

Council Meeting

November 13, 2023

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, Hayden Howard, Elijah Keever, Mark Luce and Melodee K. Larsen. Officials present: Attorney Jeffrey A. Norris and Deputy Clerk Kristin Dail. Also Present: Superintendent Jeff Ahring.

VISITORS:

Visitors in attendance for all or portions of the meeting: Kelly Gourley, Eric Wolgamot, Jesse Knight and Scott Day.

AGENDA AMENDMENTS:

There were no amendments to the council meeting agenda.

MINUTES:

Upon motion by Larsen, seconded by Corpstein, Minutes of the October 9, 2023, regular meeting were approved as written.

PAYROLL VOUCHER:

Payroll Voucher No. 23-10, for October wages and salaries in the amount of \$79,732.91 was presented. A motion by Keever, seconded by Corpstein, to approve said Payroll Voucher, carried.

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE:

Accounts Payable lists were reviewed. Invoices prepaid in October totaled \$129,161.13, and unpaid invoices received to date totaled \$119,996.55. Upon motion by Corpstein, seconded by Luce, all invoices, in the amount of \$249,157.68 were approved for payment.

DELINQ. ACCOUNTS:

The Governing Body reviewed a list of six (15) delinquent utility accounts totaling \$5,763.07.

PORT AUTH. APPNTS.:

Mayor Schwerdtfager re-appointed Brian Schneider, and newly appointed Lisa Carney to four-year terms on the Lincoln Port Authority Board. Keever moved to confirm the Mayor's appointments, seconded by Corpstein. Upon call for vote, the following Councilmembers voted Aye: Corpstein, Keever, Luce and Howard. Nay: Larsen.

AIRPORT OPERATING
LEASE:

The Governing Body discussed the current Airport Operating Lease. Attorney Norris stated he would review the current lease agreement for discussion at the next council meeting.

TREE STUMP REMOVAL:

Eric Wolgamot informed the Governing Body that he had completed the removal of 115 tree stumps. Including 1 stump at City Hall, 4 stumps in the city park and 110 stumps at the cemetery. Superintendent Ahring reported that the job had been completed to the bid specifications.

HEALTH INSURANCE:

The Governing Body was presented with a Medical Expense Reimbursement Plan (MERP) for the city employees from Scott Day, Day Insurance Solutions, LLC. The proposal included that the umbrella plan would still be through Blue Cross Blue Shield of Kansas (BCBS) with a \$6,000 deductible. However, the city would contract with Freedom Claims Management (FCMI) and use MERP claims funds to pay the difference from the \$6,000 deductible down to the \$3,500 deductible/coinsurance amount. There is potential for the city saving money if we have a healthier group, if all employees had a major health issue the city would be liable for \$42,500 for current employee population. Following discussion, Keever moved to accept the proposal with Day Insurance Solutions, LLC for the Kansas Municipal Insurance Trust (KMIT) health insurance group plan year beginning January 1, 2024. Motion seconded by Corpstein, carried.

VACATE STREET ORD #744: City Attorney Norris presented an Ordinance entitled “**AN ORDINANCE VACATING THAT PORTION OF 8TH STREET BETWEEN NORTH STREET AND SCHOOL STREET, WHICH SUCH VACATION IS BOUNDED BY BLOCK A AND LOTS 1 THROUGH 11 IN BLOCK 4, ALL IN VALLEY PARK ADDITION, AND LOT 1 IN BLOCK 1 AND LOTS 1 THROUGH 6 IN BLOCK 3 ALL IN J.T. SMITH’S ADDITION; VACATING THAT PORTION OF WRIGHT STREET WEST OF 7TH STREET, WHICH SUCH VACATION IS BOUNDED BY LOT 1 IN BLOCK 4, LOT 1 IN BLOCK 3, LOT 1 IN BLOCK 2, BLOCK 1 AND LOT 1 IN BLOCK 3 ALL IN VALLEY VIEW ADDITION, AND THAT PORTION OF WRIGHT STREET WEST OF 7TH STREET WHICH SUCH VACATION IS BOUNDED BY BLOCK A IN IN J.T. SMITH’S ADDITION; VACATING THAT PORTION OF SCHOOL STREET WEST OF 8TH STREET, WHICH SUCH VACATION IS BOUNDED BY LOT 6 IN BLOCK 3, AND LOTS 1 THROUGH 4 IN BLOCK 6, ALL IN VALLEY PARK ADDITION; THE ALLEY BETWEEN BLOCKS 4 AND 9, WHICH SUCH VACATION IS BOUNDED BY LOTS 1 THROUGH 7 IN BLOCK 4 IN VALLEY PARK ADDITION AND THE NORTH 300 FEET OF BLOCK 9 AND ALONG THE NORTH 67 FEET OF THE SOUTH 267.5 FEET IN BLOCK 9, ALL IN J.T. SMITH’S ADDITION, ALL OF WHICH IS IN THE CITY OF LINCOLN CENTER, LINCOLN COUNTY, KANSAS.**” Said Ordinance has been prepared to amend some legal descriptions. Keever moved to pass said Ordinance, seconded by Corpstein. Upon call for vote, the following Councilmembers voted Aye: Corpstein, Keever, Larsen, Luce and Howard. Nay: None. The Ordinance was declared passed, was approved and signed by the Mayor, assigned #744 by the Deputy City Clerk, and ordered to be published once in the Official City Newspaper.

