

April 6, 2020

**Glen Elder City Council Minutes
April 6, 2020**

The Glen Elder City Council met in regular session on Monday night at 6:00 p.m., April 6, 2020 via GoToMeeting.com, with Mayor Ryan Duskie and council members: Darel Stuart, Sheila Paxson, Landen Cleveland, Barry McPeak and Larry Wheeler present. Also in attendance: James Reed, Attorney Timothy Demel, Eldon Behymer, and Jerri Senger.

Minutes & Claims

The minutes of the March 2, 2020 meeting were reviewed. Larry made the motion to approve the minutes, Barry seconded the motion and vote carried with five ayes. The claims on hand for the month of March amounting to \$113,749.76 plus the outstanding Mid-Kansas Electric and Street Oil bills were reviewed. Sheila made a motion to approve the claims. Darel seconded the motion and the vote carried with five ayes.

Third Dog Request

The council received a written request from Kathy Copeland to keep a third dog, her father's, at her residence. Larry made a motion to approve Kathy to keep the third dog, Darel seconded the motion. It was noted if there are any issues with any of her dogs, they will rescind the allowance.

Attorney Demel brought up concerns about granting permission when the ordinance clearly states only two dogs per household. There was quite a discussion on the number of dogs per residence. The matter will be addressed in the future.

Code Enforcement

The council reviewed the report from Code Officer James Reed on his March activities. James said he is in town several times each week and due to virus concerns he will call residents instead of knocking on doors. He asked the City Clerk for a list of property owners by street. James said he will most likely begin sending out weed and tall grass violation letters in the near future.

Library Board

Attorney Tim Demel informed the council the State of Kansas mandates the library board requirements. It states the board should be made up of seven members living within the borders of the area taxed for the library. He said a charter ordinance will need to be passed by two-thirds vote, with the Mayor voting, to change this. He also mentioned board members can only serve two consecutive terms and then are required to be off the board for one year before returning. There was quite a bit of discussion on the library board request. Tim suggested passing a charter ordinance reducing the number of library board members to five. He added the ordinance could create one or two "special advisor" positions, without voting power, which could be filled by someone living outside the city limits. It was the consensus to table any decisions until next month, after more research can be done.

Truck Route

Larry opened the discussion on the truck route with concerns about the number of trucks on Kansas Street today. He said they pushed oil out of the chat with the warm temperatures. Larry liked the truck route coming into town from the south below the dam onto Mill Street to the corner at Kansas Street. He added that we want the new resurfacing project on Kansas Street

to hold up for several years, but he doesn't feel the street can withstand the 2,000 trucks per month. Larry also suggested making an amendment allowing farmers to utilize all three current truck routes for ten days during wheat harvest and three weeks for fall harvest. Darel mentioned with home rule we are obligated to give them one good truck route through town. He is concerned since we have no support with the street repairs from CVA or Mitchell County the best option would be to come in from the south as Larry suggested. Attorney Demel wants to check with the League of Municipalities about reducing the number of truck routes to just one. Darel asked if we could install cameras and possibly even charge axle or bushel taxes to those using Kansas or Hobart Streets. The Mayor expressed concerns about enforcing/policing other streets if we close two of the current truck routes. Attorney Demel will do more research on this subject and the ideas suggested with the League. The matter was tabled until next month.

Old Digger Truck

Eldon reported the old digger truck is out at Hansen Auction for sale at their consignment auction to be held in May.

Covid-19

The city will honor the Governor's order to not disconnect utilities until May 1st. Delinquent fees and notices will still be sent out on April 11th. The Clerk asked permission to extend the renewal period for dog tags. The council approved extending the renewal period to May 29th for 2020 dog tags.

Building Permits

Eldon informed the council that all building permit requests looked fine. He asked for clarification from the council if a building permit is required to put in a new concrete driveway, where an existing rock driveway was. The attorney pointed out a concrete driveway meets the definition of a structure requiring a permit. So yes, concrete driveways do require building permits.

Larry made a motion to approve the following building permits: #20-3 move in a 10'x16' storage shed for Ryan Duskie at 120 W. 2nd Street, #20-4 erect a new 12'x21' carport for Terry Petzoldt at 333 N. Nash, #20-5 a new 18'x24' concrete slab for Don Zahourek at 309 N. Hobart, and #20-6 a new concrete driveway for Bill Wallin at 105 N. Vallette. Darel seconded the motion and the vote carried with five ayes.

Employee Report

Eldon informed the council Larry got the Coughlin Company to reduce the price of the resurfacing project by approximately \$5,000.00. He said oiling and chatting the street twice cost \$14,040.00 making the total to resurface Kansas Street from Marshall to Mill \$75,962.23. It was noted that this project is too expensive to absorb without assistance. Darel and Landen commented on how well Kansas Street looks. Darel appreciates all the hard work and overtime the city crew put in on the project. There was concern about the trucks pushing up the oil. Eldon said they will put more chat on Kansas Street tomorrow.

Eldon mentioned the rest of the new radio-read water meters have been purchased for \$11,191.50. He said they plan to have all the new meters installed by the May 19 meter reading date.

Eldon asked the council if it was okay to have all three maintenance employees working together during the current virus situation. Landen and Darel commented that it is fine they are all working just be careful in close quarters, social distance themselves. It was suggested they ride separately in vehicles when possible. Eldon said he plans to hire Laney Clark and Rick Gruwell

as summer employees. He asked if he could hire Rick now. All five council members want to wait until May to hire Rick and Laney.

Clerk's Report

The Clerk asked the council to be thinking about any projects they would like to add to the Capital Improvement Fund. Money was used from the CIF to pay for the Kansas Street project. Work will begin on the 2021 budget in May. The Clerk asked for input from the council and Eldon for projects for budget.

The Clerk asked for permission to attend the State Budget Workshop in Salina, on April 30 or May 20. The fee is \$75.00 to attend. The council approved attending the workshop.

The Clerk asked the council to consider increasing the cemetery lot prices for folks that are not city of Glen Elder residents. The cemetery is maintained with tax money paid by those residents. The council agreed they would like to see a higher lot purchase price to non-residents. There was some concern and discussion about lot owners selling lots to anyone besides back to the city. Attorney Demel wants to get a clear definition of non-resident and wants to visit with other attorneys about how they drafted similar ordinances. He will draft an ordinance for next month.

May Meeting

The council made the decision to hold the May 4th regular city council meeting via GoToMeeting at 6:00 pm. Instructions and log-in information can be found on the city website, www.glenelder.com.

With no other business Sheila made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Larry seconded the motion and with five council members voting aye, the meeting was adjourned at 7:32 p.m.

(These are unofficial minutes, until approved at the next council meeting!)

Jerri Senger
City Clerk