Hillegeist informed the Governing Body that the final monitoring was completed on the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) for the water line replacement project. The close out hearing is scheduled for February 13, 2023 council meeting.

SUPERINTENDENT RPT:

Superintendent Ahring reported the “hospital house” was scheduled to be moved on Thursday January 12, 2023. He notified all customers that would be affected with the power outage last week to inform them in advance.

SPECIAL MTG:

Kelly Gourley informed the Governing Body that a Building a Stronger Economy (BASE) Grant opportunity was just released. Gourley said it would be a very competitive grant and the deadline was January 31st, 2023. Gourley asked if the Council would consider conducting a special meeting prior to the date to discuss potentially applying on behalf of Applequist Manufacturing Inc. for a new Kansas Gas pipeline to the property at 702 E. North Street. The Governing Body set a special meeting for January 13, 2023 at 6:45 a.m. at City Hall.

ADJOURN:

There being no further business, Johnson moved to adjourn. Motion seconded by Corpstein, carried. Council adjourned at 10:05 p.m.

/s/ Heather N. Hillegeist
City Clerk