

Glen Elder City Council Minutes

June 1, 2020

The Glen Elder City Council met in regular session on Monday night at 6:00 p.m., June 1, 2020 at City Hall with Mayor Ryan Duskie presiding and council members: Darel Stuart, Sheila Paxson, Landen Cleveland, Barry McPeak and Larry Wheeler present. Also in attendance: Neil Phillips, Sherri Linton, Jim Marshall, Cindy Clausen, Lisa Jermark, Kyla Slate, Ty Buschbom, James Reed, Attorney Timothy Demel, Eldon Behymer, and Jerri Senger.

Minutes & Claims

The minutes of the May 4, 2020 meeting were reviewed. Barry made the motion to approve the minutes, Larry seconded the motion and vote carried with five ayes. The claims on hand for the month of May amounting to \$54,354.37 plus the outstanding Mid-Kansas Electric and Feld Fire bills were reviewed. Sheila made a motion to approve the claims. Landen seconded the motion and the vote carried with five ayes.

Audit Report

Neil Phillips, of Jarred, Gilmore & Phillips, PA, went through the unmodified 2019 Audit Report in detail. The council asked Neil what he expects the financial shortfall resulting from the coronavirus to be for the 2021 budget. Neil said he doesn't see a large decrease. Glen Elder is a small town and will not see the extreme change the larger cities will see. He expects gas tax will be the area with the most noticeable decrease. Gas tax money goes into the Special Highway Fund and comes from the State. Neil said folks are paying their real estate taxes and the clerk said utility payments are all current.

Landen asked where money could be pulled from to repair streets. Neil said the extra money left after all bills are paid from the business funds, Electric, Water, or Sewer, can be set aside. However, the council also needs to think about a cash carry-over in funds to help build a reserve which can be used for unforeseen emergencies. He gave the example of a lift station going down and how much it costs to repair the pumps. He suggested issuing a General Obligation Bond to fund street repairs. He recommended calling Concordia to get ideas from them as they used GO Bonds to fund their industrial park project. With the assistance of engineers, he said Concordia concreted their streets that must withstand heavy truck traffic. Neil said GO bonds are repaid over several years with tax money.

Barry asked if the Lowdermilk Cemetery Trust Fund money can be spent. Neil said no. He said the trust money can only be used to purchase new cemetery land.

EMC Insurance

Sherri Linton, Linton Insurance, informed the council the city received a \$4,062.01 dividend check from EMC Insurance Company. She commends Eldon and his crew for their attention to safety programs and practices in the work they do for the city. She thanked the council for allowing her to take care of the insurance coverage through EMC Insurance Companies.

Sherri said she checked with EMC on COVID cases, if they arise. They informed her since it's all new, it would be handled case by case. She did state that the county health department would need to be the first call made if suspecting a COVID case.

Sherri mentioned visiting with Glen Elder Volunteer Fire Department Chief Garry Clark and their ISO rating, which will be lowered from a class 7 to a class 6. She said when they lower

the ISO to a class 5, residents will see a significant savings in their insurance rates. She said it takes a ton of paperwork to reduce ISO ratings. The council and residents should be proud of their fire department.

Fireworks Sale License

Darel made a motion to approve the fireworks sale license application for Shauna Remus at 345 N. Hobart. Larry seconded the motion and the vote carried with five ayes. It was mentioned if the weather turns out dry by the end of June the fireworks sale license will be rescinded, and will be a last-minute decision. Fireworks are only allowed to be sold July 1 through July 4; 8:00 am to 11:00 pm, and can only be shot off during those dates and times.

Code Enforcement

The council reviewed the report from Code Officer James Reed on his May activities. James said he has been a lot busier with the weeds and tall grass in town. He did mention that he will be traveling again with his full-time job, but will still be coming through town often.

Library Board Residency

Lisa Jermark presented the council with a charter ordinance drafted by CKLS allowing a maximum of two of the library board members to reside outside city limits. The draft further states those two board members must reside within Glen Elder, Walnut Creek, Solomon Rapids, or Turkey Creek Townships. Lisa said they want to retain their seven board members and not reduce the number as previously discussed by the city council. She said CKLS recommends having seven board members. The charter ordinance needs to be published two consecutive weeks in the paper and must be voted on by the Mayor. Larry made a motion to approve the charter ordinance as presented. Barry seconded the motion, however due to a lack of votes, the motion died.

