

Council Meeting
2023

July 10,

Council Chambers:

- ROLL CALL: The City Council of Lincoln Center convened in regular session at 6:30 p.m. with Mayor Travis Schwerdtfager presiding. Councilmembers present: Angela K. Corpstein, Brennan Johnson, Elijah Keever, Melodee K. Larsen and Mark Luce. Officials present: Attorney Jeffrey A. Norris, and Clerk Heather N. Hillegeist. Also present: Superintendent Jeff Ahring.
- VISITORS: Others in attendance for all or portions of the meeting: Austin Biggs, Vicky Frost, Dana Walters, Lisa Feldkamp, Nikki Flinn, Kelly Gourley, Keegan Bailey, Dena Donley, Darcy Couse, Bob Loveless, Eric and Emily Wolgamot.
- AGENDA AMENDMENTS: There were no amendments to the council meeting agenda.
- MINUTES: Upon motion by Keever, seconded by Johnson, Minutes of the June 12, 2023, meeting were approved as written.
- PAYROLL VOUCHER: Payroll Voucher No. 23-06, for June wages and salaries in the amount of \$78,168.36, was presented. A motion by Larsen, seconded by Corpstein, to approve said Payroll Voucher, carried.
- ACCOUNTS PAYABLE: Accounts Payable lists were reviewed. Invoices prepaid in June totaled \$146,785.72, and unpaid invoices received to date totaled \$152,512.59. Upon motion by Keever, seconded by Larsen, all said invoices in the amount of \$299,298.31, were approved for payment.
- DELINQ. ACCNTS.: The Governing Body reviewed a list of six (6) delinquent utility accounts totaling \$2,708.91.
- ANIMAL PERMIT HEARING: Mayor Schwerdtfager opened a hearing to hear comments regarding Tom Bombardier application for an animal permit for six (6) chickens on the property located at 119 W Franklin Street. All property owners within 200 feet of the property lines were notified of the hearing as specified by the city code. No neighbors showed in support and there was no opposition from the public regarding the animal permit. Mayor Schwerdtfager closed the hearing. Corpstein moved to approved the animal permit with the proper fees paid accordingly. Motion was seconded by Keever, carried.
- LC HISTORICAL SOCIETY: Dana Walters, Director of the Lincoln Historical Society asked the Governing Body if they would consider closing a partial block of Lincoln Avenue in the future for a street dance for a fund-raising event. Walters also said they would like to have alcohol at the event and questioned what that process would entail. Attorney Norris said it would take a Special Event Ordinance to be adopted and published along with a special event permit obtained from the State of Kansas, Department of Revenue. There was no opposition from the Governing Body and Walters agreed to come at a later date when they plan to proceed with the event.
- MUNICIPAL POOL USE: USD298 LJSHS Principal, Nikki Flinn asked if USD298 could use the Municipal Pool the first 10 days of school. Larsen moved to authorize USD298 to use the Municipal Pool annually for physical education classes for 10 days after the pool closes to the public, from August 21st to September 1st, with future requested dates to be relayed by Clerk Hillegeist. Motion was seconded by Johnson, carried.

POST ROCK FESTIVAL:

The Governing Body agreed to allow the Post Rock Festival use of the City Park & Municipal Pool for the activities on September 2nd and waive the \$25 city fees for the temporary alcohol permit. Lisa Feldkamp explained the requests are the same as years past.

Council Meeting Minutes – July 10, 2023 – Page 2

STREET IMPROVEMENTS:

Lisa Feldkamp wanted to know the City's plans for resurfacing Lincoln Avenue. Mayor Schwerdtfager assured her he was getting different quotes from companies and the Governing Body has had discussion on how to fund the project. Feldkamp questioned how much money the city has from the 1% sales tax that was adopted. Hillegeist reported that at the end of 2022 the City had \$180,373.30 and she relayed that in 1981 a project from 1st Street through 6th Street on Lincoln Avenue cost the city \$841,000.

CITY WIDE CLEANUP:

Breanna Brown, Lincoln Pride Committee, was not present to speak on the fall cleanup. The Governing Body did feel it would be beneficial to have a cleanup in the fall as they had not in the Spring. After discussion, October 16th for the east side of town and October 17th for the west side with 4th Street as the split was approved for the dates. Hillegeist was instructed to send the notice to the newspaper and post it on Live Lincoln County and city's websites.