FLOODPLAIN MGMT PUBLIC HEARING: Mayor Schwerdtfager opened a public hearing to consider an ordinance amending floodplain regulations in ordinance 543 and Chapter IV, Article 9, Section 4-901 through 4-906 of the City Code pertaining to floodplain regulations. Jesse Knight, Lincoln County Emergency Manager, shared his knowledge in regards to the pros and cons of adopting the floodplain ordinance. Mayor Schwerdtfager then closed the floodplain management public hearing.

FLOODPLAIN MGMT ORD #745: City Attorney Norris presented an Ordinance entitled “**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING AND RESTATING CHAPTER IV, ARTICLE 9, SECTIONS 4-901 THROUGH 4-906 OF THE CITY CODE OF THE CITY OF LINCOLN CENTER, KANSAS, AND HEREBY ADOPTING THE FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT REGULATIONS DESIGNED TO PROTECT THE HEALTH, SAFETY, AND GENERAL WELFARE OF THE PUBLIC PURSUANT TO 44 CFR SECTION 60.3(b), K.S.A. SECTION 12-766, AND K.A.R. 5-44-1 THROUGH 5-44-7 FOR THE CITY OF LINCOLN CENTER, KANSAS, AND REPEALING THE EXISTING CHAPTER IV, ARTICLE 9, SECTIONS 4-901 THROUGH 4-906.**” Keever moved to pass said Ordinance, seconded by Larsen. Upon call for vote, the following Councilmembers voted Aye: Corpstein, Keever, Larsen, Luce and Howard. Nay: None. The Ordinance was declared passed, was approved and signed by the Mayor, assigned #745 by the Deputy City Clerk, and ordered to be published once in the Official City Newspaper.

SOLID WASTE RES. 23-04: Resolution No. 23-04, establishing the fee for municipal solid waste collection and disposal, was introduced. Said Resolution would increase the monthly fee for each residence from \$16.38 to \$16.48, effective with the billing beginning November 15, 2023, to be first included on City of Lincoln Center utility billings payable January 1, 2024. The fee would

include the following components: \$9.98 for the County’s collection contractor, \$6.00 for Lincoln County’s disposal fees, \$.25 for Lincoln County administrative fees, and \$.25 for the City’s billing and administrative costs. Larsen moved to adopt Resolution No. 23-04, motion seconded by Corpstein, carried.

INDY PARK PLAT:

Attorney Norris reported that he has been reviewing records at the Register of Deeds Office to determine if the Industrial Park area had ever been platted. Norris will be continuing that research and will report to the Governing Body when he has more information.

UNFIT STRUCTURE:

Attorney Norris reported to the Governing Body that he is waiting on a report from the Public Officer to initiate the abatement process of the unfit structure at 306 E. Park Street. Norris has instructed the Public Officer on the report requirements.

APPRECIATION DINNER:

In lieu of an appreciation dinner, Keever moved to give employees an additional holiday off with pay on December 22, 2023, seconded by Corpstein. Motion carried.

PERSONNEL/HOLIDAY:

In consideration of the upcoming holidays, Councilmember Larsen moved to approve a cash bonus in the amount of \$50.00, in addition to the purchase of \$50.00 in Chamber Bucks for all full-time hourly and salary employees for 2023, Motion seconded by Corpstein, carried.

PERSONNEL:

Superintendent Ahring reported Michael Austin Biggs had successfully completed his 6-month training period. Keever moved to grant Biggs a \$1.00/hour pay increase and the benefits associated with “full-time” employee, effective with the November, 2023 payroll. Motion seconded by Luce, carried.

CITY UNIFORMS:

Deputy Clerk reported with the city crew out knocking on doors for the Lead/Copper survey, City Hall has received multiple concerned calls. It was suggested the City crew consider wearing branded clothing to be identified as representing the City on business when going door to door, or reading meters. Superintendent Ahring will work with City Hall to get some branded apparel ordered.

NUISANCES:

There was nothing new to report on nuisances.

ADJOURN:

There being no further business, Keever moved to adjourn. Motion seconded by Larsen, carried. Council adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

/s/ Kristin Dail
Deputy City Clerk