The council discussed a boundary the library board members must reside in. It was the consensus of the council that library board members must have a Glen Elder mailing address. They also discussed eliminating the one-year break between terms. Barry made a motion to approve a charter ordinance allowing a maximum of two library board members to reside outside city limits but still having a Glen Elder mailing address. The motion included the exemption of waiting one year after serving a second consecutive term. Larry seconded the motion. The motion passed with the Mayor and three council voting yes, Sheila and Darel voting against. The attorney will draft the final ordinance for the July meeting.

Cemetery Lot Ordinance #735

Attorney Tim Demel informed the council he followed the council's direction and increased the sale price of cemetery plots from \$50.00 to \$75.00 each, added a section regarding purchasing back lots, as well as a section on penalties for violating the ordinance. Darel made a motion to approve the new ordinance amending the cost of purchasing lots in Glenwood Cemetery, establishing restrictions on resale and setting penalties. Sheila seconded the motion and the vote carried with five ayes.

Swimming Pool

The swimming pool will open Monday, June 8, 2020. Eldon said the pool is full of water and everything is running well.

Housing Board Member

Larry made a motion to approve new housing board member Linda Eberle, effective immediately. Barry seconded the motion and the vote carried with five ayes.

Building Permits

Eldon informed the council that all three building permits looked fine. He said he gave Sam Payne permission to start on his fence this last weekend as he had relatives coming to help.

Barry made a motion to approve building permit #20-9 two new carports for Annette Ybarra & Mike Poell at 333 N. Hobart, #20-10 a new fence for Sam & Cynthia Payne at 400 N. Hobart, #20-11 a new concrete slab for Landen Cleveland at 308 N. College. Darel seconded the motion and the vote carried with four ayes and Landen abstained.

Truck Route

The council asked how the city, county and CVA can get together and come up with a long-term solution for street repairs in town. It was mentioned that we cannot afford to deplete our reserves to repair streets that are continually torn up by the heavy truck traffic. It was mentioned that CVA has filled 34 trains already this year, far more than Coop originally stated would be filled for an entire year.

Darel mentioned the ordinance that was drawn up to close Hobart Street, he would like to see that passed and then re-evaluate the things in 90-days. There were some questions on how to enforce the street closure. Darel said cameras would take pictures of the trucks driving on the streets, warnings and tickets would be issued. The attorney will be checking into the legality of this process.

Jim Marshall, 3rd District County Commissioner, said all the communities in the county are dealing with truck traffic into elevators. The council expressed that they feel Glen Elder gets far more trucks across their streets due to the train loading facility and the bunkers east of town. There was some discussion of alternate truck routes; coming in from the south or going east of town with the county building a bridge along the railroad tracks. Jim said that sending trucks across the dam and on the low road south into town is not a good option and building a bridge would cost way too much money. Jim said the county has several miles of road to repair as well. Landen asked if Jim can propose the county to use “bushels delivered over the road” to split up the tax money received from CVA, instead of the current method tax money is distributed from the county to the city. The Mayor wants the county to take a hard look at how to fairly help the city. Jim said he is willing to do what he can to help set up a meeting with the county and CVA.

The council decided to wait on closing Hobart and the truck route topic was tabled until next month.

Employee Report

Eldon informed the council Kevin Milbers will be here June 15 to tuckpoint the city hall building. He reported discovering the building leaking last month and Milbers came in as the lowest bid at \$9,685.00.

Clerk's Report

The Clerk informed the council the budget will be started this month. She asked for permission to have Neil's firm proof the budget when completed. The council approved the proofing of the budget. The clerk handed out a yearly comparison of fund profits and losses along with fund transfer information.

Council Report

Larry mentioned Mark Marzolf wants to sponsor a street dance on the east side of the square this summer.

Barry stated the cemetery road held up great with the rains last month. The council also discussed sticking to the Thursday noon application deadline for public comment at council meetings.

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 8:21 p.m.

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

Jerri Senger
City Clerk