STREET VACATION:

Dena Donley presented the Governing Body with a list of streets bordering her property that she had surveyed that are not being maintained by the city and not officially vacated. Superintendent Ahring reported as far as he could tell, there are not utilities that the city would need easements to access. After discussion, Larsen moved for the Attorney Norris to prepare an Ordinance to vacate presented streets for review and adoption at the August council meeting. Motion seconded by Luce, carried.

HOUSING REHAB CDBG:

Keegan Bailey, North Central Regional Planning Commission (NCRPC), presented the Governing Body with the second round of bids for rehab for two properties. Bailey explained both bids came in high and the Governing Body had two options; deny the bids and attempt rebid or accept the bids and let the property owners determine if they wish to put in additional match dollars. After discussion, Larsen moved to award the bid to the sole bidder, authorize the mayor to sign the sole source letter to Kansas Department of Commerce (KDC), Bailey to notify the property owners to allow them to determine if they plan to put in the additional match dollars that may be required for the project to move forward. Motion seconded by Corpstein, carried.

REC COMMISSION:

Co-Rec Director Darcy Couse inquired if the Governing Body would be willing to allow the Rec Commission to build a softball field east of the current east ball field. Couse explained that the west ball field was rained out every game this year due to drainage issues and the cost to remedy that was beyond the Rec budget. Couse plans to apply for grants to help with the cost of the project and was not requesting any funds from the city. The west ball field would still be used for a practice field at times. After discussion, Keever moved to allow the Rec to design and build a softball field at the location as presented, seconded by Corpstein. Motion carried.

ARPA ADMIN AGRMT:

Keegan Bailey, NCRPC, explained that the Professional Services Agreement between the City of Lincoln Center and NCRPC was for the administration of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funds that the City of Lincoln Center received due to the COVID-19. Said agreement would allow NCRPC to act as a liaison between the City, US Department of Treasury and the cities auditors on reporting and spending of ARPA funds. ARPA funds are allowed to be used for administrative services. Keever move to approve the Agreement between the City of Lincoln Center and NCRPC in the amount of \$6000 for administrative services of ARPA funds. Motion seconded by Larsen, carried.

PERSONNEL:

Councilmember Keever relayed to the Governing Body that Mayor Schwerdtfager, Clerk Hillegeist and himself had an initial zoom interview with a potential candidate for the Superintendent position prior to the council meeting. He said the individual had 17 years of experience in different leadership roles with other jobs and had a Class IV Water Operator's Council Meeting Minutes – July 10, 2023 – Page 3

certificate. An in-person interview is scheduled for July 11th at 4:30 p.m. Keever relayed the individual was concerned with the 15-minute response time to work that is in the job description with limited housing. After discussion, Luce moved to allow Mayor Schwerdtfager to offer the individual employment on behalf of the city if he was inclined to do so prior to the August council meeting. Motion seconded by Corpstein, carried.

NUISANCE PROPERTIES:

The Governing Body reviewed a list of nuisance properties were mailed or served by law enforcement. Public Officer Bob Loveless explained he has been documenting the verbal notices he has given. Loveless questioned Attorney Norris on the process for abating a delapidated house.

FLOODPLAIN MAP:

Attorney Norris updated the Governing Body on the new floodplain map that goes in to effect December 21, 2023. Norris explained the City must adopt an Ordinance to make individuals eligible for the federal flood insurance program with properties in the new floodplain map. Attorney Norris will prepare the Ordinance for review at a future meeting prior to December 21, 2023.

LAND SALE:

Attorney Norris relayed he had been contacted by Terry Stertz regarding the two (2) acres strip of land in the farm tract on the North side of his property that he requested to purchase at the February meeting. Stertz agreed to pay \$1676.88/acre and he would be responsible for the survey expense, deed recording and closing fees. Norris will prepare the documents to complete the transaction on behalf of the city.

TINY HOMES:

Clerk Hillegeist relayed she had been approached regarding “tiny homes” and rules and regulations within the city limits. Attorney Norris agreed to write an Ordinance regarding rules and regulations on “tiny homes” to review for the August Council meeting.

TUNNEL WELL:

Superintendent Ahring informed the Governing Body that the Tunnel Well pump went quit and the city has purchased a replacement.

CEMETERY:

Superintendent Ahring shared his concerns with the items placed in the cemetery that are causing mowing and weed eating issues for employees. Keever suggested the city consider purchasing six (6) signs for the entrances to post the cemetery rules and regulations for the public to view regularly.

ADJOURN:

There being no further business, Keever moved to adjourn. Motion seconded by Larsen, carried. Council adjourned at 7:53 p.m.

/s/ Heather N. Hillegeist
City Clerk